



# DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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## MINUTES

### **Disability and Communication Access Board Annual Planning Meeting**

Location: Virtual and 1010 Richards Street, Room 118  
Date: August 26, 2025  
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Violet Horvath, Chairperson; Anthony Akamine, Ron Awa, Scott Fleming, Dayne Greene, Gerald Isobe, Michael Nojima, Teri Spinola-Campbell, Charlotte Townsend, Board Members; Kristine Pagano, Rodney Kanno, Bryan Mick, Susan Rocco, Mylynne Simon, Justin Tokioka, Staff

ABSENT: Rosanna Daniel-Kanetake, Gerald Ohta, LisaAnn Tom, Board Members

#### PUBLIC

PARTICIPANTS: Philip Ana, Peter Fritz, Curt Kiri, Donald Sakamoto, Annette Tashiro, Ryan Tamashiro

#### SIGN LANGUAGE

INTERPRETERS: Keri Lee and Regina Sapko

#### REAL TIME

CAPTIONERS: April Chandler and Kelly DeCamp

- I. Chairperson Violet Horvath called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. She provided an overview of public testimony or comments, and remote meeting procedures.
- II. Roll was called, and Board members, staff, sign language interpreters and real time captioners introduced themselves.
- III. Statement from Public and Written Testimonies Submitted

Chairperson Violet Horvath reported that the Board did not receive any written testimonies for this meeting.

Testimony: Peter Fritz said that in previous years, current projects were discussed and that hasn't been done. He said it would be hard for Board members to know their responsibilities if they don't know what DCAB is doing.

- IV. Disability and Communication Access Board End of the Year Report Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025
  - Staff accomplishments relating to the Plan of Action's Goals and Objectives FY 2024-2025
    - Overview and Introduction

- Philosophy
- Civil Rights and Justice
- Facility Access
- Communication Access
- Education and Training
- Community Living
- Emergency Preparedness
- Transportation and Travel
- Parking
- Employment
- Other Program Issues
- Administration

Kristine Pagano provided information on staff's accomplishments and recommendations for the Civil Rights and Justice section of the End of the Year Report for fiscal year 2024-2025.

Board member Charlotte Townsend said it would be helpful if members had an Annual Report that actually stated staff's accomplishments. Kristine Pagano stated that the Board reviews the End of the Year Report with the accomplishments, and staff then prepares the Annual Report.

Chairperson Violet Horvath spoke on the difficulty in achieving quorum at meetings.

Testimony: Curt Kiriu asked if Board meetings were not held, is the work still being accomplished. He also suggested moving the meetings to later in the day.

Chairperson Violet Horvath said Committees still continue to meet and staff continue to do their work.

Testimony: Peter Fritz suggested the more important items be placed at the top of the meeting agenda, and know what the priorities are. Also, provide a summary on what the Board should know and discuss.

Board member Dayne Greene thanked staff for compiling the End of the Year Report.

Chairperson Violet Horvath asked Board members how they would like to proceed with the rest of the agenda, as there are three (3) major items: review the accomplishments, changes to the proposed Plan of Action, and the nomination and vote on the slate of officers.

Chairperson Violet Horvath suggested to do 1) the nomination of the slate of officers; 2) the review the changes to the proposed Plan of Action; and 3) if time permits, review the staff accomplishments.

Chairperson Violet Horvath called for an Executive Committee meeting to discuss how meetings are conducted.

Agenda item VI. Nomination and Vote of Slate of Officers for FY 2025-2026 – Chairperson and Vice Chairperson was taken out of order.

VI. Nomination and Vote of Slate of Officers for FY 2025-2026 – Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

Board member Teri Spinola-Campbell representing the Nominating Committee presented its slate of officers for fiscal year 2025-2026: Chairperson, Charlotte Townsend, and Vice Chairperson, Dayne Greene. She provided information on Charlotte Townsend's and Dayne Greene's background. There were no nominations from the floor. The Board unanimously approved the slate of officers.

V. Disability and Communication Access Board Proposed Plan of Action for FY 2025-2026

- Review of Standing Committees and staff recommendations for the proposed Plan of Action FY 2025-2026

Chairperson Violet Horvath reviewed the Standing Committees and staff recommendations to add, delete, or reword the Goals and Objectives for next fiscal year.

Chairperson Violet Horvath said under "Philosophy", item 3, it only lists State agencies as examples. Since DCAB is coordinating with other agencies, she proposed to add to the principle "and other organizations".

Chairperson Violet Horvath commented that the "Overview and Introduction" section does not reflect the work of Travel and Transportation Committee. This information should be included in the Overview.

