Disability and Communication Access Board

Parking Program for Persons with Disabilities

Annual Accomplishments

July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

State of Hawaii

David Y. Ige, Governor

Bruce S. Anderson, Ph.D., Director of Health

Francine Wai, Executive Director
The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) administers the Parking Program for Persons with Disabilities in the State of Hawaii. The program’s primary function is to ensure the issuance of “person with a disability parking permits” pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 291, Part III, and Hawaii Administrative Rules, Title 11, Chapter 219. Throughout this document, “person with a disability parking permit” means a long term placard, a temporary placard, or special license plates.

To fulfill this function, DCAB, through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with each County, established a mechanism to pay the Counties for the issuance of first time and replacement parking permits. Under the MOAs, DCAB reimburses the Counties for each first time long term placard and each replacement of a mutilated placard. The Counties may charge and retain fees for issuing temporary placards, replacement placards, and special license plates. DCAB issues long term renewal placards by mail. A fee cannot be charged for a long term placard because it would be an illegal surcharge under the Americans with Disabilities Act, per the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. DCAB parking program staff ensure that all permittee records, database, and lists are current and consistent.

DCAB’s Standing Committee on Parking provides guidance to the program staff in developing and meeting its goals and objectives. The Committee members are:

Pauline Aughe, Chairperson  
Violet Horvath, Member  
Summer Kozai, Member  
Bryant Yabui, Member

This Report highlights the key activities for fiscal year 2018-2019 (FY 18-19).
Reimbursement to and Amount Collected by the Counties

The Counties charge and retain all transaction fees for the issuance of temporary and replacement placards, and each set of special license plates. In FY 18-19, reimbursements to the Counties totaled $110,508 and the transaction fees retained by the Counties totaled $120,834. Therefore, the total of reimbursements paid to the Counties and fees retained by the Counties in FY 18-19 amounted to $231,342. A breakdown of reimbursements and transaction fees is shown in the chart below.

Parking Database Enhancements and Quality Assurance

- The Hawaii Information Consortium, LLC (HIC) continues to host the online parking database that provides real-time access to permittee records for DCAB, the County issuing agencies, and law enforcement.

- In January 2019, DCAB conducted a death records crossmatch of its database of active permittees against the Department of Health’s Vital Records database of deceased persons. The crossmatch identified decedents with active placards, DCAB subsequently invalidated those placards in the database and sent letters to the estates of the deceased permittees to retrieve the invalidated placards. In FY 18-19, 4,339 placards of deceased individuals were retrieved due to the letters. In addition, 598 placards were surrendered by decedents’ estates, not in response to death retrieval letters.

- DCAB seeks to maintain the integrity of the program and the accuracy of the parking database by removing invalid placards from circulation. In addition to placards returned due to death, 7,032 placards were returned when permittees renewed their long term placards and 3,516 placards were returned voluntarily for other reasons. A total of 14,887 inactive placards were retrieved, destroyed, and noted in the database. The updated database allows law enforcement officers to verify the proper use of placards and issue citations to persons who unlawfully use an invalidated placard to obtain parking privileges.
In FY 18-19, a total of 32,200 permits were issued, of which 30,470 (95%) were placards and 1,730 (5%) were special license plates. Because placards represent the vast majority of permits issued, the pie charts to the right highlight the details of the 30,470 placards issued.

Chart 1 shows the issuance of long term placards versus temporary placards. The majority of placards issued (23,090, or 76%) were long term (blue color) that are valid for six years. Temporary placards (red color) are valid up to six months, in one month increments, according to the expected length of the applicant’s mobility disability. A total of 7,380 (24%) temporary placards were issued.

Chart 2 shows the issuance of the placards by type. There were 14,160 (46%) first time placards (both long term and temporary) issued. There were 3,328 (11%) replacement placards issued (both long term and temporary), and 12,982 (43%) renewal placards issued.

Chart 3 shows the number of placards issued by issuing agency. The percentages generally mirror the population of the Counties: City and County of Honolulu with 13,662 placards (45%), Hawaii County with 3,020 placards (10%), Maui County with 2,191 placards (7%), and Kauai County with 945 placards (3%). The Counties issued first time (both long term and temporary) placards, temporary renewal placards, and replacement placards (both long term and temporary), while DCAB issued only long term renewal placards by mail, which accounted for 10,652 placards (35%) of all placards issued.
Profile of Permittees

At the conclusion of the fiscal year, June 30, 2019, 107,824 people possessed a valid, non-expired permit. Given a population of 1.42 million people in the State of Hawaii (as of 2018), this equates to approximately 8% of the population with a mobility disability significant enough to qualify for a permit.

Who are the 107,824 people with valid permits? The following two charts show a breakdown of permittees by County of residence and gender.

