



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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

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

General Board Meeting

March 19, 2026

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

The public is welcome to participate as follows.

Physical Meeting Location

Kamamalu Building
1010 Richards Street, Room 111A and 111B
Honolulu, HI 96813

Participate Virtually via Zoom

Click on the link below or copy and paste it into your web browser:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83860510373> & Enter the Meeting ID: 838 6051 0373

To Join by phone

Dial 1 699 900 6833 and enter the Meeting ID: 838 6051 0373

One tap mobile: +12532158782,,83860510373# US

HOW TO TESTIFY:

Written testimony – There is no deadline for submission of testimony, however, to ensure the public as well as Board members are able to review testimony prior to the meeting, we request written testimony be submitted no later than 9:00 a.m. one business day prior to the scheduled meeting date and time.

- **To Submit by Email:** Email the Disability and Communication Access Board at dcab@doh.hawaii.gov. Please include TESTIMONY in the subject line.
- **To Submit by U.S. Postal Mail or Hand-Delivery:**

Attention: Disability and Communication Access Board – Testimony
Disability and Communication Access Board
1010 Richards Street, Room 118
Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813

- **To Submit via Facsimile:** (808) 586-8129

Oral testimony will be accepted via the remote testimony link or in-person at 1010 Richards Street, Room 111A and 111B, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813.

Testimony or comments presented by members of the public during the Board meetings shall be limited to three (3) minutes per agenda item. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), 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 Board meeting agendas.

Members of the public may present comment or testimony during Board meetings on each agenda item. Public comment or testimony, if any, shall be presented on each agenda item before the Board deliberates on the item. After all public comment or testimony is presented, the Board shall deliberate on the agenda item without further comment or testimony from the public unless further public comment or testimony is requested by the Board.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

Review Remote Meeting Procedures

- This meeting is being recorded.
- A quorum of Board members is required to be visible on screen.
- If quorum is not achieved at the beginning of the meeting, the meeting will be cancelled within fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled start time and updates will be made to any posted notices or calendar accordingly.
- If a Board member leaves the meeting permanently at any time, the Board member shall notify the Chairperson. If this results in a lack of quorum, the meeting will adjourn at that time.
- If a Board member leaves the meeting temporarily, the Board member shall notify the Chairperson. If this results in a lack of quorum, the Chair shall call a recess. If the Board member does not return within ten (10) minutes, the meeting will be adjourned.
- Raise hand to speak unless called upon.
- Identify yourself before speaking however public testifiers may use an alias to maintain anonymity.

II. Roll Call/Introductions

III. Statement from Public and Written Testimonies Submitted

IV. Approval of meeting minutes of November 20, 2025.

V. Executive Director's Report

- Board membership.

Judy Paik and Ed Chevy have been appointed by the Governor to serve on the Board.

There are three (3) vacancies remaining to complete the seventeen (17) board membership. The Board is seeking a Maui County representative who may be a person with a disability, design professional, or parents or guardians of persons with disabilities; a representative who is a design professional; and parents or guardians of persons with disabilities.

Personnel

1. Vacant Facility Access Office Assistant position number 121818

On January 5, 2026, the position was filled.

2. Vacant Planner and ADA Coordinator position number 102158.

The position announcement is posted on the following websites below:

Hawaii Department of Human Resources Development

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/hawaii/transferjobs?page=8>

Hawaii Department of Health

[https://health.hawaii.gov/employment/files/2026/02/DCAB Planner and ADA Co
ordinator 102158.pdf](https://health.hawaii.gov/employment/files/2026/02/DCAB_Planner_and_ADA_Coordinator_102158.pdf)

Disability and Communication Access Board

<https://health.hawaii.gov/dcab/employment/>

3. Report on staff attendance at trainings, conferences, and events.
 1. County of Kauai, Service Animals and the ADA, January 14, 2026.
 2. Responsive Caregivers of Hawaii, General Overview, Disability Etiquette, and Service Animals, January 16, 2026.
 3. Opening Day for the 33rd Legislature, Hawaii State Capitol, January 21, 2026.
 4. John A. Burns School of Medicine, Americans with Disabilities Act Title III, Effective Communication, February 11, 2026.
 5. Department of Health, Governor's Administrative Directive No. 25-03 Accessibility to State Government by Persons with Disabilities, February 24, 2026.
 6. Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Day at the Capitol, March 4, 2026.
 7. Waikele Elementary School, Inclusive Playgrounds/A Safe and Fun Playground for All, March 5, 2026 with a follow up on April 2, 2026.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee

1. The Committee met on January 12, 2026.
2. Status of Executive Director and Interim Executive Director.
3. Discussion and approval of January 12, 2026, Executive Committee minutes.

B. Legislative Committee

1. The Committee met on November 3, 2025, and January 26, 2026.
2. Discussion and approval of November 2, 2025, and January 26, 2026, minutes.
3. The Committee met on February 20, 2026, with continuation on February 23, 2026.

As of March 10, 2026, DCAB has taken a position on sixty three (63) legislative bills, submitted sixty nine (69) written and offered twenty one (21) oral testimonies.

C. Standing Committee on Communication Access

1. The Committee met on October 30, 2025.
2. Discussion and approval of October 30, 2025 minutes.
3. The Committee met on January 8, 2026.
 - a. Report on the Discussion of the Continuing Education Unit (CEU) Workshop Funding Application Form.
 - b. Report on Planning for the 2026 Communication Access Conference.
 - c. Report on the Review and to Establish a Disability and Communication Access Board Guiding Principles on Communication Access.

D. Standing Committee on Facility Access

1. The Committee met on January 9, 2026.
 - a. The Interpretive Opinion "DCAB 2026-01 Slope of Walking Surfaces" was reviewed and approved. The purpose of the interpretive opinion is to clarify that at a change in direction, the cross slope of the surface is measured perpendicular to the direction of entry and exit.
2. Discussion and approval of January 9, 2026 minutes.

