



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

Ka 'Oihana Ho'oka'a'ike no ka Po'e Kīnānā

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INTERPRETIVE OPINION

Pursuant to §103-50, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), all public buildings, facilities, and sites constructed by, or on behalf of the State or any county, shall conform to the 2004 Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (2004 ADAAG) and amendments. In accordance to HRS §103-50 and Chapter 11-216, Hawaii Administrative Rules, the Disability and Communication Access Board has authority to issue interpretive opinions to HRS §103-50 design standards.

Docket: DCAB 2026-01 ADAAG 403.3 provides the minimum running slope and cross slopes of walking surfaces. The running slope of walking surfaces shall not be steeper than 1:20 (5%) and the cross slope of walking surfaces shall not be steeper than 1:48 (2%). When two walkways with 2% cross slopes meet at a right angle, is the resulting diagonal slope of 2.8% or -2.8% acceptable?

Summary: The United States Access Board stated that under the PROWAG and ADAAG, cross slopes on walking surfaces/pedestrian access routes (PAR) are limited to 1:48 (2.1%) which should be sufficient to mitigate drainage issues. A diagonal reading (2.8%/-2.8%) on a corner is not an issue that is addressed in the PROWAG or ADAAG. The only cross slopes of concern are those measured perpendicular to the direction of pedestrian travel. The cross slopes of a pedestrian access route not contained within a crosswalk shall not be more than 1:48 (2.1%) maximum.

Ruling: For buildings or facilities subject to HRS §103-50,

ADAAG Section 403.3 Slope of Walking Surfaces

Unless stated otherwise, where a change in direction occurs within an accessible route, the cross slope of the change in direction surface in each direction shall be measured perpendicular to the direction of entry and direction of exit.

[Rul: 01/09/2026] (Auth and Imp: HRS §103-50)

If you have any questions or comments regarding this ruling, please call us at 586-8121.

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