



## DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • Fax (808) 586-8129 • TTY (808) 586-8162

### AGENDA

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#### **Disability and Communication Access Board Legislative Committee Meeting**

Location: Virtual Location Via Zoom

Date: November 12, 2020

Time: 11:30 a.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/97896681613?pwd=VFtGaWZKMU03NFFjK3YwcXZGb2VOZz09>

and enter Meeting ID: 978 9668 1613

**To join by Relay Conference Captioning**, click on the link below:

<https://www.captionedtext.com/client/event.aspx?EventID=4634238&CustomerID=928>

- I. Call to Order
- II. Introductions
- III. New Business
  - A. Office of Information Practices, Proposed Bill – Relating to Sunshine Law Boards
- IV. Adjournment

Packets are available for inspection in the DCAB office, and by mail or by email upon request.

If you need an auxiliary aid/service or other accommodation due to a disability, contact Cindy Omura at (808) 586-8121 or [dcab@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:dcab@doh.hawaii.gov) as soon as possible, preferably by November 10, 2020. If a response is received after November 10, 2020, we will try to obtain the auxiliary aid/service or accommodation, but we cannot guarantee that the request will be fulfilled. Video Remote Interpreting and Relay Conference Captioning will be provided.

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



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### AMENDED MINUTES

#### Disability and Communication Access Board Legislative Committee Meeting

Location: Virtual Location Via Zoom

Date: November 12, 2020

Time: 11:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Rosanna Daniel-Kanetake, Chairperson; Anthony Akamine, Dean Georgiev, Violet Horvath, Board Members; Kirby Shaw, Staff

GUEST: Peter Fritz

I. Chairperson Rosanna Daniel-Kanetake called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m.

II. Board members, staff, and the guest introduced themselves.

III. New Business

A. Office of Information Practices, Proposed Bill – Relating to Sunshine Law Boards

The Legislative Committee discussed the staff summary (attached) that was distributed via email. Committee members were in agreement that it would be beneficial for the Board to have an option of holding virtual meetings as noted in the staff summary. Guest Peter Fritz brought up concerns about meetings that would be continued after being delayed because of technical difficulties and accessibility of meeting material.

A motion was approved to submit to the Office of Information Practices comments in support of the draft legislation to make permanent the option of holding virtual meetings by boards and commissions that are subject to the State's Sunshine Law (M/S/P Horvath/Akamine).

IV. The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW



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### STAFF SUMMARY FOR THE DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION MEETING November 12, 2020

TOPIC: Office of Information Practices Draft Legislation to Amend the Sunshine Law  
Pertaining to Boards and Commissions

SUMMARY:

Governor David Y. Ige's COVID-19 Emergency Proclamations have temporarily suspended the Sunshine Law requirement for boards and commissions to hold in person meetings. The Office of Information Practices (OIP), which has jurisdiction over the Sunshine Law, drafted legislation for introduction in the 2021 Hawaii Legislature that would amend the Sunshine Law to permit boards and commissions to hold virtual meetings on a permanent basis. It would be the decision of a board or commission to hold in person or virtual meetings. It would be an option. OIP is soliciting comments that are due on November 13, 2020.

ANALYSIS:

OIP recognized the benefits of virtual meetings from information gathered throughout the pandemic. The preamble of the draft legislation states that virtual meetings:

- enable and enhance board and public participation, especially from neighbor islands;
- allow for savings in travel costs for board members and participants, especially those from neighbor islands;
- help prevent the spread of disease; and
- provide a way to protect the health and safety of those with disabilities or medical conditions that would place them at greater risks during travel or attendance at in person meetings.

In addition, the preamble states that allowing board members to participate in virtual meetings from their homes or offices, while protecting their privacy and not requiring them to allow members of the public into their homes or private offices, may increase the number of volunteers willing to serve on government boards, particularly when they live on the island different from where the boards' offices are located. Moreover, the draft legislation provides that boards and commissions would still be required to provide a location where members of the public could provide in person testimony during the meeting.

Holding virtual meetings during the pandemic has allowed the Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) to conduct its business while ensuring that the meetings are accessible to persons with disabilities, including board members and public participants. Virtual meetings offer greater opportunities for persons with disabilities and other interested persons to participate in DCAB meetings. Going forward, the option to hold virtual meetings will suit board members and members of the public who are in a high risk group of contracting COVID-19. In addition, when the pandemic eventually wanes, holding meetings that are both in person and virtual will continue to allow accessible and inexpensive participation by individuals with disabilities, including board members and members of the public across the State.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

DCAB should submit comments in support of the draft legislation without amendments.