E. Standing Committee on Parking

1. The Committee met on November 17, 2025.
 - a. The first quarter of Fiscal Year (FY) 2026, around 8,700 placards were issued. 6,500 were long term placards and 2,800 were issued by DCAB. The renewal rate is 68 percent.
 - b. Staff continue to advocate at the City and County of Honolulu to revert to process parking permit applications at their express windows which do not require an appointment.
 - c. The Committee discussed the need to oppose a bill what may be introduced and would remove the penalty for parking in an access aisle.
2. The Committee met on January 23, 2026.
 - a. The second quarter of FY 2026, around 8,300 placards were issued. 6,100 were long term placards and 2,600 were issued by DCAB. The renewal rate is 65 percent.
 - b. There were 3,400 records of deceased permittees. On January 2, 2026, letters were mailed to retrieve the placards. As of January 15, 2026, 16% were returned, 2% were reported as lost, and 7% of the letters were undeliverable.
 - c. Procurement has begun for months and year decals. DCAB also procured blue identification (ID) paper for the ID cards.

F. Standing Committee on Transportation

1. The Committee met on January 23, 2026.
 - a. Reviewed nine areas of deficiencies that a federal audit flagged with the City and County of Honolulu's paratransit program.
 - b. Reviewed press releases, public concerns, and performance data regarding the paratransit programs in the County of Maui and County of Hawaii.
 - c. Report on the Honolulu City Council decline to eliminate the public transit fare exemption for personal care attendants (PCA) when serving as a PCA.

G. Special Parent Information Network (SPIN)

1. SPIN Conference Update

Since January, SPIN's Advisory Committee has been meeting twice a month to finalize the plans for the 40th Annual SPIN Conference which will be held on Saturday, March 28, 2026, at the University of Hawaii Manoa Campus Center from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The conference has fourteen (14) workshops, and a resource fair featuring sixty (60) agencies.

2. Footsteps to Transition Fair

The Footsteps to Transition Fair was held on February 21, 2026. SPIN participated as the emcee. The Fair attracted eighty (80) parents and helped professionals learn more about resources for students with disabilities transitioning from high school to higher education, employment and community living. The Footsteps to Transition Fair presentations will be captioned by SPIN and posted at <https://footstepstotransition.weebly.com>.

3. SPIN News – January issue

The quarterly issue announced the SPIN conference schedule of activities and featured three (3) new infographics for families. The issue also shared tips for families who wish to become involved in advocating through the legislative process, provided information about the Independent Educational Evaluations (IEEs) and special education eligibility criteria for the categories of Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

VII. Old Business

A. ADA Coordination.

1. Review statistics of ADA technical assistance program
2. State and County ADA Coordination

B. Vote on the membership of the Permitted Interaction Group established on November 20, 2025 to review and update the Programs and Services Reference Manual for Persons with Disabilities.

VIII. New Business

A. Discussion and Approval of process to fill vacant Executive Director position.

B. Discussion and Approval of Staff Summary on Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking docket number ATBCB-2026-0001, U.S. Access Board Seeks Public Comment Regarding Approach to Technical Requirements for Universal Changing Stations.

The U.S. Access Board seeks public comments due by April 20, 2026 on twelve (12) specific questions which can be found at the Federal Register website at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/02/18/2026-03199/accessibility-standards-for-universal-changing-stations>

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

X. Next Meeting: May 21, 2026, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

XI. Adjournment

How to Request Accommodation:

If you need an auxiliary aid/service or other accommodation due to disability, contact Cindy Omura or Scott Castor at (808) 586-8121 or dcab@doh.hawaii.gov. Requests made as early as possible will allow more time to fulfill your request if possible.

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

Meeting Materials and Other Information:

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

If the remote connection (via Zoom) is lost, the meeting will be recessed for up to thirty (30) minutes to restore communication. If the connection is lost, we will attempt to restart the meeting again with the same link. If the Committee is unable to reconvene the meeting because neither audiovisual communication nor audio communication can be reestablished within thirty minutes, the meeting will be automatically terminated.

If you have trouble entering the meeting, please contact Cindy Omura or Scott Castor at (808) 586-8121.



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DRAFT MINUTES

Disability and Communication Access Board

General Board Meeting

Location: Virtual and 1010 Richards Street, Room 118

Date: November 20, 2025

Time: 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Charlotte Townsend, Chairperson; Anthony Akamine, Ronald Awa, Rosanna Daniel-Kanetake, Scott Fleming, Dayne Greene, Violet Horvath, Gerald Isobe, Michael Nojima, Gerald Ohta, Teri Spinola-Campbell, LisaAnn Tom, Board members; Kristine Pagano, Rodney Kanno, Bryan Mick, Susan Rocco, Mylynn Simon, Staff

PUBLIC

PARTICIPANTS: Peter Fritz, Curt Kiri, Anna Asuncion Lopez, Donald Sakamoto, Ryan Tamashiro, Fanny Yeh

SIGN LANGUAGE

INTERPRETERS: Mala Arkin and Denise Green

REAL TIME

CAPTIONERS: April Chandler and Kelly DeCamp

I. Chairperson Charlotte Townsend called the meeting to order at 11:11 a.m. She provided an overview of public testimony or comments, and remote meeting procedures.

II. Roll was called, and Board members introduced themselves.

III. Statement from Public and Written Testimonies Submitted

Chairperson Charlotte Townsend reported that the Board did not receive any written testimony for this meeting.

Testimony: Peter Fritz commented that the notice of written testimony language is outdated. The Board packet law was amended, and testimony can be submitted less than two business days prior to the meeting.

IV. Approval of General Board Meeting Minutes of September 18, 2025.

The minutes of the September 18, 2025 General Board meeting were approved as circulated (M/S/P Horvath/Akamine).

Board member Violet Horvath noted that Board member Dayne Greene suddenly dropped out of the meeting. Chairperson Charlotte Townsend confirmed that this did not affect quorum.

V. Executive Director's Report

Chairperson Charlotte Townsend and Kristine Pagano provided the Executive Director's report.

