



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
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NOTICE OF MEETING

Disability and Communication Access Board

Standing Committee on Communication Access Meeting

August 8, 2024

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

The Disability and Communication Access Board will be meeting remotely using interactive conference technology. The public is welcome to participate as follows.

Public In-Person Meeting Location

Kamamalu Building, Room 111A and 111B
1010 Richards Street, Room 118
Honolulu, HI 96813

Participate Virtually via Zoom

Click on the link below or copy and paste it into your browser window:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81118709235?pwd=bWNT9PTO7IPavfoNOgzDhgdy8r3EWd.1>

and enter Meeting ID: 811 1870 9235, Passcode: 799101

To join by phone

Dial 1 669 900 6833 and enter Meeting ID: 811 1870 9235, Passcode: 799101

Public Testimony

Oral Testimony - Members of the public may testify on each agenda item before the Standing Committee on Communication Access deliberates on the same.

Written Testimony -To ensure the public as well as its Committee members receive such testimony in a timely manner, written testimony should be submitted 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting date and time. Any written testimony submitted after such time will be distributed to the members and the public at the meeting. Written testimony may be submitted by one of the methods listed below:

1. By email to: dcab@doh.hawaii.gov
2. By U.S. Postal Mail:
Kirby Shaw, Disability and Communication Access Board, 1010 Richards Street,
Room 118, Honolulu, HI 96813
3. By facsimile to: (808) 586-8129

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call/Introductions
- III. Statement from Public and Written Testimonies Submitted
- IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes of May 9, 2024
- V. New Business
 - A. Approved Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 Communication Access section of the Plan of Action. See Attachment.
 1. Staff report on technical assistance and trainings with Assets School, Polynesian Cultural Center, and Maui Deaf Friends.
 2. 57th Biennial National Association of the Deaf Conference – Chicago, July 1-6, 2024.
 3. Maui County Office of Aging Abilities Resources Fair, September 14, 2024.
- VI. Old Business
 - A. Report on Senate Bill (SB) 3290 SD2 HD1 – Relating to American Sign Language. Requires the Disability and Communication Access Board to convene a working group to study the state of American Sign Language interpretation services in Hawai'i. Requires a report to the Legislature. (Update)
 - B. Establish in-person Quarterly Continuing Education Unit Workshops for sign language interpreters. (Update)
 - C. Organize a State Communication Access Conference by Next Summer. (Update)
 - D. Recruit individuals to take the Hawaii Quality Assurance System test and increase the number of interpreters with a Hawaii State Sign Language Interpreter Credentials. (Update)
- VII. Open Forum
Public comment on issues not on the agenda for consideration at the next meeting.
- VIII. Announcement of Next Meeting
- IX. Adjournment

If you require an auxiliary aid/service or other accommodation due to a disability, contact Cindy Omura at (808) 586-8121 and email at dcab@doh.hawaii.gov as soon as possible. Requests made as early as possible have a greater likelihood of being fulfilled.

An American Sign Language interpreter and a Real Time Captioner will be provided.

Upon request, this notice is available in alternate/accessible formats.

The agenda and materials for this meeting are also available for inspection at DCAB's office located at 1010 Richards Street, Room 118, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 and on DCAB's website at: <https://health.hawaii.gov/dcab/dcab-agendas-and-minutes/>.

Attachment
(FY 2024-2025 Plan of Action – Communication Access)

3. Communication Access

Communication Access includes the provision of auxiliary aids and services that facilitate the effective exchange of information with or by persons with disabilities who require such access. Communication access occurs through communication access providers (individuals) as well as through telecommunication and electronic information devices, auxiliary aids and services.

The goals and objectives in the area of **Communication Access** are:

- 3.1 The quantity and quality of communication access providers in the State of Hawaii will be increased. State agencies will be aware of existing communication access providers and their qualifications.

Objectives:

- 3.1.1 Operate and maintain the Hawaii Quality Assurance Screening (HQAS) credentialing program for sign language interpreters who do not possess national certification; develop an instructional video for HQAS applicants. **(Priority 2)**
 - 3.1.1 Operate and maintain the Continuing Education Program for State credentialed interpreters, including the secured website tracking system, and provide at least .5 hours of continuing education workshops geared towards Level III sign language interpreters. **(Priority 1)**
 - 3.1.2 Provide technical assistance regarding Hawaii Administrative Rules, Title 11, Chapter 218, including the Hawaii State Sign Language Interpreter Credential and the recommended fee schedule. **(Priority 3)**
 - 3.1.3 Update and maintain a registry of current communication access providers (for Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and other persons with communication access disabilities) and their credentials and post it on the Disability and Communication Access Board's website. **(Priority 2)**
 - 3.1.4 Keep informed of nationwide efforts on regulation and oversight of American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters or ASL interpreter referral agencies. **(Priority 3)**
 - 3.1.5 Provide continuing education workshops and trainings for State credentialed interpreters and individuals studying for a credential to gain workforce experience. **(Priority 1)**
 - 3.1.6 Update the Hawaii State Sign Language Interpreter Credential and recommended fee schedule, as needed. **(Priority 1)**
- 3.2 Individuals with communication access needs shall be aware of their rights to communication access services and technology.

Objectives:

- 3.2.1 Provide technical assistance to individuals with communication access needs on their right to effective communication (American Sign Language interpreting, notetaking, audio description, and captioning) with an emphasis on State and county services. **(Priority 1)**
- 3.2.1 Produce videos in American Sign Language with captions, and audio descriptions, relating to the legislative process with the Legislative Reference Bureau and the Public Access Room. **(Priority 2)**
- 3.2.2 Organize and prepare for Communication Access State Conference in 2025. **(Priority 1)**
- 3.3 Service agencies, program providers, and consumers will have access to updated information about federal and state laws relating to communication access.

Objectives:

- 3.3.1 Provide technical assistance to covered entities on their obligation to provide effective communication including accessible formats (American Sign Language interpreting, notetaking, audio description, and captioning) with an emphasis on State and county services. **(Priority 1)**
- 3.3.2 Serve on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Advisory Board (DHHAB), Department of Human Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation; the Deaf and Blind Task Force (DBTF); and the Department of Health, Office of Language Access, Language Access Advisory Council (LAAC); to coordinate with Title II entities to improve communication access services. **(Priority 3)**
- 3.4 Advocacy efforts shall enhance effective communication for people who have communication access needs.

Objectives:

- 3.4.1 Engage in advocacy efforts involving services, rules, regulations, and other policies to enhance effective communication, including web accessibility and emergency broadcasts. **(Priority 1)**
- 3.4.2 Monitor, review, and submit comments to the Federal Communications Commission regarding rulemaking and pilot programs on improving accessibility for people with communication disabilities. **(Priority 2)**
- 3.4.3 Pursuant to Act 271-22, participate in a working group on accessible government documents and develop electronic information in technology accessibility standards titled, "Hawaii Electronic Information Technology Disability Access Standards" to be implemented by all state entities with the Office of Enterprise Technology Services. **(Priority 1)**
- 3.4.4 Pursuant to Act 204-24, SLH 2024, convene a working group to study the state of American Sign Language interpretation services in Hawaii and prepare a report to be submitted to the Legislature. **(Priority 1)**