



## DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
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### AGENDA

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#### Standing Committee on Communication Access Meeting

Location: Kamamalu Building  
1010 Richards Street, Conference Room 111A  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Date: August 15, 2019  
Time: 12:00 p.m.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Introductions
- III. Approval of June 27, 2019 and July 18, 2019 Meeting Minutes
- IV. Old Business
  - A. Amend Hawaii Administrative Rules, Title 11, Chapter 218, "Communication Access Services for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind" – Update
  - B. Hawaii Quality Assurance System (HQAS) – Update
  - C. HQAS Continuing Education Unit Workshops – Update
  - D. Recommended Fee Schedule and Manual for Hiring Interpreters
  - E. Video Production
    1. HQAS +H
    2. Code of Professional Conduct
    3. HQAS Pre-Test Workshop
  - F. Open Captioning Outreach
  - G. Communication Access Conference
- V. Next Meeting
- VI. Announcements
- VII. Open Forum: Public comment on issues not on the agenda, but to be considered for placement on a future Committee meeting agenda.

## VIII. Adjournment

If you need an auxiliary aid/service or other accommodation due to disability, contact Cindy Omura at (808) 586-8121 or [dcab@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:dcab@doh.hawaii.gov) as soon as possible, preferably by August 13, 2019. If a response is received after August 13, 2019, we will try to obtain the auxiliary aid/service or accommodation, but we cannot guarantee that the request will be fulfilled.

Upon request, this notice is available in alternate formats such as large print, Braille, or electronic copy.



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### MINUTES

#### Standing Committee on Communication Access Meeting

Location: Kamamalu Building  
1010 Richards Street, Conference Room 111A  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Date: August 15, 2019  
Time: 12:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Justin Tokioka, Chairperson; Gerald Isobe, Nikki Kepo'o, Ami Tsuji-Jones, Board Members; Francine Wai, Kirby Shaw, Colin Whited, Kamaile Hopfe, Staff

GUEST: Anela Poepoe

#### SIGN LANGUAGE

INTERPRETERS: Mala Arkin and Carie Sarver

#### I. Call to Order

Chairperson Justin Tokioka called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

#### II. Introductions

The attendees introduced themselves.

#### III. Approval of June 27, 2019 and July 18, 2019 Meeting Minutes

The Committee approved the June 27, 2019 minutes (M/S/P Kepo'o/Tsuji-Jones). The Committee also approved the July 18, 2019 minutes (M/S/P Kepo'o/Tsuji-Jones).

NOTE: The minutes were written in the order the items were shown on the agenda, not as they were discussed at the meeting.

#### IV. Old Business

- A. Amend Hawaii Administrative Rules, Title 11, Chapter 218, "Communication Access Services for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind" – Continued Discussion

Staff reported that a public hearing was held earlier today, August 15, 2019 at DCAB. Nikki Kepo'o presided as the hearing officer for DCAB. One individual, Vanessa Ito of the University of Hawaii at Manoa KOKUA Program, offered oral testimony and staff received written testimony from one other individual, Susan Kroe-Unabia of Isle Interpret. Staff reminded the Committee that written testimony will be accepted until August 22, 2019.

The oral comments offered by Vanessa Ito pertained to details of the DCAB Recommended Fee Schedule. Since the amended rules propose to separate the Recommended Fee Schedule from the Hawaii Administrative Rules to exist as a stand-alone document, these comments will be considered in all future discussions regarding the structure of the Recommended Fee Schedule.

Susan Kroe-Unabia of Isle Interpret offered written testimony which questioned two proposed items. The first item was related to the proposed requirement that Tier 3 interpreters earn 3.5 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) as opposed to 3.0 CEUs for Tier 4 and Tier 5 interpreters.

This issue was first discussed in early 2017 when the original proposal was to require Level III interpreters to be mentored to improve their skills (in addition to the 3.0 CEUs). However, at that time, it was realized that monitoring the mentoring would be very difficult and mentoring options might not be available in any given year to all those interpreters who need it (i.e., a lone interpreter on a neighbor island without a mentor nearby). Thus, mentoring was dropped as a requirement and replaced with an additional .5 CEUs. The Committee did not recommend lowering the required number to 3.0, as the additional five hours over two years did not seem excessive and was still less than what the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) requires. Staff indicated that DCAB can offer an annual workshop geared toward Level III interpreters that will allow them to earn the additional .5 CEUs at no cost, thus eliminating the disincentive of added cost.

The second question raised by Ms. Kroe-Unabia of Isle Interpret was related to the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) certification. Currently, the rules propose that interpreters with an EIPA certification at a level of 4.0 or higher will qualify for a Provisional Hawaii State Sign Language Interpreter Credential. Ms. Kroe-Unabia of Isle Interpret strongly opposed this, stating that the EIPA should be recognized because it is a nationally awarded credential.