Board member vacancies.

Chairperson Charlotte Townsend explained that as a Governor appointed Board, there should be seventeen (17) members. We currently have twelve (12) members. She announced the interim Board member is Judy Paik until confirmed. Judy Paik will be attending the January meeting.

Committee Chairpersons appointed.

Chairperson Charlotte Townsend announced the Standing Committee and Committee chairpersons as follows:

Gerald Isobe, Standing Committee on Communication Access

Michael Nojima, Standing Committee on Facility Access

Violet Horvath, Standing Committee on Parking

Violet Horvath, Standing Committee on Transportation

Charlotte Townsend, Legislative Committee

Anthony Akamine, DCAB representative to the Special Parent Information Network

Comment: Peter Fritz asked what areas are missing members and what gap does the Board need to fill?

Chairperson Charlotte Townsend explained there must be representation from each County and provided other types of memberships such as a parent with child with a disability or individuals with disabilities. For more information, one can visit the Disability and Communication Access Board website at <https://health.hawaii.gov/dcab/>

Personnel

Kristine Pagano reported for Kirby Shaw.

1. Vacant Facility Access Unit Office Assistant position number 121818 - Update.

Kristine Pagano reported that interviews were completed and in the process of selecting an applicant.

2. Report on staff attendance at trainings, conferences, and events.

1. Hawaii School for the Deaf and Blind, Deaf Awareness Day, September 26, 2025 – Update.

Staff was invited to participate and provide information on DCAB and the Special Parent Information Network programs, services, and activities to attendees.

2. 2025 Deaf Awareness Day, September 27, 2025 – Update.

DCAB sponsored and hosted the 2025 Deaf Awareness Day on September 27, 2025 at the Neal S. Blaisdell Center, Pikake Room. The Standing Committee on Communication Access Chairperson Gerald Isobe will provide a more detailed report under Committee reports.

3. Hawaii Digital Government Summit 2025, September 30, 2025 – Update.

Staff attended the Hawaii Digital Government Summit 2025. The information learned from the summit was very informative. There were a few workshops to update DCAB staff on topics such as artificial intelligence and emergency preparedness.

4. 2025 White Cane Walk, Resource Fair, October 17, 2025 – Update.

At the 2025 White Cane Walk, Resource Fair on October 17, 2025 which was held at the State Capitol, staff provided information on DCAB programs and services. Staff networked with Ho‘opono’s clients and people with disabilities. At this event, staff learned about the community’s advocacy efforts for the upcoming legislative session.

5. Deaf Safari Day – October 25, 2025 – Update.

The T-Mobile Relay Hawaii sponsored the Deaf Safari Day on October 25, 2025 at the Honolulu Zoo. Staff manned a booth and met with not only people from the disability community but also families who were visiting from the mainland and other countries to educate them about DCAB’s programs, services, and activities.

6. Communication Access/On-Demand Interpreting for Hawaii Deaf Community presentation to University of Hawaii, American Sign Language students, November 6, 2025 – Update.

The Standing Committee on Communication Access Chairperson Gerald Isobe will provide a more detailed report under Committee reports.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee

1. The Committee held a meeting on October 27, 2025.

a. Establishment of a Permitted Interaction Committee to review Programs and Services Manual.

The Committee voted to establish a Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) to review the Programs and Services Manual. However at the meeting, a public comment was raised that the full Board needed to vote on this.

Chairperson Charlotte Townsend announced that the full Board will need to vote under agenda item number VII.

Testimony: Peter Fritz explained that the Executive Committee is recommending the establishment of a PIG and if the

Executive Committee votes on it, then it can only be staffed by members of the Executive Committee. At this meeting, they are voting to establish a PIG but not tying it directly to the action of the Executive Committee.

b. Status Update on Disability and Communication Access Board's Executive Director.

Chairperson Charlotte Townsend reported that Kirby Shaw is out on leave and expected to return November 12, 2025. In the interim, Kristine Pagano is the Acting Executive Director, and she will continue to fulfill her duties as the Administrative Officer. If there are questions, it will be addressed under agenda item VIII.

B. Legislative Committee

1. The Committee held a meeting on November 3, 2025.

a. The Committee will meet on Mondays at 12:00 noon starting on January 26, 2026.

Bryan Mick reported the Committee will meet on Mondays at 12:00 p.m. starting January 26, 2026 when the 33rd Legislature begins its session.

b. The Committee reviewed and approved the DCAB's position types for bills and resolutions, subject matter categories, and positions statements for the 33rd Legislature, 2026.

Bryan Mick reported the Committee reviewed and approved DCAB's position types for bills and resolutions, subject matter categories, and positions statements for the 33rd Legislature.

c. The Committee pre-authorized staff to submit testimony in certain circumstances, such as when a bill is an official companion bill or functionally identical to a bill the Committee already voted on.

Bryan Mick reported the Committee pre-authorized staff to submit testimony in certain circumstances, such as when a bill is an official companion bill or functionally identical to a bill that the Committee previously voted on.

d. The Committee reviewed four topics for which staff anticipate bills to be introduced:

- (1) Parking in access aisles.
- (2) Travel placard.
- (3) Lengthening of the meter fee exemption for Disabled Paid Parking Exemption Permits.

- (4) Establishment of a Disability Integration Specialist position at the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency.

Bryan Mick reported the Committee reviewed four (4) topics for which staff anticipates bills to be introduced.

- (1) Parking in access aisles: This bill would lessen the enforcement of the violation of parking in access aisles.
- (2) Travel placard: This bill would establish a travel placard that people would be able to take with them and use at their destinations when traveling off-island.
- (3) Lengthening of the meter fee exemption for Disabled Paid Parking Exemption Permits: This bill would lengthen the meter fee exemption time period that's associated with the disabled paid parking exemption permits.
- (4) Establishment of a Disability Integration Specialist position at the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency: The bill would establish a disability integration specialist position at the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency.

