

# DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Rm. 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • Fax (808) 586-8129 • (808) 204-2466 (VP)

## NOTICE OF MEETING

### Disability and Communication Access Board

### Legislative Committee Meeting

March 21, 2025

12:00 p.m.

### AGENDA

The Disability and Communication Access Board will be meeting remotely using interactive conference technology. The public is welcome to participate as follows.

#### **Public In-Person Meeting Location**

Kamamalu Building  
1010 Richards Street, Room 118  
Honolulu, HI 96813

#### **Participate Virtually via Zoom**

Click on the link below or copy and paste it into your browser window:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81150156760> and enter Meeting ID: 811 5015 6760.

#### **To join by phone**

Dial 1 669 900 6833 and enter Meeting ID: 811 5015 6760

#### **Public Testimony**

**Oral testimony** - Testimony or comments presented by members of the public during Legislative Committee meetings shall be limited to one minute per agenda item. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, a reasonable amount of additional time shall be afforded to persons with a communication disability to present testimony or comments, if needed. Any person who needs additional time to present testimony or comments is encouraged to contact the DCAB office in advance of the meeting. This rule shall be placed at the beginning of all Legislative Committee meeting agendas.

Members of the public may present comment or testimony during Legislative Committee meetings on each agenda item. Public comment or testimony, if any, shall be presented on each agenda item before the Legislative Committee deliberates on the item. After all public comment or testimony is presented, the Legislative Committee shall deliberate on the agenda item without further comment or testimony from the public unless further public comment or testimony is requested by the Legislative Committee.

**Written Testimony** - To ensure the public as well as Committee members are able to review testimony prior to the meeting, we request written testimony be submitted 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting date and time.

- By email to: [dcab@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:dcab@doh.hawaii.gov)
- By U.S. Postal Mail:  
Kirby Shaw, Disability and Communication Access Board, 1010 Richards Street,  
Room 118, Honolulu, HI 96813
- By facsimile to: (808) 586-8129

## **AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order  
Review Remote Meeting Procedures
  - This meeting is being recorded.
  - A quorum of Committee members is required to be visible on screen.
  - Raise hand to speak unless called upon.
  - Identify yourself before speaking.
- II. Roll Call/Introductions
- III. Statement from Public and Written Testimonies Submitted
- IV. Bills and Resolutions
  - A. Non-Discrimination
  - B. Communication Access

[SB312](#) – Relating to Audible Vehicle Reverse Warning Systems. Requires the use of current audible reverse warning systems (back-up beepers) on state and county-owned vehicles purchased on or after 1/1/2028, with more effective broadband reversing alarms by 1/1/2028.

Update – [SB1494 SD2](#) – Relating to Hearing Aids. Requires health insurance policies and contracts issued on or after 1/1/2026 to provide optional coverage for the cost of hearing aids at a minimum \$1,500 per hearing aid for each hearing-impaired ear every thirty-six months.

[SCR151](#) – Requesting the Auditor to Assess the Social and Financial Effects of Mandating Health Insurance Coverage for Hearing Aids.
  - C. Service and Other Animals
  - D. Building Code, Design, and Facility Access

[SCR239](#) / [SR215](#) -Requesting the Department of Accounting and General Services, Department of Land and Natural Resources, and the City and

County of Honolulu Department of Parks and Recreation to Provide Universal Changing Accommodations in all State Facilities, State Parks, and City and County Parks.

E. Community Based Services and Employment

[SB 828 SD1 HD1](#) – Relating to Workers' Compensation Medical Benefits. Expands workers' compensation medical benefits for firefighters to include coverage for adenocarcinoma or mesothelioma of the respiratory system; cancer of the buccal cavity, colon, pharynx, and thyroid; and malignant melanoma. Specifies that an employer may prove that the cancer or disease was not associated with the firefighting duties to deny medical benefits under workers' compensation law.