Chairperson Violet Horvath said there is a proposed change under the Civil Rights and Justice section. A new objective was proposed under Goal 1.2: "Monitor federal proposed rules and public notices to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to programs, services, and activities, and the rules, policies or procedures ensures equal access for persons with disabilities. (**Priority 2**).” After discussion, this objective will be deleted as it is already within staff's responsibilities.

There were no changes to the Facility Access section, however, Board member Charlotte Townsend asked if the Standing Committee on Facility Access has any plans to focus on training or educational outreach for medical diagnostic equipment standards. Rodney Kanno said currently there are no plans, however will review.

Kristine Pagano said there are a few changes under the Communication Access section. There were two objectives reworded; two objectives deleted; and two new objectives added.

Testimony: Curt Kiriou said why doesn't DCAB suggest teaching American Sign Language (ASL) in elementary schools.

Chairperson Violet Horvath said the idea can be reviewed with the Standing Committee on Communication Access. Susan Rocco said that the Board of

Education sets the policy for the Department of Education, and acknowledges ASL as a Seal of Biliteracy. The Seal of Biliteracy credits students who speak more than one language, including ASL.

Staff proposed a new objective under the Communication Access section, which states: “Provide training to first responders to increase awareness on how to communicate and handle Deaf, Hard of Hearing, DeafBlind, and persons with communication disabilities in the event of emergency situations. **(Priority 2)**”. In the aftermath of the tsunami warning, and no sign language interpreters present at the beginning of the press conferences, the Board increased the priority from 2 to 1.

Testimony: Curt Kiriu asked if there are any sign language interpreters on staff.

Kristine Pagano replied there is no state position that is an ASL interpreter.

Staff proposed a new objective under the Emergency Preparedness section, which states: “Seek legislation for a Disability Integration Specialist with the focus on individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs during a natural or manmade disaster or emergency. **(Priority 1)**.” In light of the tsunami warning, if there is a position located in the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HIEMA) which focuses on people with disabilities, this position could coordinate agency efforts.

Testimony: Donald Sakamoto said he asked the City Emergency Management Director, why can't artificial intelligence be used, not only for evacuation maps but other maps as well.

The Board discussed a new objective under Goal 6.2: “Participate in interagency efforts to review and update the 2009 Interagency Action Plan on Emergency Preparedness for Persons with Disabilities. **(Priority 2)**.” The discussion centered around the huge task of updating the Interagency Plan. A rewording of the new objective will read: “Coordinate interagency efforts to review and update the 2009 Interagency Action Plan on Emergency Preparedness for Persons with Disabilities. **(Priority 2)**”

Testimony: Donald Sakamoto said accessibility at the Honolulu airport is not easy. He also provided examples of the distance of station locations and inaccessibility of the Skyline rail station at the airport.

Chairperson Violet Horvath and Board member Charlotte Townsend spoke on the rail station restroom and how some of the restrooms have been redecorated to reflect staff and are used by other individuals besides persons with disabilities.

The Board discussed a new objective under the Parking section which would increase the meter fee exemption from 2.5 hours or the maximum time the meter allows to 4.5 hours.

Testimony: Curt Kiriu asked if anyone heard of a smart parking system. There's a system in Italy, and it is monitored by artificial intelligence. The license plate is registered to a person; if a car parks in a stall for a minute, it automatically generates a ticket.

Peter Fritz stated he thought if a system was to be implemented, it would need to have legislation. If staff will be looking into this, you need to work with the Attorney General and find out steps need to be taken.

Peter Fritz suggested if you're trying to introduce legislation to provide tax credit for any business that provides additional parking spaces above what's required by the ADA standards.

The Board discussed DCAB's website accessibility.

Testimony: Peter Fritz suggested an individual who would be a DCAB resource to review the website for accessibility.

The Board discussed the proposed changes to the Administration section of Plan of Action. Chairperson Violet Horvath asked about the reduction of two objectives. Staff responded due to the new workload responsibilities the tradeoff is reduce the priorities of two objectives.

## VI. Approval of Proposed Plan of Action FY 2025-2026

The Board approved the Plan of Action for fiscal year 2025-2026 with the suggested changes. (M/S/P Townsend/Akamine).

### Section 3 Communication Access

3.1.2 Reword to read as follows: Operate and maintain the Continuing Education Program for State credentialed interpreters, including the secured website tracking system and make improvements if necessary, and provide at least 0.5 hours of continuing education workshops geared towards Level III sign language interpreters. **(Priority 1)**

3.2.3 Delete objective. Objective to be reinserted in the Plan of Action for fiscal year 2026-2027. Communication Access State Conference for fiscal year 2027 is scheduled for September 2026 **(Priority 1)**.