The public in-person meeting location had technical difficulties for two (2) minutes and resumed the meeting.

C. Standing Committee on Communication Access

1. The Committee held a meeting on October 30, 2025.

Committee Chairperson Gerald Isobe reported the Committee met on October 20, 2025.

- a. Report on the Deaf Awareness Day event held on September 27, 2025 at the Neal S. Blaisdell Center, Pikake Room.

Committee Chairperson Gerald Isobe provided a report on the Deaf Awareness Day event held on September 27, 2025 at the Neal S. Blaisdell Center, Pikake Room.

One hundred twenty five (125) individuals attended the event. Board Chairperson Charlotte Townsend welcomed and introduced keynote speakers Ed Chevy and Dr. Angel Ramos, Principal of the Hawaii School for the Deaf and Blind. A panel of five (5) Deaf community members shared their lived experiences about communication access at home, in school, and at work.

There was a Deaf Museum exhibition of how technology changed with the way telephone calls are made and received with TTY equipment, pictures and stories of local Deaf history and culture. The event was also livestreamed on YouTube.

- b. Summary of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HIEMA) meeting on September 30, 2025.

Committee Chairperson Gerald Isobe reported on September 30, 2025, DCAB staff met with the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HIEMA) to discuss how to improve communication access for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people. The discussion focused on lessons learned from past tsunami warnings. DCAB staff informed HIEMA of the need to increase visibility of on-screen interpreters, captions on TV news, and accessible information on social media and press announcements.

c. Review of quarterly Communication Access statistics.

Committee Chairperson Gerald Isobe reported DCAB tested one (1) Hawaii Quality Assurance System (HQAS) applicant during the quarter, and twenty three (23) interpreters remain active in the Continuing Education Program. DCAB staff responded to five (5) technical assistance inquiries related to the revised Hawai'i Administrative Rules, Title 11, Chapter 218 and continued to post monthly updates of credentialed communication access providers on the DCAB website.

Eight (8) interviews were conducted with Interpreter Training Program representatives across the country to explore effective models for Hawai'i. DCAB staff explored the concept of an Interpreter Training Program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

DCAB staff responded to thirty (30) technical assistance inquiries from individuals and agencies on effective communication, including collaboration with HIEMA to improve emergency accessibility in response to the recent tsunami warning.

Other ongoing activities included monitoring the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) updates on communication access and meetings with the Office of Enterprise Technology Services relating to the Hawai'i Electronic Information Technology Disability Access Standards.

d. Recap of the Deaf Safari Day event held on October 25, 2025.

Committee Chairperson Gerald Isobe reported on October 25, 2025, the Deaf Safari Day was sponsored by Relay Hawaii. About seventy five (75) Deaf individuals, American Sign Language (ASL) students, and families with children visited the DCAB booth. There were families who traveled from the neighbor islands to participate in the event. The event was valuable as it provided an opportunity for Deaf individuals and their families to connect with vendors to participate in their programs, services, and activities.

Board member Violet Horvath asked for clarification regarding the Committee Chairperson's report on the meeting date of October 20 or 30, 2025. Chairperson Charlotte Townsend confirmed the meeting date was on October 30, 2025.

Testimony: Peter Fritz commented that there were discussions about a lot of meetings, efforts and networking. In the Committee report, he would like to hear a summary of the five (5) most important points or two (2) most important points from those meetings.

Chairperson Charlotte Townsend emphasized the importance of networking. The Executive Director and Board make public appearances in the community to show that DCAB is the premier advocacy agency on behalf of people with disabilities. Outreach and networking are critical for DCAB. The amount of detail that we present in our reports are needed to educate the Board and others about DCAB.

D. Standing Committee on Facility Access

1. DCAB Facility Access Unit conducted 2025 Basic ADA Trainings on October 22, 29, November 5, 12, and 19, 2025 – Update.

Committee Chairperson Michael Nojima reported the Standing Committee on Facility Access did not meet since the last General Board meeting.

The DCAB Facility Access Unit just completed all sessions for the 2025 Basic ADA Trainings on October 22, 29, November 5, 12, and 19, 2025. The five (5) sessions were presented by DCAB staff.

Sixty two (62) individuals participated in the October 22, 2025, Session 1, Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) Chapter 3 and 4.

Sixty five (65) individuals participated in the Session 2: ADAAG Chapters 5 and 6 on October 29, 2025.

Eighty (80) individuals participated in the Session 3: ADAAG Chapters 7 and 8 on November 5, 2025.

Eighty four (84) individuals participated in the Session 4: ADAAG Chapters 9 and 10 on November 12, 2025.

The last Session 5 covered the Hawaii Outdoor Developed Areas Accessibility Guidelines was held yesterday on November 19, 2025.

Testimony: Curt Kiriu asked the Board if these trainings were an annual requirement for ADA Coordinators?

Chairperson Charlotte Townsend explained that these trainings are not required for ADA Coordinators. Department ADA Coordinators may have multiple duties and responsibilities other than the ADA. These trainings are geared for people who design for compliance.

Testimony: Curt Kiriu proposed DCAB submit a bill or legislation where the duties of the ADA Coordinator is purely for ADA coordination. Where the ADA Coordinator does not have dual or triple roles. Dual or triple roles being non-ADA related roles such as a language access coordinator, etc.

Chairperson Charlotte Townsend explained the role of ADA Coordinators should be strengthened. It was stronger in the past but has weakened over time.

E. Standing Committee on Parking

1. The Committee held a meeting on November 17, 2025.

Committee Chairperson Violet Horvath reported the Committee met on November 17, 2025.

a. Review of Quarterly Parking statistics.

During the first quarter of fiscal year (FY) 2025-2026, around eight thousand seven hundred (8,700) placards were issued and four hundred nineteen (419) special license plates reauthorized or issued. Of the placards, about two thousand two hundred (2,200) were temporary, six thousand five hundred (6,500) long term, and twenty (20) were Disabled Paid Parking Exemption Permits. Of the long-term placards, about two thousand eight hundred (2,800) were renewals issued by DCAB, reflecting a renewal rate was sixty seven percent (67%).

b. Concerns with the City and County of Honolulu appointment process for parking permits.

