



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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DRAFT MINUTES

Standing Committee on Transportation Meeting

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

Date: January 23, 2026

Time: 1:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Violet Horvath, Chairperson; Teri Spinola-Campbell, Judy Paik, Charlotte Townsend, Board Members; Scott Castor, Bryan Mick, Kristine Pagano, Mylynne Simon, Staff

ABSENT: Gerald Ohta, Board Member

PUBLIC

PARTICIPANTS: Lisa Jaso, Howard Lesser, Donald Sakamoto

SIGN LANGUAGE

INTERPRETERS: Michele Morris and Sarah Grasso

- I. Chairperson Violet Horvath called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m.
- II. Committee members and staff introduced themselves.
- III. Chairperson Violet Horvath reported no written public testimony was submitted.
- IV. The Committee approved the November 17, 2025 meeting minutes (M/S/P Spinola-Campbell/Horvath).
- V. Unfinished Business
 - A. Review of County of Hawaii Paratransit Service responses

Staff reported that the County of Hawaii's Mass Transit Agency (MTA) recently procured nine (9) new paratransit vehicles, increasing the size of its fleet to seven to sixteen (7 to 16). Staff also shared data from MTA which breaks down the number of shared taxi rides by the provider. Committee member Teri Spinola-Campbell shared data provided by the County ADA Coordinator detailing the number of types of ADA complaints filed against MTA last fiscal year. Eight (8) complaints were related to fixed route bus service, and one (1) related to the paratransit service.

Testimony: Donald Sakamoto asked if the County of Kauai resumed service for fixed route and paratransit. Staff replied no.

B. City and County of Honolulu Bill 54 (2025) – Relating to Public Transit

Staff reported that the Honolulu City Council amended the bill to continue with the fare waiver for Personal Care Attendants.

VI. Standing Agenda Topics

A. Public Transit and Paratransit

County of Maui Paratransit

Staff summarized a letter sent to DCAB detailing many incidents of delayed service on the County of Maui's paratransit system along with difficulty in reaching anyone by phone to try and resolve their issues. DCAB suggested the person file a complaint with the Maui Economic Opportunity Inc. (MEO) who operates/manages the paratransit service on behalf of the County, as well as the County's ADA Coordinator.

Federal Transit Administration Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
Complementary Paratransit Specialized Review of The City and County of
Honolulu (2025)

Staff highlighted six (6) areas where the review determined the paratransit program was not in compliance with the ADA: (1) The policy to suspend a rider was not consistent between the fixed route and paratransit programs. A few months ago, when the Holo card fare payment system went down, everyone was allowed to ride TheBus for free. But the City tried to collect payment from HandiVan riders after the fact and threatened to suspend a rider who did not pay. (2) The HandiVan rider's guide listed several policies, and stated violations could lead to a rider being suspended. However, several of those exceed what is allowed to be the basis for a suspension under the ADA. (3) A deficiency was found in the required lighting for vans and the City was ordered to make a retrofit. (4) A revised inspection process for new vans was ordered to ensure items like missing lights do not happen. (5) The policy on size, weight or size limitations for wheelchairs needed to be updated to reflect the actual capacity of the wheelchair lifts installed on HandiVan vehicles. (6) The policy of requiring a child under a certain age who wishes to ride HandiVan be accompanied by an adult is not consistent with the policy on TheBus, where no requirement exists.

B. Pedestrian Mobility and Built Environment

DCAB Guiding Principles on the Mobility and Safety of Pedestrians with
Disabilities

Staff highlighted principles number 6 which states “Prioritize the construction or modification of infrastructure to ensure pedestrian safety and accessibility” and number 12 which states “support zoning and development standards that encourage and promote mixed-use development and pedestrian connections such as sidewalks, accessible crosswalks, etc.” Staff will rely on these if any of the proposals submitted to the City and County of Honolulu Charter Commission that seek to make sidewalk construction a specific City function advance.

Review and Discussion of the City and County of Honolulu Charter Proposal to require the City to prioritize the expansion, repair, and improvement of sidewalks

Staff explained that the Committee packet included a Civil Beat article regarding several proposals submitted to the City and County of Honolulu Charter Commission that seek to make sidewalk construction a specific City function. The Commission is currently doing a technical review of all proposals, and once they advance those determined to be appropriate for the Charter, they will start to discuss the merits.

Review and Discussion of the concerns with Honolulu’s rail construction impact on pedestrian walkways along Dillingham Boulevard

Staff reported a recent meeting was held between the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART), DCAB, U.S. Representative Ed Case’s office, Hawaii Disability Rights Center (HDRC), and several individuals with disabilities to discuss concerns with the pedestrian path along Dillingham Boulevard where rail construction is ongoing. Photos submitted to HART and other agencies seem to show areas that do not comply with ADA regulations.

Testimony: Donald Sakamoto stated this issue was originally raised at a HART community workshop, but HART did not seem to want to engage with the complainant. He helped to get her in contact with DCAB and HDRC, and their collective advocacy resulted in the meeting. The parties involved agreed to do a site visit.

Howard Lesser from HDRC thanked everyone who participated in the meeting and added that having staff from Representative Case’s office present was very impactful.

Lisa Jaso commented she is the person that originally raised this issue over one year ago. She has been disappointed in her response from elected officials and HART so far. The condition of the pedestrian walkways is not safe nor accessible. The recent group advocacy has started to give her hope things will get better.

C. Air Transportation/Airports

DCAB's request for the Hawaii Department of Transportation to form an advisory committee for travelers with disabilities

Staff reported that Duane Buote, the State Department of Transportation (DOT) ADA coordinator, had informed staff that the DOT Director has consulted him over this request. He suspects DOT will ask DCAB if they are willing to lead or co-lead the committee. Staff responded the DCAB Executive Director would need to respond to any such request. DCAB is very eager to help get this committee formed and functioning.

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

Donald Sakamoto commented that he does not feel Skyline's airport station is easy to use for persons with disabilities, especially those who are blind or have low vision. He hopes DOT and City and County of Honolulu, Department of Transportation Services collaborate to make improvements in the future.

VIII. The next meeting will be determined and announced later.

IX. The meeting adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

NOTE: All votes were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,

BRYAN K. MICK