[HCR26/SCR25](#) - Requesting the State Health Planning and Development Agency and the Department of Health to Hold a Public Meeting for All Certificate of Need Applications for any Proposed Special Treatment Facility in Neighborhoods with Community Associations.

[HCR31](#)- Requesting the University of Hawaii to Explore the Feasibility of Establishing an Alzheimer's Disease Research Center and Identify the Requirements for Receiving Federal Funding from the National Institute on Aging for Alzheimer's Disease Research.

[HCR36/SCR28](#) – Requesting the Auditor to Assess the Social and Financial Effects of Proposed Mandatory Health Insurance Coverage for Colorectal Cancer Screenings.

[HCR39](#) – Requesting the Health Data Advisory Council to Confirm the Number of Uninsured Children Statewide and per County in 2025 and the Department of Human Services Med-Quest Division to Estimate Costs and Collaborate with the State Health Planning and Development Agency on Policy Changes Needed to Achieve the Goal of Universal Health Insurance Coverage for Children.

[SCR43/SCR45](#) – Strongly Supporting and Recommending the Implementation of the Revised 2025 Hawaii Patient Bill of Rights.

F. Transportation and Mobility

G. Emergency Management

H. Administration

I. Other

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

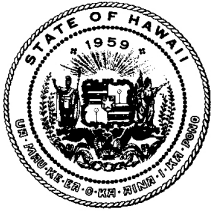
VI. Next Meeting

## VII. Adjournment

If you have a disability and require an auxiliary aid or service or other accommodation to participate in the meeting, please contact Scott Castor at (808) 586-8121 or email, [dcab@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:dcab@doh.hawaii.gov). Requests made as early as possible will allow adequate time to fulfill your request.

Upon request, this notice is available in alternate formats.

The agenda and meeting materials for this meeting are also available for inspection at DCAB's office located at 1010 Richards Street, Room 118, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 and on DCAB's website at: <https://health.hawaii.gov/dcab/dcab-agendas-and-minutes/>.



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## MINUTES

### Disability and Communication Access Board Legislative Committee Meeting

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

Date: March 21, 2025

Time: 12:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Violet Horvath, Chairperson; Anthony Akamine, Summer Kozai, Board Members; Bryan Mick, Kristine Pagano, Elizabeth (Pearson) Delovio, Staff

ABSENT: Rosanna Daniel-Kanetake, Charlotte Townsend, Board Members

#### PUBLIC

PARTICIPANTS: Peter Fritz, Tara Gumapac, Ryan Tamashiro, Terry Visperas

#### SIGN LANGUAGE

INTERPRETERS: Keri Lee and Regina Sapko

#### REAL TIME

CAPTIONERS: April Chandler and Kelly DeCamp

I. Chairperson Violet Horvath called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

II. Committee members and staff introduced themselves.

III. Statement from Public and Written Testimonies Submitted

Elizabeth Delovio reported that there was no written testimony submitted.

IV. Bills and Resolutions

A. Non-Discrimination

No bills related to this section were discussed.

B. Communication Access

[SB312 HD1](#) – Relating to Audible Vehicle Reverse Warning Systems.  
Requires the use of current audible reverse warning systems (back-up beepers) on state and county-owned vehicles purchased on or after 1/1/2028, with more effective broadband reversing alarms by 1/1/2028.

The Committee discussed the benefit of dual frequency alarms as effective communication, for safety purposes.

**MOTION: SUPPORT** (M/S/P Akamine/Kozai)

[SB1494 SD2](#) – Relating to Hearing Aids. Requires health insurance policies and contracts issued on or after 1/1/2026 to provide optional coverage for the cost of hearing aids at a minimum \$1,500 per hearing aid for each hearing-impaired ear every thirty-six months.

Elizabeth Delovio reported that this measure was deferred; SCR151 was introduced which is similar.

**MOTION: SUPPORT** (M/S/P Akamine/Kozai)

[SCR151](#) – Requesting the Auditor to Assess the Social and Financial Effects of Mandating Health Insurance Coverage for Hearing Aids.