The Committee reviewed, and correspondence between the City and DCAB ensued on this issue. The City is analyzing its procedures and DCAB is hopeful they will make adjustments to allow walk-ins once again.

c. Review and update of DCAB's Legislative Position Statements for Parking Related Bills and Resolutions.

The Committee did not have any suggested edits to the Legislative Position Statements for Parking Related Bills and Resolutions.

- d. Draft survey of disability parking permittees on challenges encountered when using their parking permit.

Due to time constraints, the Committee deferred this agenda item to the next Committee meeting.

- e. Update of two state legislation 1) Senate Bill 1008 Draft 1 Conference Draft 1 – Relating 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. 2) Bill 2026-0016 HB HMSO-1 – Relating to Parking. Prohibits the issuance of a citation for encroachment into an access aisle by a vehicle with a disability parking permit unless an oral complaint is made to a law enforcement officer or 911 dispatcher by a person who also has a valid disability parking permit and whose access was directly impeded.

The Committee reviewed a bill drafted by a state representative which would lessen the enforcement for access aisle violations. The issue would be more effectively addressed by adopting a state design standard which exceeds ADAAG, such as wider spaces or additional access aisles. The survey of permittees will likely ask questions related to this topic so that metrics can be presented to the Legislature in the future.

Testimony: Curt Kiriu inquired if the renewal placards are in different colors every year similar to safety checks for cars to reduce fraudulent use.

Committee Chairperson Violet Horvath explained that the Committee is aware of some cases where people illegally modify the placards and deferred to Bryan Mick.

Bryan Mick reported the color of the placard is based on the type of placard. The color of temporary placard is red for one (1) to six (6) months. The long term placard color is blue for six (6) years. The color of disabled paid parking exemption permit is green. The serial number identifies the placard, and it displays the expiration date. If parking enforcement came across a placard that looks like it had been modified, the parking enforcer can check to see what the actual expiration date is and can issue a citation if it doesn't match.

Testimony: Curt Kiriu inquired if DCAB can utilize a QR code instead of a number where parking enforcement can scan the QR code on the placard.

Committee Chairperson Violet Horvath responded that the Committee had this on the agenda but due to time constraints could not get to the agenda item.

Testimony: Donald Sakamoto asked if the placard color code is universal for all states, blue, red and green?

Bryan Mick reported that the colors blue and red are standard except for green. It is noted that there are other states that have different colors.

Testimony: Peter Fritz commented that the DCAB allows one to take a photo of the placard that may be altered.

Bryan Mick explained that the photo must be legible enough for DCAB to read the placard number. DCAB will reach out the placard holder regarding their placard.

Testimony: Curt Kiriu inquired if one can take a photo as a citation to DCAB.

Bryan Mick explained not for purposes for a citation but if there is a violation. DCAB will try and contact the person or company regarding the use of the placard. For example, if an individual has a placard but they are parked in an access aisle. DCAB will contact the individual and remind them they shouldn't be parking in the access aisle. Chairperson Charlotte Townsend stated that this becomes a public education effort to qualified individuals with a parking placard.

F. Standing Committee on Transportation

1. The Committee held a meeting on November 17, 2025.

Committee Chairperson Violet Horvath reported the Committee met on November 17, 2025.

- a. Review of responses from the County of Hawaii Transportation Department regarding public transit.

The Committee reviewed responses from the County of Hawaii regarding several of their programs and continues to have several concerns, including geographical gaps in coverage. The Committee plans to invite the County to present at a future Committee meeting.

- b. City and County of Honolulu Bill 54 (2025) CD2 – Relating to Public Transit.

This bill would have eliminated fare waivers on fixed route buses for Personal Care Attendants but has been deferred thanks to public testimony including from DCAB.

- c. Update of Richards Street Loading Zone in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The Committee announced the two (2) metered parking spaces were removed in front of the Kamamalu Building and the entire curb is now a loading zone.

- d. United States Department of Transportation Final Rule – Ensuring Safe Accommodations for Air Travelers with Disabilities Using Wheelchairs – Delayed Enforcement [2025-18980] – Update.

Link to the United States Department of Transportation Final Rule – Ensuring Safe Accommodations for Air Travelers with Disabilities Using Wheelchairs:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/09/30/2025-18980/ensuring-safe-accommodations-for-air-travelers-with-disabilities-using-wheelchairs>

The Committee discussed the federal government’s announcement that not only will they delay the enforcement of these regulations, but will also commence rulemaking to repeal the regulations.

- e. Uber Sued for Denying Rides to Passengers with Service Dogs, Wheelchairs.

The Committee discussed the federal government press release that they are suing Uber for disability discrimination, when drivers denied rides to people with service dogs or wheelchairs.

G. Special Parent Information Network (SPIN)

1. SPIN Conference Update.

Board representative Anthony Akamine provided a report that the SPIN’s 40th Annual SPIN Conference will be held on March 28, 2026 at the University of Hawaii, Campus Center. He reported the SPIN Advisory Committee moved up the date for the Conference, and will receive assistance from the University of Hawaii, Center on Disability Studies. The Committee met on November 12, 2025 to select workshop topics and tentative speakers.

The Hawaii Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics tentatively committed to funding \$4,000 for neighbor island airfares and registration scholarships.

2. State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) Community Meeting.

Susan Rocco reported SPIN is assisting the Monitoring and Compliance Branch of the Hawaii Department of Education in publicizing and organizing its December 5, 2025 SPP/APR meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to have diverse stakeholders review data from the 2024-2025 school year on key special education indicators, adjust targets as needed, and recommend improvement activities in preparation for an accountability report to the U.S. Department of Education.

