



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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MINUTES

Standing Committee on Parking Meeting

Location: Virtual Location via Zoom
Date: January 18, 2022
Time: 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Summer Kozai, Chairperson; Pauline Aughe, Violet Horvath, Gerald Ohta, Board Members; Kristine Pagano, Bryan Mick, Romala Sue Radcliffe, Scott Castor, Staff

SIGN LANGUAGE

INTERPRETERS: Darlene Baird and Keri Lee

- I. Chairperson Summer Kozai called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.
- II. The Committee approved the November 9, 2021 meeting minutes (M/S/P Horvath/Ohta).
- III. Old Business

A. Placard Renewal Statistics

Bryan Mick reported that in the second quarter of fiscal year 2022, 5,144 placards and 218 special license plates were issued. Of the placards issued, about 1,500 were temporary and 3,500 were long term. Of the long term placards, about 1,200 were renewals issued by DCAB. The long term placard renewal rate was sixty five percent (65%). Fifty-four (54) Disabled Paid Parking Exemption Permits (DPPEP) placards were issued.

B. Death Records Crossmatch

DCAB's annual crossmatch process with the Department of Health's Vital Records Division identified 3,200 deceased permittees. Letters were sent to these families requesting the return of the placards. As of January 2022, forty five percent (45%) of the placards were returned to DCAB. Families reported that five percent (5%) of the placards were destroyed or lost, and ten percent (10%) of the letters sent were returned by the post office as undeliverable.

C. Public Education Efforts

Disabled Paid Parking Exemption Permit (DPPEP) Outreach Efforts.

DCAB supplied one thousand five hundred (1,500) additional DPPEP informational flyers to the Honolulu Police Department which are attached to citations.

Webpage for Reporting Placard or Access Aisle Abuse

During the second quarter of fiscal year 2022, ten (10) inquiries were submitted through the webpage to report abuse of a disability parking permit. Staff followed up with permittees.

Webpage for Reporting Non-Design Compliant Accessible Parking Spaces

DCAB created and launched a new webpage for the public to report accessible parking spaces that have a non-compliant design element. This will allow staff to provide technical assistance to the property owners of the parking spaces.

D. Staffing Update

Scott Castor was hired as the Program Support Technician II (position formerly held by Kamaile Hopfe). Cody Miyasato and Christine Holmes were hired in December to fill the two (2) Program Support Technician I positions.

IV. New Business

A. The Dollar Bill Legislation Update

The Governor's 2022 administrative package will include the introduction of DCAB's dollar bill legislation to increase auto registration fees by \$1. The funds generated will be deposited into a parking special fund to pay for the parking program. This will replace the annual general fund appropriation.

B. Procurement of Placards and Decals

Eighty thousand (80,000) decals were procured, and year 2028 decals were distributed to the issuing agencies.

C. Email Notification to Permittees of Pending Expirations

Eight hundred thirty five (835) emails were sent in the second quarter of this fiscal year to permittees sixty (60) days prior to the placard expiration date. This was done to remind permittees to seek certification from their physician if they want to renew their placard.

D. Meeting with Parking Enforcement Agencies

Staff will schedule a meeting with the county enforcement agencies in February 2022 to discuss placard enforcement issues. DCAB staff asked the Committee members to provide any questions they would like to be discussed with the

enforcement agencies such as the enforcement agency's priority of issuing citations for parking violations in accessible parking spaces.

E. Discussion of how to reserve accessible parking spaces for vans with wheelchair lifts

Committee members discussed three (3) potential statutory changes to address the issue of van accessible spaces being unavailable for those who use lift or ramp equipped vehicles due to use of a mobility aid device. Bryan Mick is in contact with a Denver, Colorado Council Member who is also a long time disability advocate. He will try and supply information on different states approaches to this issue. The Committee will suggest that an item be added to DCAB's 2023 Plan of Action to proceed with efforts to make changes to the Hawaii Revised Statutes to make the reserved van parking spaces more available for permittees who use lifts to enter or exit vehicles.

Option 1 – Require the van accessible parking space to be reserved for wheelchair users only (Oregon model)

1. Cannot do this when there are only a few accessible parking spaces without negatively impacting permittees who do not use wheelchairs. Oregon has this apply in any lot with 5 or more accessible parking spaces (101 or more total parking spaces.)
2. This would require DCAB and the counties to issue some sort of special placard or decal.
3. The U.S. Access Board advised such a restriction does not violate the ADA as eligibility criteria for permits are left up to the States.
4. The only cost to businesses would be extra signs.
5. If there also was a desire to require more accessible parking spaces than the ADA does, this bill could also require additional accessible spaces.
6. Businesses will object to requiring additional accessible spaces.

Option 2 – Require additional spaces independent of the ADA that are for wheelchair users only.

1. This could apply to any sized lot as the existing ADA parking would remain intact.
2. These could specifically lack a requirement to be on the shortest accessible route to an accessible entrance.
3. This would require some sort of placard or decal if it is to be enforced.
4. Businesses will object, especially smaller lots. Could have this apply to parking lots over a certain size.

Option 3 – Require all accessible parking spaces to be van accessible (i.e., universal design concept).

1. This would not require any special placard or decals; the existing permits would suffice.
2. For lots with 25 or less parking spaces, the accessible space is already required to be van accessible.
3. For lots with 26-50 spaces, if their accessible parking spaces share an access aisle, this would only require restriping (if they currently have a wider parking space instead of a wider access aisle).

4. For lots with an odd number of accessible parking spaces or spaces that do not share an access aisle, they might have to enlarge the parking space or access aisle in order to make the accessible space van accessible, this may result in the loss of some non-accessible spaces.
5. Would require additional “no parking in access aisles” for any access aisles that are widened.

The Committee indicated option 1 was the most realistic and asked staff to conduct further research on this issue.

V. Open Forum

Staff met with Senator Chris Lee, who may introduce legislation to establish a parking task force to look at the minimum number of accessible spaces should be increased and if the eligibility requirements for a disability parking permit should be expanded. DCAB expressed an interest on serving on this task force. Staff also mentioned the task force may want to look at how the electric vehicle charging spaces and the disability parking programs intersect along with the issue of the lack of available van accessible spaces. Committee member Violet Horvath has been contacted by the Pacific ADA Center to determine if the disabled community has had issues with the COVID testing procedures.

VI. Next Parking Committee Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 10, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

NOTE: All votes were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
ROMALA SUE RADCLIFFE