



# DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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## MINUTES

### Standing Committee on Transportation Meeting

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

Date: July 7, 2025

Time: 11:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Violet Horvath, Chairperson; Gerald Ohta, Teri Spinola-Campbell, Charlotte Townsend, Board Members; Elizabeth Delovio, Bryan Mick, Kristine Pagano, Staff

PUBLIC PARTICIPANT: Ryan Tamashiro

SIGN LANGUAGE

INTERPRETERS: Carrie Kaufman and Laura Safranski

- I. Chairperson Violet Horvath called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m.
- II. Committee members and staff introduced themselves.
- III. Chairperson Violet Horvath reported no written public testimony was submitted.
- IV. The Committee approved the May 12, 2025, meeting minutes (M/S/P Townsend/Spinola-Campbell).
- V. Unfinished Business
  - A. Review of the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2026 Plan of Action Transportation and Travel Section including any proposed revisions to goals and objectives to this section.

The Committee reviewed the proposed changes to the Plan of Action. The Committee made edits to the existing objective 7.2.4 regarding the creation of an Airport Authority at priority 3 and added a new objective 7.2.5 as a priority 1.

The 7.2.5 objective requests the Department of Transportation (DOT) to establish a disability committee to advise on the accessibility of programs, services, and policies at Hawaii Public Airports. Committee member Teri Spinola-Campbell mentioned she participated in an informal DOT committee and asked if staff thought a formal or informal committee was better. Bryan Mick explained the pros and cons of formal vs. informal committees and recommended that DCAB support whichever DOT is willing to establish as it would be an improvement over the status quo.

The Committee approved the proposed new goal and objective 7.4 relating to financial assistance to offset costs related to transportation services or devices. Bryan Mick explained that there is an existing rebate program for electric bicycles and scooters, and staff thought it should also cover mobility devices. The Committee deleted the reference to fixed low income. Committee member Teri Spinola-Campbell suggested that the definition of mobility device used by any rebate program refer to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulation's definition for clarity and consistency.

VI. Standing Agenda Topics

A. Public Transit and Paratransit

Bryan Mick summarized Bill 45 which proposed many changes to the City and County of Honolulu's public transit and paratransit program.

One of the changes is to allow a transit operator to refuse service to someone whose possessions emit an odor that interferes with other passengers' ability to utilize the City's transit system. In the past, DCAB testified in opposition to proposals to allow denial of service to a person based on bodily odor.

DCAB added a bullet point to the DCAB Guiding Principles on Public Transit and Paratransit stating, "A person's body odor should not be used as a reason to deny service on public transit or paratransit service unless it poses a health or safety risk to transit personnel or patrons." The concern was a person's disability, or the disabilities impacted by the personal hygiene might be causing the odor, and therefore a denial of service would be discriminatory.

The Committee commented that Bill 45 puts transit operators in a tough situation, and it is possible for transit operators, or their union may decide it is inadvisable to deny service on the basis of odor. The Committee asked staff to raise these concerns at any future Bill 45 hearings.

Bryan Mick provided the monthly performance statistics for the Hawaii County paratransit program. The Committee noted that the metrics were very good but noted that the Hawaii County service area is limited. Bryan Mick added that this is due to the County running their buses in a limited fashion. The Hawaii County paratransit services are considered commuter routes, and not fixed routes. The ADA mandates that complementary paratransit services be provided within a three-fourths of a mile radius of a fixed bus route. Hawaii County differs from the City and County of Honolulu system where all bus routes operation meets the definition of a fixed bus route. That is why paratransit service is provided for the entire island of Oahu.

The rest of the agenda was deferred due to time restraints.

VII. The next meeting will be Monday, September 8, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.

VIII. The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

NOTE: All votes were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

BRYAN K. MICK