3. October SPIN News.

Susan Rocco provided information on the quarterly issue featured three (3) infographics related to bullying, including newly released data on Hawaii middle and high school students with disabilities who completed the Hawaii Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Two (2) additional infographics created for this issue include a description of surrogate decision-making and the special education eligibility category of Speech or Language Disability.

Due to a power outage, Board member Dayne Greene reported he logged back on about ten (10) minutes ago and inquired if the SPIN newsletters are forwarded to elementary and secondary schools.

Susan Rocco shared that in the past, SPIN used to print one (1) newsletter for each student. Currently there are about one thousand (1,000) subscribers on their e-newsletter distribution list.

Testimony: Peter Fritz commented if anything has been done for additional funding and improving special education laws.

Susan Rocco responded that Hawaii has a very good Monitoring and Compliance Branch.

VII. Review and Vote on the Establishment of a Permitted Interaction Committee to review and update the Programs and Services Reference Manual for Persons with Disabilities.

Link to the Programs and Services Reference Manual for Persons with Disabilities:
<https://health.hawaii.gov/dcab/files/2023/08/Approved-Programs-and-ServicesManual 7.20.2023.pdf>

Chairperson Charlotte Townsend explained the history of the Programs and Services Reference Manual for Persons with Disabilities and the need to be updated.

The Board established a PIG to review and update the Programs and Services Reference Manual for Persons with Disabilities (M/S/P Greene/Spinola-Campbell).

VIII. Update as of November 12, 2025, Status of Executive Director.

Chairperson Charlotte Townsend informed the Board that effective December 1, 2025, Kirby Shaw will no longer be the Executive Director. Kristine Pagano will continue

to be the Acting Executive Director. The Executive Committee will convene to hire a new Executive Director.

IX. Old Business

A. ADA Coordination.

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

Bryan Mick reported for Elizabeth Delovio. Staff responded to forty eight (48) ADA or other federal laws inquiries that impacts persons with disabilities. Of the forty eight (48), twenty three (23) technical assistance were related to service animals, proper signage on service animals, reasonable modification of policy and procedures, design accessibility, and meeting agenda accommodation statements. Two (2) were related to the Fair Housing Act reasonable modifications and the minimum number of accessible parking spaces. Four (4) were on behalf of the Governor or Department of Health relating to the statewide parking program for persons with disabilities and design of an accessible parking space including access aisles. There were eighteen (18) consumers who contacted DCAB regarding service animals, emotional support animals or assistance animals, bullying because of a disability, accessible furniture, design access to a tourist attraction and housing accommodation.

2. State and County ADA Coordination – Update.

Bryan Mick reported there were two (2) meetings with State ADA Coordinators with eighteen (18) Department ADA Coordinators at the first meeting and second meeting with sixteen (16) Department ADA Coordinators. At two (2) County ADA Coordinators meetings, one meeting had all four (4) County Coordinators in attendance, and the second meeting, two (2) Coordinators attended.

B. Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) Report on the Animal Inspection Station and procedures for individuals arriving with animals at the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport.

Bryan Mick reported that PIG members and representatives from the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) and Department of Transportation (DOT) met at the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport's Animal Inspection Station to investigate the Animal Inspection Station and the pedestrian routes from various terminals to the station. The PIG's report provided fifteen (15) observations and design recommendations relating to accessible routes, signage, and design of service animal relief areas to the DAB and DOT. Also recommended DOT to reconvene an

advisory group of persons with various disabilities and representatives from all entities which operate at the airport who can provide feedback on design, programs and services at the airport.

X. New Business

A. Governor's Administrative Directive on Accessibility to State Government by Persons with Disabilities – Update.

- Governor Green signed the Administrative Directive on October 3, 2025. The Administrative Directive is posted on the Department of Budget and Finance website at https://budget.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/2509036-HTH_Administrative-Directive-No.-25-03.pdf

Chairperson Charlotte Townsend provided the history of the Governor's Administrative Directives on Accessibility to State Governments by Persons with Disabilities. She announced Governor Green signed effective October 3, 2025, Administrative Directive 25-03 its commitment to persons with disabilities to access state government. The Administrative Directive includes the Department of Justice's new rule on the Accessibility of Web Content and Mobile Apps for Title II of the ADA, State and Local Governments. Guidance on the Accessibility of Web Content and Mobile Apps can be found in the Hawaii Electronic Information Technology Disability Access Standards on the Office of Enterprise Technology Services website.

B. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Announces Tentative Agenda for November Open Meeting and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Analog TRS Modernization - Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities; Speech-to-Speech and Internet Protocol (IP) Speech-to-Speech Telecommunications Relay Services – CG Docket Nos. 03-123, 08-15.

Link to the FCC Tentative Agenda for November Open Meeting:

<https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-415185A1.pdf>

Link to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Analog TRS Modernization - Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities; Speech-to-Speech and Internet Protocol (IP) Speech-to-Speech Telecommunications Relay Services – CG Docket Nos. 03-123, 08-15:

<https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-415186A1.pdf>

Bryan Mick announced that the FCC met earlier today. FCC is seeking comment on terminating the mandatory status of TT relay for state-based TRS programs to afford states the flexibility to adapt their programs to local needs and

technology. FCC are looking to remove the analog services and only recognize IP based services.

Testimony: Peter Fritz mentioned that FCC wants to eliminate the TRS communication assistant (operator) and replace it by using speech-to-text and text-to-speech applications.

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

Testimony: Peter Fritz commented about an issue that was raised at a Standing Committee on Parking regarding a phone complaint about a doctor who wouldn't certify.

Chairperson Charlotte Townsend explained that the issue has already been taken care of with staff.

