

DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

Ka 'Oihana Ho'oma'alahi Ka'a'ike no ka Po'e me nā Kino Kīnā

1010 Richards Street, Rm. 118 • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • Fax (808) 586-8129 • (808) 204-2466 (VP)

NOTICE OF MEETING

Disability and Communication Access Board

Standing Committee on Transportation Meeting

May 12, 2025
11:00 a.m.

AGENDA

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
1010 Richards Street, Room 118
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Participate Virtually via Zoom

Click on the link below or copy and paste it into your browser window:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85328116909> and enter Meeting ID: 853 2811 6909.

To join by phone

Dial 1 669 900 6833 and enter Meeting ID: 853 2811 6909.

Public Testimony

Oral testimony - Testimony or comments presented by members of the public during Committee meetings shall be limited to three minutes per agenda item. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, a reasonable amount of additional time shall be afforded to persons with a communication disability to present testimony or comments, if needed. Any person who needs additional time to present testimony or comments is encouraged to contact the DCAB office in advance of the meeting. This rule shall be placed at the beginning of all Committee meeting agendas. Members of the public may present comment or testimony during Committee meetings on each agenda item. Public comment or testimony, if any, shall be presented on each agenda item before the Committee deliberates on the item. After all public comment or testimony is presented, the Committee shall deliberate on the agenda item without further comment or testimony from the public unless further public comment or testimony is requested by the Committee.

Written Testimony - To ensure the public as well as Committee members are able to review testimony prior to the meeting, we request written testimony be submitted 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting date and time.

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

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
 - Review Remote Meeting Procedures
 - This meeting is being recorded.
 - A quorum of Committee members is required to be visible on screen.
 - Raise hand to speak unless called upon.
 - Identify yourself before speaking.
- II. Roll Call/Introductions
- III. Written Public Testimonies Submitted - Review
- IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes of March 17, 2025
- V. Old Business
 - A. Standing Agenda Items
 1. Public Transit and Paratransit
 - a. City and County of Honolulu's low income rate for paratransit.
 - b. City and County of Honolulu's low income rate for fixed route.
 - c. City and County of Honolulu's Taxi Voucher Program.
 - d. City and County of Honolulu's paratransit – mobile payment proposal.
 - e. City and County of Honolulu's Paratransit Performance Report – February 2025
 - f. City and County of Honolulu's Fixed Route Performance Report – February 2025
 2. Streets and Highways
 - a. Richards Street Bike Lane and Loading Zone - Update
 3. Pedestrian Mobility and Built Environment
 - a. [Hele Mai Maui 2045](#) - Maui County Draft Updates to Long Range Transportation Plan.
 4. Air Transportation/Airports
 - a. Procedure for the Inspection of Service Animals Upon Out of State Arrival at Daniel K. Inouye International Airport.
 - b. Update – United States Department of Transportation Final Rule – Ensuring Safe Accommodations for Air Travelers with Disabilities Using Wheelchairs. [2025-02817](#)

- c. Notice of Submission of Proposed Information Collection to OMB; Agency Request for Renewal of a Previously Approved Collection: Airline Service Quality Performance-Part 234. [2025-05260](#)
 - d. News Article – [Major Mistake on Hawaii Flight Strands Visitor and Raises Alarm.](#)
5. Water Transportation and Harbors – No Updates
6. Update from Standing Committee on Parking
- a. [SB 1008 HD1 CD1](#) - Relating to Parking. Authorizes the counties to adopt ordinances to enforce the accessible parking spaces reserved for persons with disabilities and electric vehicles.
 - b. [SB 1009 SD2 HD2 CD1](#) – Relating to Parking. Establishes a state reserved parking space enforcement fine for the unauthorized use of parking spaces reserved for persons with disabilities or electric vehicles. Deposits fifty percent of all fines into the general fund and fifty percent into the Safe Routes to School Program Special Fund. Specifies that a fine shall not be imposed on a person who parks in a space designated and marked as reserved for electric vehicles if the electric vehicle charging system is visibly inoperable or broken.

