



# DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Rm. 118 • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813  
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## MINUTES

### **Disability and Communication Access Board General Board Meeting**

Location: Virtual and 1010 Richards Street, Room 118  
Date: June 5, 2025  
Time: 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Violet Horvath, Chairperson; Ron Awa, Scott Fleming, Dayne Greene, Gerald Isobe, Nikki Kepo'o, Marie Kimmey, Summer Kozai, Michael Nojima, Gerald Ohta, Teri Spinola-Campbell, Charlotte Townsend, Board Members; Kirby Shaw, Elizabeth Delovio, Bryan Mick, Rodney Kanno, Susan Rocco, Scott Castor, Staff

ABSENT: Anthony Akamine, Rosanna Daniel-Kanetake, LisaAnn Tom, Board Members

#### PUBLIC

PARTICIPANTS: Peter Fritz, Donald Sakamoto, Annette Tashiro

#### SIGN LANGUAGE

INTERPRETERS: Darlene Baird and Regina Sapko

#### REAL TIME

CAPTIONERS: April Chandler and Kelly DeCamp

I. Chairperson Violet Horvath called the meeting to order at 11:09 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 testimony for this meeting.

IV. Approval of General Board Meeting Minutes of April 3, 2025.

The minutes of the April 3, 2025 General meeting were approved as circulated (M/S/P Greene/Kimmey).

V. Executive Director's Report

A. Update on Act 172, SLH 2022 - Hawaii Electronic Information Technology Accessibility Act, "Hawaii Electronic Information Technology Disability Access Standards".

Kirby Shaw reported that DCAB continues to meet regularly with the Office of Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) regarding the published "Hawaii

Electronic Information Technology Disability Access Standards.” The State Procurement Office posted a circular on its website that requires accessibility compliance for procurement of electronic hardware, software, and telecommunication devices, which vendors need to meet the standards.

Testimony: Peter Fritz stated that the ETS website references Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 instead of 2.1. The Standards are not rules, and there is no enforceability.

Board member Charlotte Townsend requested a staff analysis and summary for members on the outcomes and efforts and any recommendations to ensure compliance.

B. Personnel

1. Vacant DCAB Program Specialist and DCAB Support Technician I positions.

Kirby Shaw reported that DCAB has been actively recruiting, and the position announcements have been posted on employment websites. Kirby Shaw provided information on the difference between the DCAB Program Specialist and the Support Technician I positions. Staff will be conducting interviews shortly for the DCAB Program Specialist position.

Testimony: Peter Fritz and Board member Charlotte Townsend requested information and clarification on the duties of the Support Technician I. Kirby Shaw explained the differences.

2. Update on the request for a new Program Specialist position within DCAB to provide technical assistance to State and County entities on making web content and mobile apps accessible to persons with disabilities pursuant to the recently amended United States Department of Justice Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title II regulations.

Kirby Shaw reported that the position has been included in the budget. DCAB will not be able to hire until January 2026. There is a short timeframe with the compliance date of April 2026. One of the position's tasks would be to strengthen ties between ETS and DCAB especially on accessibility standards, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) rules, and making sure the State is in compliance with both standards.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee

Chairperson Violet Horvath reported that the Committee did not have a Committee meeting. There is no report.

B. Legislative Committee

Chairperson Violet Horvath reported the Committee met on May 30, 2025 and gave a summary of the one hundred twenty eight (128) bills and resolutions reviewed and monitored, seventy seven (77) written testimonies submitted, and hearings attended. Staff attended fifty five (55) hearings on twenty two (22) bills. Staff testified on or monitored eleven (11) bills that were enrolled to the Governor.

Testimony: Peter Fritz said SB1651 was enrolled to the Governor, and the Deaf Blind Task Force bills should be shared with Board members.

1. The Committee met on May 30, 2025.
2. Number of measures on which the Legislative Committee took a position.
  - a. DCAB reviewed 128 bills and resolutions.
  - b. DCAB submitted 77 written testimonies.
  - c. Staff testified in person at 55 hearings on 22 different bills.

Elizabeth Delovio informed Board members that the number of bills staff testified on was actually forty eight (48) bills.

- d. DCAB testified on or monitored 11 bills that were enrolled to the Governor.

Three (3) bills were signed by the Governor.

3. Update on legislation that impacts DCAB.

[Senate Bill 1008 HD1 CD1](#) - Related to Parking. Authorizes the counties to adopt ordinances to enforce the accessible parking space requirements for parking spaces reserved for persons with disabilities and electric vehicles. Repeals the requirement for any public or private entity that provides parking spaces reserved for persons with to comply with laws relating to parking for disabled persons. Effective upon approval.