XII. The next Board meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2026, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

XIII. The meeting was adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

NOTE: All votes were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,

KRISTINE PAGANO



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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DRAFT MINUTES

Disability and Communication Access Board

Executive Committee Meeting

Location: Virtual via Zoom and 1010 Richards Street, Room 111A and 111B

Date: January 12, 2026

Time: 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Charlotte Townsend, Chairperson; Dayne Greene, Violet Horvath, Gerald Isobe, Michael Nojima, Board Members; Kristine Pagano, Staff

PUBLIC

PARTICIPANT: Peter Fritz

SIGN LANGUAGE

INTERPRETERS: DeAndre Denley and Regino Sapko

- I. Chairperson CT called the meeting to order at 9:41 a.m. She provided an overview of public testimony or comments, and remote meeting procedures.
- II. Roll was called and Board members and staff introduced themselves.
- III. Statement from Public and Written Testimonies Submitted
Chairperson Charlotte Townsend reported no written testimonies were received.
- IV. Approval of meeting minutes of October 27, 2025.

Chairperson Charlotte Townsend informed Board members that the draft October 27, 2025 Committee meeting minutes will be ratified at the next DCAB General meeting.

At this point of the meeting, Kristine Pagano excused herself from the meeting.

V. Status of Executive Director

1. The Executive Director, Kirby Shaw, passed away on November 22, 2025.

Chairperson Charlotte Townsend said Kirby Shaw passed away on November 22, 2025 and his services will be held on Saturday, January 17, 2026.

2. Discussion and Approval of process to fill vacant Executive Director position, including the following options:
 - a. Executive Committee's creation of a Permitted Interaction Group pursuant to §92-2.5, HRS, to advertise and select an Executive Director candidate; or
 - b. Executive Committee's recommendation to the General Board that Acting Executive Director Kristine Pagano fill the vacant Executive Director position.

Chairperson Charlotte Townsend said the Board has the responsibility for hiring, evaluating, and terminating, if necessary, the Executive Director. It will be the General Board that will make the decision on hiring the Executive Director. Today, we will have a discussion on what are some of the options available to hire the new Executive Director.

Two options were (1) creating a Permitted Interactive Group (PIG) to advertise and select the Executive Director. So that means opening the position up to the general population (statewide and nationally) to apply for the position; or (2) to do an internal promotion.

Chairperson Charlotte Townsend opened the discussion relaying the positives of each approach. First approach, the Board will maximize the search, statewide and maybe nationally to get the best possible candidate for the position. In the past, it was very difficult to get appropriate applicants with the level of knowledge and expertise for many of the DCAB positions and especially for the Executive Director position. In its history, the agency has had only two (2) long term Executive Directors, Francine Wai and Kirby Shaw.

Board member Dayne Greene said the Board may not have a lot of people applying, given national situation. Kristine Pagano has experience and expertise, and seems to be a natural fit. We have an opportunity to have someone with such a degree of knowledge and expertise who could merge into the position; it would be a good option.

Board member Violet Horvath said the last Executive Director search was difficult for the Committee as to receiving qualified applicants. She disagreed about individuals looking for another position and willing to relocate because of the national situation. But has seen Kristine Pagano grow and mature in her roles. Her preference would be the second option.

Board member Gerald Isobe said his recommendation is to get the most qualified person for the position.

Board member Michael Nojima said both options have merit. The primary objective is to get the best qualified person to fill the position. He asked if there was a written position description or criteria. Chairperson Charlotte Townsend said there is a job description and it can be shared with members.

Chairperson Charlotte Townsend said this position is a key, visible position representing the people with disabilities in Hawaii. This is the most visible and prominent position the Board has. To have someone in this position who has a disability is absolutely critical and gives credibility to the Board's mission, people with disabilities advocating and in positions of professionalism.

Chairperson Charlotte Townsend informed Committee members that during Kirby Shaw's absence, Kristine Pagano has been doing two (2) jobs, interim Executive Director and Administrative Officer. The Administrative Officer is the budget person within DCAB who creates the budget and works with the Executive Director on the Board's finances.

Chairperson Charlotte Townsend said at the last Executive Committee meeting a Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) was formed to update the Programs and Services Manual. The faster an Executive Director is selected, the quicker it will be to stabilizing the office. The Committee can make a decision on either option to present to the Board at the next General meeting.

A motion was made to recommend to the Board to internally promote Kristine Pagano to the position of DCAB Executive Director (M/S/P Horvath/Greene).

Chairperson Charlotte Townsend said selecting the Executive Director, is a multiple step process, and the Committee will need to hear public comment on its recommendation at a future meeting. When the process is over, the Board will vote and give its final decision on selection of the Executive Director.

- VI. Open Forum: Public comment on issues not on the agenda for consideration for the Committee's agenda at the next meeting.

There was no discussion.

- VII. The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2026 beginning at 10:00 a.m.

- VIII. The meeting adjourned at 10:07 a.m.

NOTE: All votes were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,

CINDY Y. OMURA



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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DRAFT MINUTES **Legislative Committee Meeting**

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

Date: November 3, 2025

Time: 12:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Charlotte Townsend Chairperson; Anthony Akamine, Rosanna Daniel-Kanetake, Dayne Greene, Violet Horvath, Committee Members; Scott Castor Bryan Mick, Kristine Pagano, Staff

PUBLIC

PARTICIPANTS: Peter Fritz, Gerald Isobe, Donald Sakamoto

SIGN LANGUAGE

INTERPRETERS: Yoshiko Chino, Regina Sapko

- I. Chairperson Charlotte Townsend called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m.
- II. Committee members and staff introduced themselves.
- III. The Committee agreed to meet weekly starting on Monday, January 26, 2026, at 12:00 noon.
- IV. DCAB Legislative Procedures
 - A. The Committee reviewed five (5) possible positions to take on legislative bills or resolutions: 1) Support, 2) Support Intent, 3) Oppose, 4) No Position, and 5) Monitor. The first four (4) positions will include comments and the Support Intent will also include proposed amendments.

- B. The Committee reviewed the request to pre-authorize staff to submit testimony on: legislative measures and policies that align with DCAB's Guiding Principles, and Plan of Action when timing does not allow for prior Committee review; in support of state legislation that reinforces, codifies, or re-establishes disability and civil rights protections equivalent to or derived from federal law or regulation; for official companion bills and resolutions when the Legislative Committee has previously taken a stance on the companion bill or resolution; and for bills and resolutions which are functionally similar to bills or resolutions the Legislative Committee has previously taken a stance on.

