



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • Fax (808) 586-8129

AGENDA

Standing Committee on Communication Access Meeting

Location: Virtual Location Via Zoom
Date: May 21, 2021
Time: 1:00 p.m.

To join by PC or mobile device, click on the link below or copy and paste it into your browser window: <https://zoom.us/j/95280052811>

To join by phone, dial 1 669 900 6833 and enter Meeting ID 952 8005 2811

- I. Call to Order
- II. Introductions
- III. Approval of February 12, 2020 Meeting Minutes
- IV. Old Business
 - A. Recommended Fee Schedule and Manual for Hiring Interpreters
- V. New Business
 - A. Communication Access Program – Update
 - B. 2021 Hawaii State Legislative Session
 - C. Plan of Action for Fiscal Year 2021 – 2022
 - D. Continuing Education Units Workshops for Sign Language Interpreters
- VI. Next Meeting
- VII. Announcements
- VIII. Open Forum: Public comment on issues not on the agenda, but to be considered for placement on a future Committee meeting agenda.
- IX. 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 as soon as possible, preferably by May 17, 2021. If a response is received after May 17, 2021, 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: Virtual Location Via Zoom
Date: May 21, 2021
Time: 1:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Ami Tsuji-Jones, Chairperson; Gerald Isobe, Nikki Kepo'o, Board Members;
Kirby Shaw, Brian Mick, Kristine Pagano, Colin Whited, Staff

ABSENT: Justin Tokioka, Board Member

GUESTS: Ann Ito, Susan Kroe-Unabia, Michael Labadie-Mendes

SIGN LANGUAGE

INTERPRETERS: Jackie Emmart and Anela Poepoe

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Ami Tsuji-Jones called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.

II. Introductions

The attendees introduced themselves.

III. Approval of February 12, 2020 Meeting Minutes

The Committee approved the February 12, 2020 minutes (M/S/P Kepo'o/Isobe).

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. Recommended Fee Schedule and Manual for Hiring Interpreters

Staff reported that they have received positive feedback from state agencies regarding the Recommended Fee Schedule and Manual for Hiring Interpreters since they were adopted by the Board in January 2020.

V. New Business

A. Communication Access Program – Update

Staff announced that the Communication Access Specialist position was abolished due to cuts made by the administration during the COVID-19

pandemic. Staff added that the position was vacant at the time of the decision and requests to fill the position were denied. The Committee agreed that a top priority moving forward will be to advocate to get the position reinstated. Staff explained that this will require legislation, which also takes time. Staff then described how, in the interim, options to support the communication access program include pursuing an eighty nine-day emergency hire, contracting out work, or seeking volunteer services. Committee members and guests expressed concerns about using a volunteer due to unintended consequences this could cause, such as perceptions that a full time Communication Access Specialist is not needed.

Staff also announced that there are currently twenty eight sign language interpreters in the Continuing Education Program and forty four interpreters with the Hawaii State Sign Language Interpreter Credential.

B. 2021 Hawaii State Legislative Session

Staff reported that a total of one hundred thirty two measures were tracked during the 2021 State Legislature. Staff explained that legislators focused on issues impacting the state budget and the COVID-19 pandemic. Bills of note that did not pass included:

HB 839/SB 539 relating to Hearing Aids;
HB 840/SB 537 relating to American Sign Language;
HB 986/SB 1140 relating to Newborn Hearing Screening;
HB 987/SB 1141 relating to Hearing and Vision Program.

Bills of note that passed included:

HB 941 relating to the Public Utilities Commission;
SB 135 relating to Telecommunication;
SB 538, relating to the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission;
SB 548 relating to Elections by Mail;
SB 1034 relating to Sunshine Law Boards.

Staff also reported that HR 97/SR 74 passed, which requests the Governor to convene a working group to develop recommendations for effective communications with limited English proficient persons and persons with disabilities before, during, and after emergencies and natural disasters. The Executive Director of DCAB or their designee is named as a working group member. The working group also includes one person with a disability appointed by DCAB.

C. Plan of Action for Fiscal Year 2021 – 2022

Staff announced that the Plan of Action for the next fiscal year (2021 – 2022) is currently being drafted in preparation for the July 15, 2021 Annual Planning and General Meetings. For communication access, a top priority will be reinstating the Communication Access Specialist position. Other priorities suggested by the Committee and guests included workshops for the community on health literacy and information relating to COVID-19, mentoring for sign language interpreters, and working to ensure effective communication during emergencies and virtual proceedings. The Committee also agreed that, due to not having a Communication Access Specialist, DCAB should look to collaborate with other

entities to provide community workshops. Staff explained that a draft of the communication access objectives will be presented to the Committee at the next meeting for approval.

D. Continuing Education Units Workshops for Sign Language Interpreters

Staff reported that DCAB has funds remaining for the current fiscal year and will use some of it to plan continuing education workshops for sign language interpreters. Staff asked the Committee and guests for topic ideas. Ideas that were shared included mentoring for developing interpreters, training for deaf interpreters, and workshops addressing COVID-related issues, such as virtual interpreting.

VI. Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting will take place on Friday, June 11, 2021 from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. via Zoom.

VII. Announcements

No announcements were made.

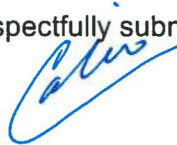
VIII. Open Forum

No issues discussed.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



COLIN M. WHITED