VI. New Business

A. Proposed Transportation Plan of Action FY 2025-2026.

VII. Open Forum: Public comment on issues not on the agenda for consideration on a future Committee agenda.

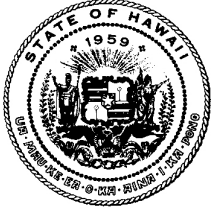
VIII. Next Meeting

VIII. Adjournment

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

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

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



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MINUTES

Standing Committee on Transportation Meeting

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

Date: May 12, 2025

Time: 11:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Violet Horvath, Chairperson; Teri Spinola-Campbell, Charlotte Townsend, Board Members; Bryan Mick, Staff

ABSENT: Gerald Ohta, Board Member

PUBLIC PARTICIPANT: Peter Fritz

- 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 March 17, 2025, meeting minutes (M/S/P Townsend/Spinola-Campbell).
- V. Unfinished Business

A. Standing Agenda Items

Public Transit and Paratransit

Bryan Mick summarized a situation where an applicant was denied the City and County of Honolulu's Department of Transportation Services (DTS) disability bus fare. The applicant has a developmental disability which has always qualified for the reduced rate. The individual successfully appealed the denial. DTS gave a presentation on the program to its Committee on Accessible Transportation (CAT), a copy of which was included in the Committee packet. Committee member Charlotte Townsend attended the CAT meeting and commented DTS was defensive about what had happened. Chairperson Violet Horvath commented that the disability fare application form requires a lot of information from both the applicant and their doctor and perhaps could be more user friendly. Committee member Charlotte Townsend added that while DTS reported how many applications had been approved each of the past three (3) years, they do not track how many applications were denied.

Bryan Mick reported that DTS informed CAT they will be proposing transit fare increases but it was not specified if that would include the low income fare for paratransit and/or fixed route. Chairperson Violet Horvath asked if this was proposed due to possible federal funding cuts. Bryan Mick replied DTS' long range plan is to slowly raise rates and adjust the ratios between user categories. This is due to a variety of factors, including a reduction in ridership.

Bryan Mick reported that DTS did not include funding for a pilot taxi voucher program in this fiscal year. Committee member Charlotte Townsend commented that one of the challenges is even if Mayor Blangiardi conducts a pilot project next fiscal year, there is no guarantee the project will be continued after his term ends. Ideally the program would be codified in ordinance before then.

Bryan Mick reported that the Committee previously advocated DTS to implement mobile payment options for public transit similar to the County of Kauai. The Committee packet included a DTS vendors presentation detailing how this will soon be implemented. He added that many businesses on Oahu recently converted their off street parking lots to require mobile payment of parking fees. This is a challenge if someone does not have a smartphone or credit card.

Bryan Mick shared DTS' performance reports for both fixed route and paratransit covering the month of February 2025. While paratransit ridership has slowly bounced back to about eleven percent (11%) less than pre-COVID levels, fixed route is at thirty two percent (32%) reduction. Committee member Charlotte Townsend commented this is likely due to several factors and is having an impact as DTS has eliminated or reduced certain bus routes. Bryan Mick pointed out the performance reports also indicate ninety eight percent (98%) of the calls to the HandiVan reservation center are answered within five (5) minutes, which is an excellent rate. Committee member Teri Spinola-Campbell asked if the County of Hawaii produces similar reports. Bryan Mick replied he will inquire with the County and report back.

Streets and Highways

Bryan Mick said Kirby Shaw is still reviewing a draft email to entities located in the Kamamalu Building asking what their concerns are with the recent installation of the bicycle lane on Richards Street. DCAB has observed many dangerous vehicular situations including obstructing the bicycle lane, blocking driveways, crosswalks, or fire hydrants, driving down the bicycle lane, and reversing through an intersection. He added it seems like whoever designed the bicycle lane did not take time to observe the existing traffic patterns on Richards Street or talk to any of the offices. This was exacerbated by minimal public education and no observable enforcement. A video was shared showing vehicles blocking the start of the bicycle lane and a City and County of Honolulu (City) vehicle fully parked in the bicycle lane. The removal of the two (2) remaining metered spaces in front of the Kamamalu Building and making the entire curb a loading zone would alleviate some of the problems. Most of the metered spaces on Richards Street are occupied

by government employees who have free meter parking passes, so the fiscal impact to the City would be small. Committee member Charlotte Townsend commented that the DTS staff responsible for bicycle lanes were very engaged with the public when the bicycle lanes were first proposed, but engagement seems sparse these days. The Committee urged staff to continue asking DTS to reevaluate the configuration of Richards Street.