This issue was discussed previously, when the Committee received multiple comments stating that the EIPA certification should automatically be recognized as a valid credential because it is issued at the national level. However, while the EIPA is a national certification, its focus is for the K-12 educational setting and the testing process is very different than

other credentials recognized by DCAB. Further, the DCAB rules and the Hawaii State Sign Language Interpreter Credential do not impact the Department of Education's hiring of interpreters as staff, but they do impact those who wish to freelance in the community. DCAB wants to recognize the skill set of EIPA-certified interpreters, which is why DCAB would give the person with an EIPA 4.0 or higher a Provisional Hawaii State Sign Language Interpreter Credential without a test. However, to recognize the EIPA certification indefinitely would be difficult because there is no ongoing requirement for EIPA interpreters to earn CEUs to maintain their certification, unlike HQAS and RID interpreters who are required to earn CEUs. To give unlimited equivalency would be unfair to HQAS and RID interpreters. Thus, the Committee determined that an EIPA certification would be treated similarly to a credential issued by another entity, meaning a Provisional Hawaii State Sign Language Interpreter Credential will recognize interpreters who possess an EIPA certification at a level of 4.0 or higher.

After the Committee discussed the comments offered by the public, which were well-received and much appreciated, the Committee determined that the rules should remain as proposed based on rationale agreed upon at previous Committee meetings, and made the following motion:

**MOTION:** After consideration of the comments received, the Committee moved to keep the proposed rules as written and, if no further comments are received, approve the rules as proposed to go into effect January 1, 2020 (M/S/P Kepo'o/Tsuji-Jones).

Staff noted that there were questions asked in the testimony offered by the public and explained that these questions will be answered once the public hearing process has concluded.

**B. Hawaii Quality Assurance System – Update**

Staff reported that there are currently twenty-eight interpreters enrolled in the Hawaii Quality Assurance System (HQAS) Continuing Education Program. There are no interpreters on a CEU extension. Staff also announced that DCAB received the results of the HQAS test administered in May and the interpreter received an HQAS Level II credential.

**C. HQAS Continuing Education Unit Workshops – Update**

Staff announced that two CEU opportunities were recently offered to interpreters, the first being the Communication Access Conference on July 31, 2019. The second was held at DCAB on August 1, 2019, where neighbor island interpreters were given the opportunity to participate remotely.

Staff also announced that they are continuing to coordinate with the two recipients of the CEU workshop funds to determine workshop dates. Staff reported that the Hawaii Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf is planning its workshops for October 11 and 12, 2019 at Temple Emanu-El. Staff also reported that Wendell “Wink” Smith, Jr. is tentatively scheduling his workshop for December 7, 2019 at Kapiolani Community College.

D. Recommended Fee Schedule and Manual for Hiring Interpreters

Staff announced that a “Request for Comments” was sent out to stakeholders on July 29, 2019 as an opportunity to provide feedback on a proposed structure to the Recommended Fee Schedule. Stakeholders were given until August 10, 2019 to provide comments. Staff reported that a total of six individuals offered comments to DCAB and distributed copies of the compiled feedback on the proposed structure of the DCAB Recommended Fee Schedule (see attached). Further discussion will take place at the next Committee meeting.

E. Video Production

a. HQAS +H

Staff reported that the replacement for the +H video is still in development. The video will have a new name – although the name has not yet been decided – to avoid confusion about what was included in the +H test. The Comprehensive Services Center (CSC) shared that this video continues to be a challenge, as the parties involved have been very difficult to pin down. The CSC did share, however, that the main components of the video have been identified as: Intro/Myths; HSL vs. ASL; Culture and Etiquette (e.g., don’t go to someone’s house empty handed, remove shoes, Hawaii time, clothing, etc.); Privilege, Power and Oppression, Marginalization; Vocabulary; and Resources. A pre/post knowledge test is also being created.

b. Code of Professional Conduct

Staff reported that the Code of Professional Conduct (CPC) video is going through final edits. After the project co-leads reviewed the video, they decided to make minor changes such as editing the text slides, repositioning signers for ease of viewing, and adjusting the coloring. The CSC emphasized that the CPC video will be completed very soon.

c. HQAS Pre-Test Workshop

Staff reported that they are working to finalize the script. This video will be an instructional video for applicants to explain the HQAS test procedure and will replace the prior in-person workshop with staff.

Staff will be the narrator on screen. Staff also shared that they are coordinating with Stoked Industries to identify dates for filming.

F. Open Captioning Outreach

Staff reported that the first stage of the Open Captions Movie video was completed at the Communication Access Conference on July 31, 2019. Approximately forty individuals offered comments, including their reactions to the open captioning requirement. Next, staff will focus on identifying children to include in the production so that their reactions can be captured.

G. Communication Access Conference

Staff reported that the Communication Access Conference was successfully held at the Ala Moana Hotel on July 31, 2019. Over two hundred people attended, including thirteen vendor tables. Feedback from evaluation sheets collected was overwhelmingly positive.

V. Next Meeting

The date and time of the next Committee meeting will be determined and announced once mutual availability for Committee members is identified.

VI. Announcements

No announcements were made.

VII. Open Forum

No issues were discussed.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



COLIN M. WHITED