



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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

MINUTES

Disability and Communication Access Board General Meeting

Location: Virtual Location Via Zoom

Date: March 17, 2022

Time: 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Violet Horvath, Vice Chairperson; Anthony Akamine, Pauline Aughe, Ron Awa, Rosanna Daniel-Kanetake, Scott Fleming, Dean Georgiev, Marie Kimmey, Summer Kozai, Phyllis Meighen, Michael Nojima, Gerald Ohta, Charlotte Townsend, Board Members; Kirby Shaw, Kristine Pagano, Susan Rocco, Rodney Kanno, Bryan Mick, Sue Radcliffe, Scott Castor, Cindy Omura, Staff

ABSENT: Nikki Kepo'o, Chairperson; Gerald Isobe, Justin Tokioka, Amy Tsuji-Jones, Board Members

GUESTS: Peter Fritz; Donald Sakamoto, Citizens for a Fair ADA Ride; Annette Tashiro, Statewide Independent Living Council of Hawaii

SIGN LANGUAGE

INTERPRETERS: Mala Arkin and Carie Sarver

REAL TIME

CAPTIONER: April Chandler

- I. Vice Chairperson Violet Horvath called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. She provided information about testimony or comments presented by members of the public during Board meetings.
- II. Roll was called and Board members, staff, and guests introduced themselves.
- III. Vice Chairperson Violet Horvath said there were no written testimonies submitted. Guest Peter Fritz wanted to recognize that DCAB changed the accommodation language on the agenda. He was also concerned about legislation that information published on the Internet must be accessible to screen readers and it discriminates against people that have low vision or types of disabilities that may require the document to be accessible. He mentioned that the Office of Information Practices does not require posting a call in number for an online meeting; only an Internet contact is needed.

IV. The meeting minutes of the January 20, 2022 General meeting were approved as circulated (M/S/P Akamine/Daniel-Kanetake).

V. Executive Director's Report

Kirby Shaw informed Board members that the House Finance Committee passed its version of the budget, with funding for the Communication Access Specialist position. Kristine Pagano said that staff is trying to complete this year's contracts and will begin developing fiscal year 2023 contracts. The bulk of expenditures are for the parking program (i.e., county reimbursements, maintenance of the database, and replenishing supplies).

Kirby Shaw informed Board members that the Planner/ADA Coordinator position is still vacant, and recruitment is ongoing. Kristine Pagano said that the job announcement for this position is posted on the Department of Human Resources (DHRD) website, the Department of Health (DOH) website under employment, the DCAB website, and the Real Jobs website.

Kirby Shaw informed Board members that the Governor has nominated Anthony Akamine, Ronald Awa, Rosanna Daniel-Kanetake, Dean Georgiev, Violet Horvath to serve another term on the Board.

Guest Donald Sakamoto inquired about Board vacancies. Kirby Shaw said there are no vacancies at the present time.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee did not hold any meetings, no report.

B. Legislative Committee

Committee Chairperson Dean Georgiev reported that the Committee met on February 4, 2022 and continued the meeting on February 8, 14, and 15, 2022 to discuss bills that may impact persons with disabilities. The Committee adopted subject matter categories and general legislative positions, followed by taking specific positions on one hundred nine bills. Staff has submitted fifty-three testimonies to date, forty of the bills are still alive including Senate Bill 3121, SD1 which would add \$1.00 to all annual motor vehicle registrations and use the funds to pay for the parking program. The Board ratified the Committee's actions (M/S/P Akamine/Ohta).

Guest Peter Fritz informed Board members about proposed legislation on Board packets to be made available forty eight hours prior to a meeting.

Kirby Shaw spoke on two bills: Senate Bill 3121 which is the \$1.00 bill and is being heard tomorrow, and staff will be attending to provide testimony; and

House Bill 1419 which makes DCAB the lead in developing and promulgating accessibility technology standards.

Guest Peter Fritz commented on House Bill 1419, and the Office of Enterprise Technology Services (ETS), how the Chief Information Officer (CIO) is responsible for adopting standards.

C. Standing Committee on Communication Access

The Standing Committee on Communication Access did not hold any meetings however Kristine Pagano provided an update on upcoming activities.