Elizabeth Delovio informed Board members that Senate Bill 1008 HD1 CD1 was signed by the Governor, as Act 111.

[Senate Bill 1009 SD2 HD2 CD1](#) - Related 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 of all fines 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. Effective upon approval.

Elizabeth Delovio informed Board members that Senate Bill 1009 SD2 HD2 CD1 was signed by the Governor, as Act 112.

[SCR58](#) – Urging The Counties of the State to Install a Minimum Set of Accessible Recreational Playground Equipment in Each Playground Located in a County Park and to Establish Comprehensive Maintenance Plans that Ensure the Long-Term Safety, Cleanliness, and Functionality of Each Playground.

Elizabeth Delovio stated that the resolution came about from an earlier bill requiring certain parks to have wheelchair accessible swings, and includes a suggestion for a working group. Staff have been in contact with the entities

named to the working group. Once the group is established, staff can contribute input on a report to the Legislature.

Testimony: Peter Fritz said DCAB should introduce a resolution for the Legislative Reference Bureau to review the Hawaii Revised Statutes regarding disability terms such as “visually or hearing impaired.” Chairperson Violet Horvath noted that the Legislative Committee should follow up on this suggestion.

C. Standing Committee on Communication Access

Committee Chairperson Gerald Isobe reported the Committee met on May 22, 2025.

1. The Committee held a meeting on May 22, 2025.
2. 2025 Communication Access State Conference

Committee Chairperson Gerald Isobe announced the 2025 Communication Access Conference, “Bridging the Gap: Communication Access for All” to be held on Thursday, June 26, 2025 at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The conference is free, but registration is required; maximum registrants is one hundred fifty (150) attendees. For additional information, contact Justin “Pono” Tokioka, Communication Access Specialist at (808) 458-5902 or email at [dcab@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:dcab@doh.hawaii.gov).

3. Final Evaluation Results Received for One Applicant for the Hawaii Quality Assurance System (HQAS) Test

Committee Chairperson Gerald Isobe reported that one applicant passed the HQAS test with a Tier IV credential.

4. Report on Two New Applicants for the Hawaii Quality Assurance System (HQAS) Test

Committee Chairperson Gerald Isobe reported two (2) applicants took the HQAS test on March 10, 2025 and April 24, 2025. Staff is waiting for the evaluations and the test results will be announced by August 2025.

Agenda item VI. Committee Reports, D. Standing Committee on Facility Access, was taken out of order due to technical difficulties.

D. Standing Committee on Facility Access

Committee Chairperson Marie Kimmey reported the Committee met on April 22, 2025.

1. The Committee held a meeting on April 22, 2025.
2. Revised Interpretive Opinion DCAB 2025-01 Signage Installation Height and Location reviewed and approved.

Committee Chairperson Marie Kimmey reported the revised Interpretive Opinion, DCAB 2025-01 Signage Installation Height and Location was

reviewed and approved. The purpose of the Interpretive Opinion was to clarify that Braille is a tactile character and the minimum mounting height above the finish floor is to be taken to the baseline of the lowest tactile character, which would be the Braille. The Braille must be set at that minimum height.

3. Facility Access Section of Plan of Action for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2026 reviewed and approved with no changes.

Committee Chairperson Marie Kimmey reported the Committee reviewed and approved the proposed Facility Access section of the Plan of Action for fiscal year 2025-2026.

E. Standing Committee on Parking

Committee Chairperson Summer Kozai reported the Committee met on May 12, 2025.

1. The Committee held a meeting on May 12, 2025.
2. Disability Parking Placard Issuance Statistics for Quarter 3 Year 2024-2025 – Update.

Committee Chairperson Summer Kozai reported that for the third quarter of this fiscal year, approximately seven thousand seven hundred (7,700) placards were issued and three hundred fifty eight (358) special license plates were reauthorized or issued. Of these placards, about two thousand one hundred (2,100) were temporary, five thousand six hundred (5,600) were long term, and eleven (11) were Disabled Paid Parking Exemption Permits (DPPEP). Of the long term placards, about three thousand five hundred (3,500) were renewals issued by DCAB. The renewal rate was sixty four percent (64%).

3. Statistics on the number of emails sent to permittees regarding a pending disability parking permit expiration.

Committee Chairperson Summer Kozai reported about three thousand three hundred (3,300) reminder emails were sent to permittees regarding a pending permit expiration.

