



# DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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## MINUTES

### Legislative Committee Meeting

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

Date: November 3, 2025

Time: 12:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Charlotte Townsend Chairperson; Anthony Akamine, Rosanna Daniel-Kanetake, Dayne Greene, Violet Horvath, Committee Members; Scott Castor Bryan Mick, Kristine Pagano, Staff

#### PUBLIC

PARTICIPANTS: Peter Fritz, Gerald Isobe, Donald Sakamoto

#### SIGN LANGUAGE

INTERPRETERS: Yoshiko Chino, Regina Sapko

- I. Chairperson Charlotte Townsend called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m.
- II. Committee members and staff introduced themselves.
- III. The Committee agreed to meet weekly starting on Monday, January 26, 2026, 12:00 noon.
- IV. DCAB Legislative Procedures
  - A. The Committee reviewed five (5) possible positions to take on legislative bills or resolutions: 1) Support, 2) Support Intent, 3) Oppose, 4) No Position, and 5) Monitor. The first four (4) positions will include comments and the Support Intent will also include proposed amendments.
  - B. The Committee reviewed the request to pre-authorize staff to submit testimony on: legislative measures and policies that align with DCAB's Guiding Principles, and Plan of Action when timing does not allow for prior Committee review; in support of state legislation that reinforces, codifies, or re-establishes disability and civil rights protections equivalent to or derived from federal law or regulation; for official companion bills and resolutions when the Legislative Committee has previously taken a stance on the companion bill or resolution; and for bills and resolutions which are functionally similar to bills or resolutions the Legislative Committee has previously taken a stance on.

The Committee unanimously agreed to the DCAB Legislative Procedures.

V. Review and vote of DCAB Legislative Position Statements and Determine Subject Matter Categories for 33<sup>rd</sup> Legislature, 2026 Bills

The Committee reviewed the Subject Matter categories and the Legislative Position Statements as proposed by staff. The only difference from the 2025 subject matter categories is changing “**Oppose** legislation for separate identification cards for people with disabilities in addition to a driver's license or a state identification card” to “**Monitor**.”

Committee member Dayne Greene commented that the verbiage in the Parking category is a bit unclear and suggested the Standing Committee on Parking review it.

Chairperson Charlotte Townsend suggested that the Standing Committee on Transportation also review the Transportation category. If either Committee has suggested amendments, the Legislative Committee can always consider those at a future meeting.

The Committee approved the DCAB Legislative Position Statements and Subject Matter Categories (M/S/P Horvath/Akamine).

VI. Legislative Bills

- A. Bill 2026-0016 HB HMSO-1 - Relating to Parking. Prohibits the issuance of a citation for encroachment into an access aisle by a vehicle with a disability parking permit unless an oral complaint is made to a law enforcement officer or 911 dispatcher by a person who also has a valid disability parking permit and whose access was directly impeded. Requires a law enforcement officer to verify the validity of the complainant's disability parking permit before issuing a citation.

Staff explained that Representative Scot Matayoshi drafted this bill and asked DCAB for comments. The bill addresses a situation where multiple people in a vehicle need extra room to exit on opposite sides and therefore the vehicle partially parks in the access aisle.

Staff commented that when a vehicle does this, it potentially makes the parking space on the other side of the access aisle unusable and creates a barrier for any pedestrians using the access aisle as part of an accessible route.

The bill also requires parking enforcement personnel to subjectively determine if a vehicle encroaches far enough into the access aisle to constitute a barrier to the person who called parking enforcement to report a vehicle with a disability parking permit. There are several design options which would address parking issues without weakening enforcement.

Chairperson Charlotte Townsend commented she opposes the bill but wants to give the Standing Committee on Parking more time to discuss what the best remedy for issues regarding the design of an accessible parking space.

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

- B. Bill xx-xxx – Relating to Parking for Disabled Persons. Establishes a disability travel placard to be issued to an existing permittee for use at the travel destination.

Staff explained that this bill is likely to be introduced in the Senate and possibly in the House as well. It will provide a temporary second placard to a long term permittee who is traveling for use at their destination.

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

- C. Bill xx-xxx – Relating to Parking for Disabled Persons. Amends the parking fee exemption from 2.5 hours or the maximum time the meter allows whichever is longer, to be four and a half hours.

Staff explained this bill is likely to be introduced in the Senate and possibly in the House as well. It will lengthen the Disabled Paid Parking Exemption Permit fee exemption period.

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

- D. Bill xx-xxx – Relating to Disaster Services. Establishes the position of Disability Integration Specialist, to be located in the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, who shall provide programming support for disability community projects that promote accessibility, inclusion and equity in disaster management. Appropriates funds.

Staff explained that recently there was a Limited English Proficiency Language Access Coordinator established within the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. This bill would establish a similar position to ensure the needs of persons with disabilities are part of the emergency planning and response efforts of the State.

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

## VII. Open Forum

Testimony: Peter Fritz commented that the previous agenda items (B), (C) and (D) were not really bills, but rather concepts for bills, albeit with the parking bills based on last session bills.

VIII. The next meeting will be Monday, January 26, 2026, at 12:00 p.m.

IX. The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

NOTE: All votes were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

BRYAN K. MICK