

## **Conference focuses on putting those with communication access needs first**

HONOLULU – Facilitating effective communication for individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind, and ensuring meaningful language access for those with limited English proficiency, will be the topic of the 2019 Communication Access Conference, hosted by the State of Hawai'i Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) at the Ala Moana Hotel, Hibiscus Ballroom, on Wednesday, July 31, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The conference, in coordination with the Hawai'i Office of Language Access, is free and open to state and county agencies and the public. Attendees will receive a broad overview of how to facilitate effective communication in various settings.

“This is a special opportunity to share the importance of putting those with communication access needs first,” said Francine Wai, executive director of the Disability and Communication Access Board.

Three guest speakers will present on unique communication access issues encountered in their work:

- Hansel Bauman, a renowned architect, will present on his revolutionary idea of DeafSpace, “In The Signing Space: Deaf Experiences, Communication + Architecture.”
- Corina Gutierrez, director of community advocacy, with the New Mexico Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, will present on, “Working with Limited English Proficient Persons who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind, or Hard of Hearing” and how she assists individuals with little or no comprehension of American Sign Language or English.
- The lunch keynote speaker will be Richard Ray, technology access coordinator for the City of Los Angeles, presenting on “Emergency Services Through Deaf Eyes.” He will share his experience with helping individuals with disabilities gain access to emergency services.

In addition to these presentations, there will be panel discussions for the last two sessions of the day. The first panel will discuss the barriers to effective communication often faced by community members with communication disabilities. For the second panel, professional experts will build on the discussion of the local community and share the best ways to address various communication access issues.

Exhibitor tables will cover an array of communication access products and services throughout the day. The exhibit area will be open to the public from 9:40 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The conference is free and includes a continental breakfast and lunch. Limited to 200 attendees. Deadline to register is July 19. Click here to register:

<https://forms.gle/zc5rRsZS4HFw21kT7>.

