



# 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: September 8, 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

SIGN LANGUAGE

INTERPRETERS: Denise Green and Ku Mei Kern

REAL TIME

CAPTIONERS: April Chandler and Kelly DeCamp

- I. Chairperson Violet Horvath called the meeting to order at 11:13 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 July 7, 2025 meeting minutes (M/S/P Townsend/Ohta).
- V. Unfinished Business
  - A. City and County of Honolulu [Bill 45](#) Relating to the City Transit System. The purpose of this bill is to update requirements pertaining to the City Transit System in order to promote public safety, system security, service quality, and multimodal transit options – Update.

Staff reported the City and County of Honolulu's Bill 45 (2025) Relating to Public Transit is yet to be scheduled for a second hearing. This bill would allow a rider to be denied transit service if the odor of their belongings interfered with other riders' ability to utilize the transit service. DCAB was concerned this would be arbitrarily enforced by public transit operators and would lead to disability discrimination complaints.
  - B. Review of County of Hawaii Paratransit Service responses.
    - (1) Hele-On Shared Ride [Program](#) (East Hawaii).
    - (2) Hele-On Ka Ho'okele Rural Transportation [Program](#).

The Committee reviewed a map of the Hawaii County paratransit's service area. While the major population centers have coverage, large

areas of the island do not. These non-covered areas also serve as a barrier between the covered areas, for example someone could not use the paratransit system to go from Hilo to Kona. Committee member Teri Spinola-Campbell mentioned there are other programs that are run by agencies other than the County Transportation Department and may provide limited service in those non-covered areas. Staff also highlighted the County's Hele-On Shared Ride Program which services Hilo. A person who is enrolled can schedule a taxi ride with a participating company, and the County will pay the first \$15.80 per trip (equivalent to 4 miles), with the rider responsible to pay the balance of the rate. This program allows for same day rides and hopefully reduces demand on the paratransit system. The Committee also discussed the Hele-On Ka Ho'okele Rural Transportation Service which services areas outside the paratransit service zone but is only available weekdays during business hours. Committee member Charlotte Townsend mentioned that a lot of the programs in Hawaii County use older vehicles where the lifts or ramps do not work. She does not think the island's policymakers grasp how difficult it can be for a person with a mobility disability to get around Hawaii island when different areas are serviced by different programs, versus the more holistic approach on Oahu.

She suggests DCAB send a letter to the various programs in Hawaii County urging them to communicate and coordinate, in an effort to enhance the experience of the program participants.

Committee member Teri Spinola-Campbell advised contacting the Mayor's Committee on People with Disabilities to ask what discussions they have had on this topic.

C. State of Hawaii E-bike and electric moped rebate [program](#).

(1) [House Bill 670 House Draft 1](#)

The Committee reviewed the State of Hawaii's existing e-bike and electric moped rebate program. This is restricted to people who do not own a motor vehicle and are either students or participate in a low income assistance program. The Committee also reviewed House Bill 670 House Draft 1 which would have added "adaptive electric bicycle" as an eligible device for a rebate. Staff suggested that perhaps mobility aid devices could also be added, as purchasing those can present a financial barrier to a person with a disability. If a bill is reintroduced next session, the Legislative Committee can submit testimony asking for that amendment.

D. Richards Street Bike Lane and Loading Zone – Update.

Staff reported that Executive Director Kirby Shaw received the consent of other agencies in the Kamamalu Building to request that the City and County of Honolulu's Department of Transportation Services (DTS) remove the two (2) meter parking spaces fronting the building and turn the entire curb into a loading zone. DTS replied they will analyze the information about the usage rate and revenue collected from the meters before making a decision.

E. United States Department of Transportation Final Rule – Ensuring Safe Accommodations for Air Travelers with Disabilities Using Wheelchairs – Delayed Enforcement [2025-10250](#) – Update

Staff reported that the United States Department of Transportation did not issue a second notice of delayed enforcement for their rule titled “Ensuring Safe Accommodations for Air Travelers with Disabilities Using Wheelchairs.” It is possible the rule will not be vigorously enforced by the current administration, but it is now an enforceable regulation.

VI. Standing Agenda Topics

A. Public Transit and Paratransit

Bryan Mick summarized Bill 54 (2025) which proposes changes to the City and County of Honolulu’s public transit and paratransit fares. While the bill does not amend the low income fare for paratransit, staff had concerns on two (2) proposals to the fares for bus and rail: 1) elimination of the free fare for a personal care attendant (PCA) when they are providing service to a rider with a disability. The current version of the bill leaves intact a fare exemption for a PCA when the rider with the disability has a paratransit identification card. DTS has stated they would like to delete that as well. Staff testified any change to the policy would present a barrier for a person who relies on a PCA, and it should be left in its current form. 2) the new fare table collapses many categories into a new one called “reduced fare.” However, the definition of who falls into that category excludes Medicare card holders. Medicare card holders currently receive a reduced rate. DTS has stated this is an oversight, but the City Council has yet to correct this.

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

VII. The next meeting will be Monday, November 17, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.

VIII. The meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

NOTE: All votes were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

BRYAN K. MICK