



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Rm. 118 • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • Fax (808) 586-8129 • (808) 586-8129 TTY

DRAFT MINUTES **Legislative Committee Meeting**

Location: 1010 Richards Street, #118 and via Zoom
Date: May 15, 2023
Time: 12:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Dean Georgiev, Chairperson; Anthony Akamine, Summer Kozai, Committee Members; Kirby Shaw, Bryan Mick, Staff

ABSENT: Rosanna Daniel-Kanetake, Violet Horvath, Committee Members

I. Chairperson Dean Georgiev called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

II. The attendees introduced themselves.

III. Statement from Public and Written Testimonies Submitted

Kirby Shaw reported that staff did not receive written testimonies.

IV. Approval of Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes of March 17, 2023

The March 17, 2023 Legislative Committee meeting minutes were approved as circulated (M/S/P Akamine/Kozai).

V. Highlights of Board Supported Measures That Passed or Failed to Pass the 2023 Legislative Session

See attached Highlights.

VI. Review of the Process and Recommendations for the 2024 Legislative Session

The Committee agreed by consensus to meet once in December, once in January, and twice a week in February. This will allow the Committee to avoid a backlog of measures requiring the Committee's position and will hopefully allow staff to submit testimony at the initial hearings. Staff suggested that the Committee should avoid meeting on Fridays because it would require the agenda to be filed an extra day early since the sixth day would fall on a weekend. In addition, the Committee agreed by consensus to operate under the assumption that members would have read through an agenda before the meeting started and thereby obviate the need to read the description of each measure aloud, except for the measure number and title, to maximize the Committee's time to cover more of the items on the agenda. Moreover, the Committee agreed by consensus that measures identified as priorities, in terms of measures upon which the Board has a written position statement and or measures of interest that are scheduled for a hearing which the Board has not yet taken a position, should be addressed at the top of meeting agendas.

VII. Chairperson Dean Georgiev adjourned the meeting at 12:43 p.m.

NOTE: All votes were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,

BRYAN K. MICK



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2023 LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS METRICS

Monitor: 13 Bills
Comments: 8 Bills
Support Intent: 6 Bills/7 Resolutions
Support or support with comment: 40 Bills/15 Resolutions
Total measures: 89
Total testimonies: 104

NOTABLE MEASURES PASSED 2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

HB 218 HD2 SD2 CD1 Relating to Prescription Drugs - Requires certain pharmacies to provide accessible prescription drug label information to individuals who have difficulty seeing or reading prescription drug container labels and inform the public that prescription drug label information is available in alternate accessible formats for individuals who have difficulty seeing or reading prescription drug container labels. Requires the board of pharmacy to adopt certain rules by 12/31/2025.

HB 388 HD1 SD2 CD1 Relating to Education - Adopts the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard. Requires the department of education to obtain instructional materials in accessible formats for eligible students.

HB 794 HD1 SD1 Relating to Disability Awareness - Designates the month of October as "Disability Awareness Month: Employment, Enrichment, and Inclusion" in recognition of the employment challenges and successes of persons with disabilities in the State.

HB 834 HD1 SD1 Relating to American Sign Language - Recognizes American Sign Language as a fully developed, autonomous, natural language with its own grammar, syntax, vocabulary, and cultural heritage.

HB 870 HD2 SD1 CD2 Relating to Neighbor Islands Blind and Visually Impaired Service Pilot Program - Requires the department of human services to establish a neighbor islands blind and visually impaired service pilot program that provides training and other services to blind or visually impaired individuals residing on the neighbor islands. Requires the department of human services to establish a working group and submit an implementation plan to the legislature before the regular session of 2024. Requires the department to report to the legislature prior to the regular session of 2027. Appropriates funds.

HB 907 HD2 SD2 Relating to Telehealth - Temporarily allows for the reimbursement of services provided through telehealth via an interactive telecommunications system and two-way, real-time audio-only communications in certain circumstances. Defines "interactive telecommunications system". Repeals 12/31/2025.

HB 933 HD2 SD1 CD1 Relating to Telecommunications Access for Individuals with Print Disabilities - Appropriates funds to the Public Utilities Commission to provide free telecommunications access to certain information for individuals with a print disability.

SB 214 SD1 HD1 CD1 Relating to Public Transit - Establishes the offense of interference with the operation of a public transit vehicle. Makes clarifying and conforming amendments to the offense of interference with the operator of a public transit vehicle.

SB 1076 SD2 HD2 CD1 Relating to Elections - Requires the Office of Elections to prepare a digital voter information guide; post the guide on its website in compliance with certain accessibility standards; and mail each ballot with a notice that states a voter information guide may be found on its website. Requires the Attorney General and county corporation counsels to draft explanations of proposed constitutional or charter amendment ballot questions and translate them into certain languages for purposes of the digital voter information guide. Appropriates funds.

HR 191 HD1/SR 26 SD1 – Requesting the Disability and Communication Access Board to Convene an American Sign Language Interpreter Workforce Working Group for the Purpose of Promoting the Increase of American Sign Language Interpreters in the State.

HR 192/SCR 44 SD1 - Urging the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency to Include in All Live and Recorded Emergency Alert System Video Broadcasts, an On-Screen Interpreter Disseminating the Emergency Information in American Sign Language at All Times, including During Graphic Presentations.

NOTABLE MEASURES TO CARRYOVER TO 2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
(Excluding Resolutions)

SB 384 SD1 HD2 Relating to Access for Disabled Persons - Authorizes each county to adopt ordinances to enforce the design and construction requirements for the provision of accessible parking spaces, including the establishment of penalties for failure to comply with the ordinance. Authorizes officials appointed by a county to enter the property of places of public accommodation to enforce violations of the county ordinances. Effective 6/30/3000.

SB 606 SD2 Relating to Hearing Aids - Exempts from the general excise tax, gross receipts received by a hospital, infirmary, medical clinic, health care facility, pharmacy, or a practitioner licensed to administer drugs to an individual, from the sale of hearing aids

SB 609 SD1 Relating to Hearing Aids - Requires health insurance policies and contracts issued on or after 01/01/2024 to provide coverage for the cost of hearing aids at a minimum of an unspecified amount per hearing aid for each hearing-impaired ear every thirty-six months. Effective 12/31/2050

SB 612 SD1 HD1 Relating to Service Animals - Requires that a written disclaimer be provided by sellers or providers of emotional support animals or certificates or identification tags for emotional support animals that the animal is not a service animal or the item does not qualify as an item for a service animal and that knowingly

misrepresenting an emotional support animal may be a violation. Establishes penalties. Effective 6/30/3000.

SB 753 SD2 HD1 Relating to Accessibility - Requires retail establishments with an employee toilet facility to allow a customer suffering from an eligible medical condition to use that restroom during normal business hours under certain conditions. Establishes fines. Effective 12/32/2050.

HB 415 HD2 SD2 Making an Appropriation to Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force on Mobility Management, Established Pursuant to Act 214, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013 - Appropriates funds to the Department of Transportation to implement the recommendations of the task force on mobility management established pursuant to Act 214, SLH 2013.

HB 1145 HD1 SD1/SB 389 SD1 HD2 Relating to Equity - Requires all places of public accommodation and state building construction constructed after 12/31/23 to provide universal changing accommodations in public restrooms.

HCR 49 – Requesting the Establishment of a Telehealth Working Group to Examine the Impact of Widespread Telehealth Adoption During the Covid-19 Pandemic and Identify Public Policy Initiatives at the Federal and State Level to Optimize Telehealth Utilization as the State Transitions Out of the Covid-19 Pandemic