Two contracts to provide continuing education workshops for sign language interpreters have been awarded to Hand Ninjas and the Hawaii Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (HRID).

Hand Ninjas presents Winkshop on ASL finger spelling. The workshop will be held on Saturday, March 26, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. via Zoom.

The HRID workshop is still in early planning stages and a workshop will tentatively be scheduled for April. The topic is Posture and the Interpreters Cognitive/Functional Process.

There are twenty two interpreters enrolled in the Continuing Education Program.

D. Standing Committee on Facility Access

Committee Chairperson Marie Kimmey reported that the Facility Access Unit reviewed two hundred two projects from January 1, 2022 to March 9, 2022 of which one hundred twenty two were new submittals and collected \$223,619 in fees during the same period.

The Committee discussed a request for an Interpretive Opinion, DCAB 2022-01 Street Parking at Bike Lanes. Due to lack of quorum the interpretive opinion was tabled until the next Committee meeting.

Staff will be conducting a training on Accessible Education Facilities on March 24, 2022. Staff is also planning the annual Disability Access Conference to be held in either May or June 2022. Staff is currently awaiting a response from the Department of Housing and Urban Development regarding a request to conduct a virtual Fair Housing Act training for the conference.

E. Standing Committee on Parking

Committee Chairperson Summer Kozai reported that the Committee met on March 10, 2022.

She reported that for the first two months of the third quarter for this fiscal year, approximately 3,200 placards were issued and one hundred twenty special license plates were reauthorized or issued. Of the placards, about 1,000 were temporary, and 2,200 were long term, and thirty two were the Disabled Paid Parking Exemption Permits (DPPED). Of the long term placards, seven hundred were issued by DCAB. The renewal rate was fifty six percent.

She provided an update on public education quality assurance and outreach efforts which included: 1) one inquiry through the parking webpage to report abuse of a disability parking permit and 2) DCAB recently launched webpage where the public may report accessible parking spaces that are non-compliant with design regulations, which would allow staff to provide technical assistance to landowners.

She reported that letters were mailed to about 3,200 estates of deceased placard holders; of these forty six percent were returned, five percent of the estates informed staff that the placard was either lost or destroyed, and ten percent of the letters were returned as undeliverable. Staff will conduct a new crosscheck with DOH Vital Records and letters will be prepared and sent on July 1, 2022.

Staff sent eight hundred thirty seven reminder emails to placard permittees with a pending permit expiration date.

Guest Donald Sakamoto had previously inquired if staff had knowledge on the number of special license plates returned/given back with sale of a vehicle, and about providing information on placard use in Hawaii to car rental agencies. He also inquired if there is a system that tracks placards that are reported lost.

Bryan Mick said special license plates are handled by the Counties. In 2016, there were 8,500 active license plates in the parking program database. After quality control efforts, the number was down to 6,000 plates; currently there are 5,700 active plates. The death retrieval crosscheck usually flags about one hundred and twenty permittees who had license plates, and staff sends a letter requesting the plates be returned. DCAB can request a listing of active plates from the Division of Motor Vehicles and crosscheck with the parking program database.

DCAB staff has reached out to the larger car rental companies to inform them about the change in the law. Staff also receives inquiries from individuals who will be traveling to Hawaii and explains the new parking placard regulations.

Guest Donald Sakamoto inquired about the cost of a single placard. Bryan Mick said the cost is approximately \$.50 per placard.

Guest Peter Fritz asked if the \$1.00 bill passes, how much revenue is it expected to generate? Will there be a surplus? Kirby Shaw responded that there will be a slight surplus.

The Board recessed at 12:05 p.m. to allow a break for the communication access provider. The meeting reconvened at 12:15 p.m.

F. Special Parent Information Network

Board member Phyllis Meighen reported that the February 7, 2022 Footsteps to Transition Fair drew over one hundred participants to online presentations from the University of Hawaii (UH) Special Education Department, DOH Special Health Needs Branch and Developmental Disabilities Division, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Center on Disability Studies and the UH Community Colleges Disability Access Office. Amanda Kaahanui assisted in setting up the webinar, facilitating discussion and captioning the presentations for posting on the Footsteps to Transition Fair website for viewing year-round.