Add new objective under Goal 3.2:

Collaborative effort or organize a celebration for a Deaf Awareness event. **(Priority 1)**

Add new objective under Goal 3.3:

Provide training to first responders to increase awareness on how to communicate and handle Deaf, Hard of Hearing, DeafBlind, and persons with communication disabilities in the event of emergency situations. **(Priority 2)**

3.4.3 Delete objective.

3.4.4 Reword to read: “Follow up on the report on the status of American Sign Language Services in Hawaii, pursuant to Act 204-24, by proposing funding to support efforts to increase the number of ASL interpreters in the State. **(Priority 1)**

Section 4 Education and Training

4.1.4 Increase target number from five (5) to ten (10) educational materials/year.

Section 6 Emergency Preparedness

Add new objective under Goal 6.1

Seek legislation for a Disability Integration Specialist with the focus on individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs during a natural or manmade disaster or emergency. **(Priority 1)**

Add new objectives under Goal 6.2

Coordinate interagency efforts to review and update the 2009 Interagency Action Plan on Emergency Preparedness for Persons with Disabilities. **(Priority 2)**

Review and update emergency preparedness materials posted on the DCAB website. **(Priority 2)**

Section 7 Transportation and Travel

7.2.4 Add new language to objective read as follows: “Provide testimony in support of the State authorizing the creation of an Airport Authority, including the creation of a formal disability committee to advise on programs, services, and policies at Hawaii State Airports.” **(Priority 3)**

Add new objective under Goal 7.2:

Advocate the State Department of Transportation to create a disability committee to advise on programs, services, and policies at Hawaii State Airports **(Priority 1)**.

Add new Goal 7.4:

Financial assistance shall be made available to offset costs related to transportation services or devices.

Add new objective under Goal 7.4:

The State shall establish a rebate program for the purchase of electric mobility devices as defined in 28 CFR §35.104 and 28 CFR § 36.104 comparable to other programs, such as the one provided for electric bicycles and mopeds. **(Priority 2)**

Section 8 Parking

8.3.8 Delete objective

Add new objective under 8.3

Support legislation to amend the meter fee exemption from “2.5 hours or the maximum time the meter allows” to “4.5 hours.” **(Priority 3)**

Add new objective under 8.4:

Work with the Counties to mail warning letters to registered vehicle owners when reliable evidence is presented that the vehicle was parked in violation of §291 Part III or Chapter 219, Hawaii Administrative Rules. **(Priority 2)**

Add new objective to 8.5:

Review and revise DCAB document entitled “How to Design an Accessible Parking Space.” **(Priority 2)**

#### Section 10 Other Program Issues

10.1.1 Reword to read as follows: “Update the Disability and Communication Access Board’s website with relevant documents as reflected elsewhere in the Plan of Action. Expand web pages to include other topics so that references and resources are easier to access. **(Priority 1)**”

Add new objectives to Goal 10.1:

Update the Disability and Communication Access Board’s website to ensure that web content is accessible to persons with disabilities, in compliance with the ADA Title II regulations on web and mobile application by the compliance date, April 24, 2026. **(Priority 1)**

Provide disability related updates and information through social media platforms. **(Priority 1)**

#### Section 11 Administration

11.1.4 Reduce Priority to 3.

11.1.6 Reduce Priority to 2.

Add new objectives to Goal 11.1:

Update organization chart to include new DCAB Program Specialist position (budgeted for January 1, 2026). **(Priority 1)**

Modify an existing work area to create a new workstation for the DCAB Program Specialist position. **(Priority 1)**

Develop an orientation guide for new DCAB Program Specialist position. **(Priority 1)**

Testimony: Curt Kiriu inquired what are the duties and responsibilities of an ADA Coordinator. Board member Charlotte Townsend said there are two different answers to that question. The historical answer is the ADA Coordinator is to coordinate the compliance effort on behalf of the State. Each State department has an ADA Coordinator. The DCAB ADA Coordinator coordinates meetings, distributes informational materials, handles training for all the State departments.

The ADA Coordinator is an educator and trainer, and has no enforcement authority.

ADA Coordinators are usually staff that are assigned to other duties not just ADA compliance. The ADA Coordinator works

within their departments to rectify the problem, and effectuate change.

Testimony: Peter Fritz said he has filed lawsuits, and during the period the position was vacant, a lot of things fell by the wayside. DCAB has no enforcement authority; the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission has enforcement authority against any discrimination by a state agency.

VII. The next Board meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2025. The meeting was adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

NOTE: All votes were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

CINDY Y. OMURA