



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: May 7, 2024

Time: 10:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Violet Horvath, Chairperson; Gerald Ohta, Teri Spinola-Campbell, Charlotte Townsend, Board Members; Elizabeth Pearson, Bryan Mick, Sue Radcliffe, Staff

GUESTS: Donald Sakamoto, Gita Nofieka Dwijayati

- I. Chairperson Violet Horvath called the meeting to order at 10:14 a.m.
- II. Committee members, staff, and guests introduced themselves.
- III. Chairperson Violet Horvath reported no written public testimony was submitted.
- IV. Chairperson Violet Horvath stated the minutes needed to be amended under guests as Ricky's last name is spelled "Hyunh." The Committee approved the March 19, 2024, meeting minutes as amended (M/S/P Townsend/Spinola-Campbell).
- V. Unfinished Business

- A. Review of DCAB Guiding Principles on Public Transit Fixed Route Bus Service and Paratransit Services and DCAB Guiding Principles on the Mobility and Safety of Pedestrians with Disabilities and proposed amendments

The Committee had adopted revised language at its last meeting. Before presentation to the full Board, staff realized the word advocate would be better placed in the mission statement and not in certain individual principles. That kept the document consistent.

- B. Review of DCAB Guiding Principles on Public Transit Fixed Route Bus Service and Paratransit Services and DCAB Guiding Principles on the Mobility and Safety of Pedestrians with Disabilities and proposed amendments

Committee member Teri Spinola-Campbell commented that she had brought up the principle regarding the removal of accessible features such as a curb cut in the Standing Committee on Facility Access meeting. She suggested DCAB provide the counties with guidance on how to effectively communicate to people with communication related disabilities when changes to infrastructure are made.

Bryan Mick mentioned that the City and County of Honolulu always refers to a study which indicated mid-block marked crosswalks were more dangerous than unmarked ones, as the unmarked ones induce pedestrians to walk to the nearest intersection to cross. This ignored the fact that for some people with disabilities, walking to an intersection is a challenge. It also ignores the overall conclusion of the study which was simple safety improvements at mid-block marked crosswalks make them safer than unmarked crosswalks.

Guest Donald Sakamoto commented he has been advocating for audible pedestrian signals at the Pearl City Highlands rail station crosswalk and at the Kailua roundabout.

C. Kauai County Suspension of Bus and Paratransit Service on Sundays

Bryan Mick reported that the County of Kauai Transportation Department had just responded to a letter the Committee submitted requesting additional information about the suspension of Sunday services. The main reason for the suspension is a shortage of drivers, there are eleven (11) vacancies out of seventy four (74) authorized positions. Sunday was selected as the day to suspend service as it had the lowest ridership of any day, and it is the only day that the island's dialysis clinics are closed. When the vacancy count drops to three (3) or lower, Sunday service will be resumed. Bryan Mick added that staff informed the Department that DCAB would support them in efforts to fill their vacancies, including advocating to the County Council to increase driver pay, if requested.

VI. New Business

A. Standing Agenda Items

Public Transit and Paratransit

Bryan Mick reported that he did not have any updates on the City and County of Honolulu low income fare program for paratransit riders or for a possible pilot taxi voucher program.

[House Bill \(HB\) 2082 House Draft \(HD\) 1](#) establishes standards for public education bus services, including an equity assessment; the bill did not pass this legislative session.

[Senate Bill \(SB\) 2769 Senate Draft \(SD\) 1](#) requires counties to purchase zero emission buses; the bill did not pass this legislative session.

Pedestrian Mobility and Built Environment

Bryan Mick reported that:

[HB 2071 HD1 SD1](#) which would clarify enforcement for red light photos, passed and was awaiting the Governor's action.

[SB 2443 SD2 HD2 Conference Draft \(CD\) 1](#) which establishes automated speed enforcement program also is awaiting Governor's action.

[SB 2738 SD1](#) which would have established a 3 year pilot program to examine signalized intersections did not pass this legislative session.

[SB 3002 SD1 HD2](#) which would have made an appropriation to implement recommendations of the task force on mobility management did not pass this legislative session.

Air Transportation and Airports

Bryan Mick mentioned that staff is unable to attend the Universal Access in Aviation Biennial Conference, but he recommends it to anyone who is interested in accessibility and airports.

Bryan Mick reported that the Board packet included information on the new automated shuttle service at Honolulu International Airport called Miki. Based on photos, staff had concerns with shuttle accessibility. The State Department of Transportation (DOT) provided DCAB additional information. DOT explained this is just a pilot project, and the vehicle is smaller than what would be ordered in a permanent program. There are attendants on the vehicles to assist wheelchair users with loading and securing tie downs. There is a portable ramp the attendant would need to install for loading and unloading persons with disabilities. DOT raised some concerns with the vendor during a recent test run.

Bryan Mick commented he was surprised a press release was issued for something which is apparently still in its beta test phase. This is an example of why DCAB thinks DOT should establish an advisory committee of airport users with disabilities. It seems like the DOT Office of Civil Rights, who provided the response, was not engaged early on in this project.

Committee member Charlotte Townend asked if staff could request a site visit for the Committee. Bryan Mick replied he would figure out the logistics for a visit.

Guest Donald Sakamoto commented he also had a concern with the accessibility of the planned pedestrian bridge between the rail station to the airport.

Bryan Mick reported that the Federal Department of Transportation recently released a revised flying with a service animal form. The revised form is concise and less burdensome to fill out, and uses terminology found in the actual federal regulations.

Update from Standing Committee on Parking

[HB 2446 HD2 SD2](#) / [SB 3135 SD1](#) would have allowed suspension of a driver license if a person is caught using a deceased persons parking permit, remitted 50 percent of fines to agency that issues the citation, and authorized counties to enforce design requirements. These bills did not pass this legislative session.

[HB 2447 HD1](#) / [SB 3136](#) would have created a travel placard. These bills did not pass this legislative session.

[SB 370 SD1](#) would have allowed a property owner of multiple lots to aggregate the required number of electric vehicle charging spaces. DCAB did not want this to decrease the number of accessible charging spaces. The bill did not pass this legislative session.

Chairperson Violet Horvath commented she is seeing more and more articles about people with disabilities being unable to use charging stations. Bryan Mick replied this is an unsettled area of the law, but the U.S. Access Board has indicated regulations will be issued soon. The basic question is do you view these as parking spaces or charging stations, which would make them akin to a gas pump. Either way has accessibility requirements, but exactly what those are depends on that decision. DCAB currently has an interpretive opinion that views them as a general feature akin to a gas pump.

Maui County - [Bill 65 \(2023\)](#) would expand the Volunteer Special Enforcement Officer (VSEO) Program. Staff has previously testified in support as it would likely kickstart the dormant VSEO program in Maui County. -Currently there is no scheduled hearing.

B. Review of Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Plan of Action and Proposed 2024-2025 Plan of Action

The Committee did not have any proposed changes to the Plan of Action.

VII. The next meeting will be on July 10, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

NOTE: All votes were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
BRYAN K. MICK