She reported that SPIN staff both attended the three day 2022 Pac Rim Conference as participants and exhibitors. Susan Rocco also serves year-round on the Community Advisory Council of the Center on Disability Studies, the conference host. The Conference drew several notable keynote speakers including Judy Heumann, lifelong disability advocate, Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner, a Marshallese poet and climate change activist, and Sara Minkara, the newly appointed Special Advisor for the Office of International Disability Rights in the State Department.

She said SPIN and DCAB staff welcomed participants to the virtual Day at the Capitol sponsored by the State Council on Developmental Disabilities and provided support to members of the Hawaii Self-Advocacy Advisory Council (SAAC) in the DCAB conference room as they practiced delivering their testimonies to state legislators.

She reported that SPIN was asked to update the State Sequenced Transition to Education in the Public Schools (STEPS) team on current SPIN activities. The STEPS teams are made up of representatives from early intervention providers, Headstart, DOE Preschool and the Office on Early Learning, and it works to ensure that toddlers with disabilities or at risk of disabilities transition smoothly into preschool programs that meet their needs.

She reported that the SPIN Advisory Committee has selected a theme and title for the October 22, 2022 SPIN Conference — "It's a Marathon, Not a Sprint" -- to symbolize the need for families to develop skills, as well as physical and emotional supports to successfully parent a child with a disability over a lifetime. The Committee is planning a hybrid conference with opportunities for participants to attend both in person at the UH Campus Center and virtually via a Zoom platform.

VII. Old Business

A. ADA Coordination – Update

Kristine Pagano reported that staff responded ten ADA technical assistance requests.

B. Office of Information Practices – Update

Kirby Shaw reported that the Office of Information Practices (OIP) which has jurisdiction over the state's Sunshine Law announced that in line with the Governor's current Emergency Proclamation, as of March 26, 2022 there are no restrictions on the Sunshine Law. It will require that Boards holding remote meetings will need to provide a physical location where the public can come and participate in the meeting to interact with the Board through Internet technology, such as Zoom. Also, if the remote location loses connection and the connectivity cannot be fixed within thirty minutes and there is no announcement of a new meeting date and time of continuance of the meeting, the meeting must be terminated.

Vice Chairperson Violet Horvath asked about Board meeting capacity limits, social distancing, and mask wearing. Kirby Shaw responded that Boards have the option of holding virtual meetings and to provide a physical location where the public can come to participate in the meeting.

Guest Donald Sakamoto asked about technology capability and request for an accommodation. Kirby Shaw responded if the individual provides the information in advance, staff should be able to accommodate the individual.

Guest Peter Fritz explained the changes to the Sunshine Law as it relates to Act 220.

VIII. New Business

A. Federal Communications Commission Public Notice, DA 22-160, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau Seeks Comment on the Accessibility of Communications Technologies for the 2022 Biennial Report Required by the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act. Announcement of the survey link and community meeting date to provide input to Disability and Communication Access Board for comments

Kirby Shaw reported that the Federal Communications Commission's Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau is seeking comment on how accessible the technologies (services or equipment) are to individuals with disabilities. Information is being sought as to how individuals with disabilities were able to work, study, and obtain health care using technology during the pandemic. A community meeting will be held on March 26, 2022 for individuals to provide input to the survey.

IX. Open Forum: Public comment on issues not on the agenda for consideration for the Board's agenda at the next meeting

Kristine Pagano provided an update from Mandi Morgan from the Hawaii Department of Education (DOE), Office of Student Support Services, Exceptional Support Branch, Special Needs Section, Deaf Education Program. Mandi Morgan wanted to share that DOE is trying to go through the process to agree on a Communication Plan for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind to hopefully be approved with the Manual. The Manual was not submitted to their Deputy Attorney General. She will try to attend the next DCAB meeting to provide an update.

Guest Donald Sakamoto provided an update on activities in the community; trying to revive the Mayor's Committee on Persons with Disabilities, Rate Commission meeting on the Holo card and rate increases for TheBus and Handi-Van.

Guest Annette Tashiro informed Board members of the next Statewide Independent Living Council meeting on March 24, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

X. The next General meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2022 beginning at 11:00 a.m.

IX. The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

(NOTE: All votes were unanimous unless otherwise noted).

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
CINDY Y. OMURA