4. Update on procurement of parking placards and decals.

Committee Chairperson Summer Kozai informed Board members that twenty three thousand (23,000) temporary and long term placards were procured.

5. Update on crosscheck with Vital Records and return of placards issued to deceased persons.

Committee Chairperson Summer Kozai reported a crosscheck with Department of Health Vital Records flagged three thousand seven hundred (3,700) records. Retrieval letters were sent to estates of deceased permittees. To date, thirty three percent (33%) of the placards were returned, two percent (2%) was reported as lost, and seven percent (7%) of the letters were returned as undeliverable.

6. Report on the number of submissions via the webpage to report the misuse of disability parking permits and the webpage to report reserved parking spaces for persons with disabilities that do not comply with the ADA or State design requirements.

Committee Chairperson Summer Kozai reported eight (8) submissions were received via the webpage to report parking placard misuse, and five (5) submissions were received via the webpage to report a non-design compliant space.

Testimony: Peter Fritz asked if there are any trends that can be taken instead of statistics being reported. Chairperson Violet Horvath stated more detailed statistics and trends were discussed in Committee, and are being worked on.

Resumed agenda with Gerald Isobe, Chairperson reporting on Standing Committee on Communication Access. Agenda item VI. Committee Reports, C. Standing Committee on Communication Access, number 5 was reported after the Standing Committee on Parking Committee report.

5. Report on Hawaii Deaf-Blind Expo held on May 3, 2025

Committee Chairperson Gerald Isobe reported staff participated as an exhibitor at the Hawaii DeafBlind Expo. The event was a positive experience for staff. Staff networked and educated the community on DCAB's programs and services. DCAB donated a quilt for the Expo giveaway.

F. Standing Committee on Transportation

Chairperson Violet Horvath reported the Committee met on May 12, 2025.

1. The Committee held a meeting on May 12, 2025.
2. Review of City and County of Honolulu Performance Metrics for Public Transit and Paratransit (February 2025) and proposal for a mobile payment option.

The Committee reviewed handouts from the City and County of Honolulu regarding performance metrics for TheBus and TheHandi-Van, and on a future option for mobile fare payment.

3. Review of [Hele Mai Maui 2045](#) - Maui County Draft Updates to Long Range Transportation Plan.

The Committee reviewed amendments to the County of Maui's Long Range Transportation Plan.

4. Review and discussion of recent changes to Richards Street parking spaces, loading zone, and bike lane configuration.

The Committee discussed concerns regarding the newly installed bike lane and the lack of a loading zone fronting the Kamamalu Building on Richards Street.

Bryan Mick added DCAB had requested a loading zone since moving into the Kamamalu Building. He stated that Richards Street is congested with the Kamamalu Building, YWCA, and Alii Place. With the implementation of the bike lane, the reconfiguration of Richards Street was not taken into consideration, making existing problems worse. The City's lack of communication with building tenants prior to installation of the bike lane was not considered. The HandiVans are parking in the bike lane because there is no spaces large enough to accommodate the vans in front of the Kamamalu Building. Board member Charlotte Townsend asked if DCAB had discussions with the City and County of Honolulu regarding the bike lanes. Bryan Mick responded the Coordinator of the City's Complete Streets has been copied on correspondence addressing DCAB's concerns. Board member Charlotte Townsend said DCAB should pursue a long term solution; maybe bringing attention to bicyclists safety on Richards Street.

G. Special Parent Information Network (SPIN)

1. Results of the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual SPIN Conference held on Saturday, May 10, 2025 at Koolau Ballrooms and Conference Center.

Susan Rocco reported that the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual SPIN Conference held on May 10, 2025 was a big success with a total of five hundred one (501) in person and seventeen (17) virtual attendees which included parents and family members of youth with disabilities, and professionals. The conference also included a resource fair with seventy one (71) agencies sharing valuable information and resources. Parents or family members of transition aged students were the largest population that attended followed by parent/families with elementary aged children. Twelve (12) families with children in early intervention or preschool attended the conference.

She reported that children and youth on the autism spectrum were the largest disability group, followed by children with autism and Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder. SPIN reported that families of children with more complex and developmental needs are most motivated to find support services and knowledge to meet their child's unique academic, behavioral, and social emotional needs.

2. Children's Mental Health Awareness Activity on May 30, 2025 – SPIN participation in an Informational Fair at Pearlridge Center to educate families and the public on children with emotional disabilities.

