



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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DRAFT MINUTES

Standing Committee on Communication Access Meeting

Location: Virtual via Zoom and 1010 Richards Street, Room 118

Date: November 16, 2022

Time: 11:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Gerald Isobe, Chairperson; Nikki Kepo'o, Board Member; Kirby Shaw, Kristine Pagano, Curtis Motoyama, Christine Holmes, Staff

ABSENT: Justin Tokioka, Board Member

GUEST: Ann Ito

SIGN LANGUAGE

INTERPRETERS: Darlene Baird and Keri Lee

REAL TIME

CAPTIONERS: April Chandler and Julia Stepp

- I. Chairperson Gerald Isobe called the meeting to order at 11:12 a.m.
- II. Board members, staff, guest, sign language interpreters and real time captioners introduced themselves.
- III. Chairperson Gerald Isobe reported that no testimonies were submitted.
- IV. The May 27, 2022 and September 28, 2022 meeting minutes were approved (M/S/P Kepo'o/Isobe).
- V. Old Business

A. Report on Workshops for the Community and State Agencies

DCAB contracted with Hand Ninjas to provide professional development training for sign language interpreters. Kristine Pagano reported that the November 12, 2022 virtual training featured Crom Saunders, a Deaf instructor from Chicago, Illinois. There were four (4) participants who learned how to interpret medical and education settings. A training flyer was distributed by Hand Ninjas, Hawaii Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc., and DCAB.

Chairperson Gerald Isobe and Board member Nikki Kepo'o shared their concerns of the low participant turnout and discussed how to increase attendance at the trainings that are crucial for sign language interpreters to

earn continuing education units and maintain their state credential. In addition, Kristine Pagano will contact the Hawaii Department of Education (DOE) to encourage sign language interpreters who hold the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) credential to participate in future DCAB trainings.

The virtual training flyer featuring Max Maxey from Deafinitely Dope was shared. The November 19, 2022 training starts at 11:00 a.m. and participants will learn how to work with Deaf interpreters as a team. The training is free for sign language interpreters who hold the Hawaii State Sign Language Interpreter Credential (HSSLIC) and there is a \$15.00 fee for the public who wish to learn more about team interpreting assignments.

B. Communication Access Program

Kristine Pagano reported that there are forty (40) interpreters who hold the HSSLIC and twenty six (26) sign language interpreters enrolled in the Continuing Education Unit (CEU) program. Kristine Pagano also reported that a Hawaii Quality Assurance System test will be held next week.

C. Communication Access Specialist Vacant Position Announcement

At the last Committee meeting, Kristine Pagano provided updated information on the position announcement (i.e., location of announcement and removal of the requirement of COVID-19 vaccination). Board member Nikki Kepo'o asked staff to distribute the position announcement to Leadership in Disability and Achievement of Hawaii (LDAH) and University of Hawaii (UH) at Manoa system.

Kirby Shaw informed the Committee that staff is reviewing the minimum qualifications of the position because of the difficulty to attract qualified applicants.

The two (2) minimum qualifications for a qualified applicant is a Bachelor's degree and American Sign Language. The Committee reviewed the position announcement and its minimum qualifications. Curtis Motoyama provided input of possibly using a eighty nine (89) day hire for the position while it is vacant. Chairperson Gerald Isobe and Board member Nikki Kepo'o would like staff to pursue other options if there are no qualified applicants and to explore the eighty nine (89) day hire option, temporary staffing employment service, or redescribe the position description within a reasonable timeframe to fill the position.

D. Plan of Action, Objective 3.4.3 Pursuant to Act 172-22, participate in a Working Group on Accessible Government Documents and Develop Electronic Information Technology Accessibility Standards titled, "Hawaii Electronic Information Technology Disability Access Standards" to be implemented by all state entities with the Office of Enterprise Technology Services

Board member Nikki Kepo'o asked if a working group was established. Kristine Pagano reported that to date DCAB and the Office of Enterprise

Technology Services (ETS) have not established a working group. ETS is still working on a draft of the Hawaii Electronic Information Technology Disability Access Standards. More information will be provided at the next meeting.

VI. New Business

- A. Plan of Action, Objective 3.2.2 Produce videos in American Sign Language with captions and audio descriptions relating to the legislative process with the Legislative Reference Bureau and the Public Access Room

Kristine Pagano reported that staff met with a prospective vendor to assist with video production to educate people with disabilities on how to advocate during the legislative session. However to develop videos before the legislative session in January 2023 may not be feasible. A realistic timeline to complete the videos is for the 2024 legislative session.

- B. Review of Disability and Communication Access Board and Hawaii Civil Rights Commission videos with caption and audio descriptions

Kristine Pagano reported that the civil rights videos were not available to review and will be posted on the DCAB and Hawaii Civil Rights Commission websites.

She reported that the videos were about Communication Access, Housing, and Employment rights and how to file a formal complaint. There are two (2) videos per each topic, one with voicing and captions and one with voice, captions and audio description. DCAB staff produced and edited the videos. Board member Nikki Kepo'o asked if the videos can be posted on DCAB's Facebook or Instagram accounts. Kristine Pagano reported that DCAB has a Facebook account; however will need to confer with staff who has expertise to embed a smaller video file.

In efforts to increase disability awareness, Chairperson Gerald Isobe and Board member Nikki Kepo'o asked staff to distribute the videos to the DOE, LDAH, families who have children with disabilities, and other disability advocacy groups.

VII. Open Forum

Board member Nikki Kepo'o shared that the DOE did not approve the guidebook for families with children who are deaf and hard of hearing. Staff will follow up with Mandi Morgan, Educational Specialist for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind programs at the DOE.

Board member Nikki Kepo'o expressed concerns with the few vacancies in Department of Health (DOH), Family Health Services Division (FHSD), Children with Special Health Needs (CSHN), Early Intervention Section (EIS) and the support for development of infant and toddlers from birth to three years of age are severely delayed.

Chairperson Gerald Isobe asked staff to follow up with DOH and the agencies mentioned regarding the vacancies and how they will address the needs of parents to increase their knowledge about and ability to support their child's development.

Board member Nikki Kepo'o asked staff if there were any legislative bills that will be introduced. Kristine Pagano reported that the hearing aid bill will be up again.

Bryan Mick reported that he will attend to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Advisory Board meeting on Saturday, November 19, 2022 and will find out if they have any legislative bills. He also reported that he does not know when the next Deaf Blind Task Force meeting will be held and will provide more information at the next Committee meeting.

Kirby Shaw reported that the Kupuna Caucus will introduce the hearing aid bill because the State Auditor completed an audit on hearing aids and associated costs such as coverage of a broken hearing aid. Based on the report recommendations, the bill will include coverage of hearing aids and associated costs to help lower the out of pocket fees placed on individuals who need a hearing aid. Board member Nikki Kepo'o reported that at the last legislative session, the hearing aid bill received controversy over the term, "qualified" and strongly recommended to make sure the new hearing aid bill does not require a qualified individual to receive the coverage because all should be able to receive the coverage.

VIII. Announcement of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

NOTE: All votes were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,

KRISTINE K.H. PAGANO