Peter Fritz informed the Committee that, under HRS §23-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) a concurrent resolution requesting a social and financial impact study is required for bills like SB1494 to move forward. He clarified that SCR151 appears to fulfill this requirement, making it a necessary prerequisite for any similar legislation to proceed in the future.

**MOTION: SUPPORT** (M/S/P Akamine/Kozai)

C. Service and Other Animals

No bills related to this section were discussed.

D. Building Code, Design, and Facility Access

[SCR239/SR215](#) - Requesting the Department of Accounting and General Services, Department of Land and Natural Resources, and the City and County of Honolulu Department of Parks and Recreation to Provide Universal Changing Accommodations in all State Facilities, State Parks, and City and County Parks.

**MOTION: SUPPORT** (M/S/P Horvath/Akamine)

E. Community Based Services and Employment

[SB828 SD1 HD1](#) – Relating to Workers' Compensation Medical Benefits. Expands workers' compensation medical benefits for firefighters to include coverage for adenocarcinoma or mesothelioma of the respiratory system; cancer of the buccal cavity, colon, pharynx, and thyroid; and malignant melanoma. Specifies that an employer may prove that the cancer or disease was not associated with the firefighting duties to deny medical benefits under workers' compensation law.

**MOTION: SUPPORT** (M/S/P Horvath/Kozai)

[HCR26/SCR25](#) - Requesting the State Health Planning and Development Agency and the Department of Health to Hold a Public Meeting for All Certificate of Need Applications for any Proposed Special Treatment Facility in Neighborhoods with Community Associations.

**MOTION: SUPPORT** (M/S/P Horvath/Akamine)

[HCR31](#)- Requesting the University of Hawaii to Explore the Feasibility of Establishing an Alzheimer's Disease Research Center and Identify the Requirements for Receiving Federal Funding from the National Institute on Aging for Alzheimer's Disease Research.

Chairperson Violet Horvath noted the importance of the measure and stated that while federal funding can be uncertain, support for Alzheimer's research is likely to remain strong.

**MOTION: SUPPORT** (M/S/P Horvath/Kozai)

[HCR36/SCR28](#) – Requesting the Auditor to Assess the Social and Financial Effects of Proposed Mandatory Health Insurance Coverage for Colorectal Cancer Screenings.

**MOTION: SUPPORT** (M/S/P Horvath/Akamine)

[HCR39](#) – Requesting the Health Data Advisory Council to Confirm the Number of Uninsured Children Statewide and per County in 2025 and the Department of Human Services Med-Quest Division to Estimate Costs and Collaborate with the State Health Planning and Development Agency on Policy Changes Needed to Achieve the Goal of Universal Health Insurance Coverage for Children.

**MOTION: SUPPORT** (M/S/P Horvath/Kozai)

[SCR43/SCR45](#) – Strongly Supporting and Recommending the Implementation of the Revised 2025 Hawaii Patient Bill of Rights.

Elizabeth Delovio provided background on the resolution, explaining that it seeks to modernize patient protections, including safeguards against discriminatory AI-based coverage denials by requiring human review. The Committee commented that requiring review by at least two or three board-certified specialists would strengthen these protections.

**MOTION: SUPPORT** (M/S/P Horvath/Kozai)

F. Transportation and Mobility

No bills related to this section were discussed.

G. Emergency Management

No bills related to this section were discussed.

H. Administration

No bills related to this section were discussed.

I. Other

No bills related to this section were discussed.

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

The Committee acknowledged an agenda error and clarified that the sixth resolution under Section E, relating to the patient bill of rights, should be listed as SCR43/SR26.

VI. There will be no meeting on Monday, March 24, 2025. The Committee will decide as the date approaches whether to meet on March 31, 2025, which will depend on whether any measures require their attention.

VII. Chairperson Violet Horvath adjourned the meeting at 12:42 p.m.

NOTE: All votes were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

ELIZABETH DELOVIO