Susan Rocco reported that for SPIN has participated with the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division and other community agencies in planning Children's Mental Health Awareness activities for the month of May. A Mental Health Resource Fair was held at Pearlridge Center where SPIN joined twenty five (25) public and private entities to distribute information.

VII. Old Business

A. ADA Coordination

1. Review statistics of ADA technical assistance program. Update.

Elizabeth Delovio reported there were twenty eight (28) requests for technical assistance; 24 were resolved and 4 are still in progress. The majority of the requests have been for web contact, accessibility, and service levels.

2. State and County ADA Coordinators meetings.

Elizabeth Delovio reported the next State and County ADA Coordinators meetings are scheduled for August 2025.

3. Making State and Counties web content and mobile apps accessible for persons with disabilities training sessions for ADA Coordinators. Update.

Elizabeth Delovio reported she is gathering resources on this subject for the new position.

4. Report on ADA training in Madison, Wisconsin.

Elizabeth Delovio reported on 2024 ADA Coordinators training that she attended in Madison, Wisconsin. She attended workshop sessions on self-evaluation and transition plans, effective communication, and emergency preparedness. She completed all the courses to receive an ADA Coordinator certificate.

Agenda items under New Business VIII A. and B. were taken out of order.

VIII. New Business

A. Mahalo to outgoing Board Members Marie Kimmey, Nikki Kepoo, and Summer Kozai, and solicitation for potential board members.

Chairperson Violet Horvath thanked outgoing Board members Marie Kimmey, Nikki Kepo'o, and Summer Kozai for their eight (8) years of service. She thanked all three (3) for their leadership to the Board and on various committees on which they served.

Kirby Shaw also thanked Board members Marie Kimmey, Nikki Kepo'o, and Summer Kozai for participating on the Board and valuable input.

Board member Charlotte Townsend thanked Marie Kimmey, Nikki Kepo'o, and Summer Kozai for their commitment and contribution to the Board.

B. Appointment of Nominating Committee Members.

Chairperson Violet Horvath asked for three (3) Board members to form a Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) to nominate next year's slate of officers. The slate of officers will be presented at the General meeting on July 17, 2025. Board members Gerald Ohta, Teri Spinola-Campbell, and Charlotte Townsend volunteered to serve on the Nominating Committee.

Agenda continued with VII. Old Business, item B. through end of the meeting.

VII. Old Business

B. Emergency Preparedness Efforts. Update.



Elizabeth Delovio reported meeting with the Maui Disability Alliance to address various disability issues across Maui County. She has also been collaborating with other agencies regarding the G-197 training, which is a federal level training developed for inclusion and emergency preparedness. Attendance to these meetings strengthen our State's efforts to be prepared and support people with disabilities before, during and after a disaster. Board member Gerald Ohta asked if staff contacted the Bioterrorism Preparedness Unit with DOH. Staff will contact the DOH Bioterrorism Preparedness Unit.

C. DCAB Organizational Chart

Kirby Shaw reported on how DCAB is organized and Board and staff responsibilities.

Testimony: Peter Fritz suggested this item be placed on the next meeting agenda; and if Board members have further questions, it can addressed at that time.

Chairperson Violet Horvath said it may be helpful if under each position, what are the functions of the position and what projects the position is working on.

VIII. New Business

C. Proposal to review the DCAB Programs and Services Reference Manual.

Kirby Shaw stated it's been a few years since the Program and Services Manual was revised. Chairperson Violet Horvath asked to review the Programs and Services Reference Manual.

Testimony: Peter Fritz said there is a need to revisit the Programs and Services Manual to see how things may have changed that would impact the State.

The Board voted to review changes/additions to the Programs and Services Manual (M/S/P Ohta/Townsend).

D. Proposal to review the relationship between the Department of Health/DCAB/SPIN and the Department of Education/Special Education Advisory Council.

The Board voted to review the relationship between the Department of Health/DCAB/SPIN and the Department of Education/Special Education Advisory Council at the next meeting (M/S/P Horvath/Ohta).

IX. Open Forum: Public comment on issues not on the agenda for consideration for the Board's agenda at the next meeting.

Peter Fritz stated it would be helpful on how DCAB works and communicates with the public, and how ideas are moved forward.

X. Chairperson Violet Horvath reminded Board members of the July 17, 2025, Annual Planning Meeting beginning at 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., and General Meeting to follow at 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

XI. The meeting was adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

NOTE: All votes were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

CINDY Y. OMURA