The following table shows the number of individuals who were issued a permit per qualifying condition. Each individual’s qualifying condition was certified by a Hawaii licensed practicing physician or an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN). Note that not all qualifying conditions are readily apparent or noticeable. Cardiac, renal, and oncologic conditions are a few of the qualifying conditions that may not always be visually noticeable. The qualifying conditions are listed from highest to lowest based on the numbers of individuals who were certified for a permit based on a given qualifying condition.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualifying Conditions</th>
<th># of Individuals</th>
<th>Qualifying Conditions</th>
<th># of Individuals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orthopedic Impairment</td>
<td>43,362</td>
<td>Oncologic Condition</td>
<td>6,328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthritic Condition</td>
<td>42,913</td>
<td>Renal Condition</td>
<td>3,823</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neurologic Condition</td>
<td>24,036</td>
<td>Respiratory Disability</td>
<td>2,525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of a Cane(s)</td>
<td>18,326</td>
<td>Use of a Brace(s)</td>
<td>2,691</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of a Walker</td>
<td>9,822</td>
<td>Use of Crutches</td>
<td>1,366</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of a Wheelchair</td>
<td>7,483</td>
<td>Use of Portable Oxygen</td>
<td>1,114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart Condition (Class III/IV)</td>
<td>6,459</td>
<td>Use of Artificial Limbs</td>
<td>509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vascular Condition</td>
<td>6,397</td>
<td>Use of Other Assistive Devices</td>
<td>620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Needs Another Person to Walk</td>
<td>6,357</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Act 87-2019 (SB 1236) Relating to Parking for Disabled Persons

SB 1236 was introduced as part of Governor David Y. Ige’s administrative package. The purpose of SB 1236 was to improve the parking statute in several areas.

SB 1236 passed the House and Senate unanimously and was signed into law by the Governor as Act 87 on June 2, 2019. SB 1236 became effective immediately upon enactment, except for the meter fee parking exemption provision, which will become effective July 1, 2021 as noted below.

1) Before Act 87-2019, any vehicle displaying a disability parking permit could be parked without payment of metered parking fees, in any metered parking space for a maximum of 2.5 hours or the maximum amount of time the meter allows, whichever is longer. The fee exemption was available to all permittees whether or not their disability prevented them from gaining access to or feeding a meter. DCAB testified that the fee exemption was overly broad, which led to abuse of the disability parking program. The Legislature agreed. Therefore, starting July 1, 2021, the fee exemption will be available only to permittees who are licensed to drive and unable to access or operate a parking meter or unattended pay station due to a physical disability; which conforms the law to its original legislative intent of allowing such permittees to park at metered spaces without being cited for non-payment.

2) Before Act 87-2019, law enforcement officers could only confiscate a permit used by someone other than the permittee to park in a reserved accessible space. Under Act 87-2019, law enforcement officers are authorized to confiscate permits that are fraudulently manufactured or altered for personal use, expired, sold or purchased, or otherwise invalid.

3) Before Act 87-2019, a Hawaii licensed practicing physician or advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) needed to indicate one condition out of many possible conditions to certify that an applicant is qualified for a disability parking permit. Some of the conditions are diagnostic, such as “orthopedic,” and the others are functional, such as “cannot walk without the use of a walker.” Under Act 87-2019, the certifying physician or APRN is required to indicate a diagnostic condition and its functional impact on the applicant’s ability to walk 200 feet without stopping to rest. DCAB believes this change will assist physicians and APRNs to correctly certify mobility disabilities and decline to certify disabilities which are not eligible, such as autism and auditory disabilities.
DCAB drafted and issued procedures on the issuance of disability parking permits to ensure consistent administration among all issuing agencies. DCAB also developed technical publications as references for issuing agency staff and parking enforcement officers.

- DCAB continued to issue a dashboard document for use with Japan-issued disability parking permits. While Hawaii recognizes disability parking permits issued by other states and countries, permits issued by Japanese governmental entities are often misidentified by law enforcement officers because they are printed in a foreign language and do not display the International Symbol of Accessibility (wheelchair figure). Therefore, upon request, DCAB provides a document to be placed on the dashboard of a vehicle next to the Japan-issued parking permit. The document informs law enforcement officers in English that the adjacent permit is a valid disability parking permit and indicates the start and end dates of validity. The document has instructions in Japanese on the reverse side.

- DCAB continued supplying the Counties with application forms (Form PA-1) for first time (long term and temporary), replacement, temporary (renewal) permits and special license plates; and application forms (Form PA-2) for long term renewal permits (blue placards and special license plates). These forms are available for downloading from DCAB’s website, and may be picked-up at any County issuing site, including Honolulu Satellite City Halls, Department of Motor Vehicles, and the Office on Aging (Hawaii County only). DCAB issues long term renewal permits (blue placards) therefore, applications (Form PA-2) to renew long term permits must be mailed to: DCAB, P.O. Box 3377, Honolulu, HI 96801. DCAB revised its website to help applicants download the appropriate form.

- DCAB designed and printed an informational flyer on accessible parking spaces and disability parking permits and the fines for the misuse of each to the Department of Education’s Driver Education summer program.

- DCAB developed a public service announcement (PSA) on accessible parking spaces and disability parking permits and the fines for their misuse. The PSA was displayed on all City and County of Honolulu fixed route buses.

- DCAB upgraded the accessible parking locator app for iPhones with the assistance of a developer. DCAB retained a contractor to help populate the app with data and retained a separate contractor to produce a video to help the public understand how to use the app.
Non-Discrimination Statement: We provide access to our activities without regard to race, color, national origin (including language), age, sex, religion, or disability. If you have a concern, write or call the Disability and Communication Access Board or the Department of Health Affirmative Action Officer at P.O. Box 3378, Honolulu, HI 96801-3378, or call (808) 586-4614 (v/tty) within 180 days of a problem.