Pedestrian Mobility and Built Environment

Bryan Mick reported that the Committee packet included the County of Maui's Hele Mai 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan and recent amendments. Committee member Charlotte Townsend said the Plan seems to have been developed in large part to former President Biden's Infrastructure Act, which is now under attack. Bryan Mick replied that the Plan's chapter on financing indicates a heavy reliance on the future of federal funds which is unlikely during the current presidential administration. That might force a shuffling of the priority list and/or an exploration of alternative local funding mechanisms.

Air Transportation and Airports

Bryan Mick mentioned that the Board had established a Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) to visit the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport's Animal Inspection Station. He is working with the station to come up with possible dates for the PIG to do a site visit.

Bryan Mick reported there is no update on the expired ninety (90) day pause of the Department of Justice's enforcement of the recently adopted rule entitled "Ensuring Safe Accommodations for Air Travelers with Disabilities using Wheelchairs." So, the rule is in full effect.

Bryan Mick shared a notice regarding the U.S. Department of Transportation Request for Renewal of a Previously Approved Collection regarding Airline Service Quality Performance. He added while it is good that this information is still being collected, this notice revises the estimated burden time for the airlines to compile the information, and now estimates twenty two (22) hours per month for the mishandling of most luggage but seventy two (72) hours for compiling information on mishandled wheelchairs. No justification is provided for why wheelchair information would take three (3) times longer.

Bryan Mick reported that the agenda had a link to an article about a visitor who was departing from Kona Airport and informed by the airlines that his wheelchair would not be loaded onto the plane due to limited cargo space. The article pointed out that narrow body aircraft serve the smaller airports in Hawaii, so this situation is a continuing risk. This is a great example of why the Department of Transportation should form an airport advisory committee of travelers with disabilities. He added that the State Department of Transportation (DOT) had a very short lived committee a few years ago that ended when the staff member running it transferred to a different department. The Committee asked staff to send a letter to the DOT Director asking to reconvene the committee.

Testimony: Peter Fritz said that a resolution or bill could also be introduced next session creating some sort of passenger rights, but in certain areas federal law would prevail over any state laws.

Update from Standing Committee on Parking

Senate Bill 1008 HD1 CD1 Relating to Parking has been enrolled to the Governor. It authorizes the counties to adopt ordinances to enforce the accessible parking space requirements for parking spaces reserved for persons with disabilities and electric vehicles.

Senate Bill 1009 SD2 HD2 CD1 Relating to Parking has also been enrolled. It establishes a state reserved parking space enforcement fine for parking in parking spaces reserved for persons with disabilities or electric vehicles. And it increases the fines for any person who parks a non-electric vehicle in a space designated and marked as reserved for electric vehicles. It requires the state reserved parking space enforcement fine to be deposited into the Safe Routes to School Program Special Fund.

VI. New Business

Proposed Transportation Plan of Action FY 2025-2026

Bryan Mick presented a proposed amendment to the Plan of Action. There is an existing State rebate program to help certain residents purchase electric bicycles as their primary form of transportation. This could serve as a model to provide financial assistance to people purchasing electric mobility scooters.

Testimony: Peter Fritz commented that instead of a rebate program, perhaps a tax credit would be better.

Chairperson Violet Horvath asked that the Plan of Action be on the next agenda and the Committee will take it up at the start of the meeting to allow a full discussion.

VII. The next meeting will be Monday, July 7, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.

VIII. The meeting adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

NOTE: All votes were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
BRYAN K. MICK