The Committee unanimously agreed to the DCAB Legislative Procedures.

V. Review and vote of DCAB Legislative Position Statements and Determine Subject Matter Categories for 33rd Legislature, 2026 Bills

The Committee reviewed the Subject Matter categories and the Legislative Position Statements as proposed by staff. The only difference from the 2025 subject matter categories is changing “**Oppose** legislation for separate identification cards for people with disabilities in addition to a driver's license or a state identification card” to “**Monitor.**”

Committee member Dayne Greene commented that the verbiage in the Parking category is a bit unclear and suggested the Standing Committee on Parking review it.

Chairperson Charlotte Townsend suggested that the Standing Committee on Transportation also review the Transportation category. If either Committee has suggested amendments, the Legislative Committee can always consider those at a future meeting.

The Committee approved the DCAB Legislative Position Statements and Subject Matter Categories (M/S/P Horvath/Akamine).

VI. Legislative Bills

- A. Bill 2026-0016 HB HMSO-1 - Relating to Parking. Prohibits the issuance of a citation for encroachment into an access aisle by a vehicle with a disability parking permit unless an oral complaint is made to a law enforcement officer or 911 dispatcher by a person who also has a valid disability parking permit and whose access was directly impeded. Requires a law enforcement officer to verify the validity of the complainant's disability parking permit before issuing a citation.

Staff explained that Representative Scot Matayoshi drafted this bill and asked DCAB for comments. The bill addresses a situation where multiple people in a vehicle need extra room to exit on opposite sides and therefore the vehicle partially parks in the access aisle.

Staff commented that when a vehicle does this, it potentially makes the parking space on the other side of the access aisle unusable and creates a barrier for any pedestrians using the access aisle as part of an accessible route.

The bill also requires parking enforcement personnel to subjectively determine if a vehicle encroaches far enough into the access aisle to constitute a barrier to the person who called parking enforcement to report a vehicle with a disability parking permit. There are several design options which would address parking issues without weakening enforcement.

Chairperson Charlotte Townsend commented she opposes the bill but wants to give the Standing Committee on Parking more time to discuss what the best remedy for issues regarding the design of an accessible parking space.

MOTION: **OPPOSE** (M/S/P Horvath/Akamine)

B. Bill xx-xxx – Relating to Parking for Disabled Persons. Establishes a disability travel placard to be issued to an existing permittee for use at the travel destination.

Staff explained that this bill is likely to be introduced in the Senate and possibly in the House as well. It will provide a temporary second placard to a long term permittee who is traveling for use at their destination.

MOTION: **SUPPORT** (M/S/P Akamine/ Horvath)

C. Bill xx-xxx – Relating to Parking for Disabled Persons. Amends the parking fee exemption from 2.5 hours or the maximum time the meter allows whichever is longer, to be four and a half hours.

Staff explained this bill is likely to be introduced in the Senate and possibly in the House as well. It will lengthen the Disabled Paid Parking Exemption Permit fee exemption period.

MOTION: **SUPPORT** (M/S/P Horvath/Akamine)

- D. Bill xx-xxx – Relating to Disaster Services. Establishes the position of Disability Integration Specialist, to be located in the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, who shall provide programming support for disability community projects that promote accessibility, inclusion and equity in disaster management. Appropriates funds.

Staff explained that recently there was a Limited English Proficiency Language Access Coordinator established within the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. This bill would establish a similar position to ensure the needs of persons with disabilities are part of the emergency planning and response efforts of the State.

MOTION: **SUPPORT** (M/S/P Horvath/Akamine)

VII. Open Forum

Testimony: Peter Fritz commented that the previous agenda items (B), (C) and (D) were not really bills, but rather concepts for bills, albeit with the parking bills based on last session bills.

VIII. The next meeting will be Monday, January 26, 2026, at 12:00 p.m.

IX. The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

NOTE: All votes were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,

BRYAN K. MICK



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DRAFT MINUTES **Legislative Committee Meeting**

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

Date: January 26, 2026

Time: 12:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Charlotte Townsend Chairperson; Anthony Akamine, Dayne Greene, Violet Horvath, Committee members; Scott Castor Bryan Mick, Kristine Pagano, Staff

ABSENT: Rosanna Daniel-Kanetake, Committee member

PUBLIC

PARTICIPANTS: Peter Fritz, Gerald Isobe, Donald Sakamoto

SIGN LANGUAGE

INTERPRETERS: Carrie Kaufman, Keri Lee

- I. Chairperson Charlotte Townsend called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.
- II. Committee members and staff introduced themselves.
- III. Staff reported that no public testimonies were submitted.
- IV. Review of 2026 Legislative calendars and legislative process.

Staff mentioned several important upcoming dates including the bill introduction deadline of January 28, 2026, the triple referral deadlines of February 11, 2026

(House) and February 12, 2026 (Senate), and first lateral deadline of February 20, 2026.

V. Bills and Resolutions

- A. [Senate Bill 2268](#) – Relating to Equity. Requires all places of public accommodation and public entity construction projects constructed after 7/31/2027 to provide universal changing accommodations that are equally accessible regardless of gender.

Staff commented the Committee has supported similar bills in the past.

MOTION: SUPPORT (M/S Horvath/Akamine)

- B. [Senate Bill 2275](#) – Relating to Persons with Disabilities. Requires the Department of Human Services to establish a Medicaid buy-in program for workers with disabilities. Requires the Department to adopt rules.

Staff commented this is a bill championed by the State Developmental Disabilities Council, and DCAB has supported similar bills in prior sessions.

MOTION: SUPPORT (M/S Townsend/Horvath)

- C. [Senate Bill 2305](#) – Relating to Identification. Allows applicants for driver's permit, driver's license, or civil identification cards to request a nonapparent disability notation on their permit, license, or identification card.

MOTION: SUPPORT INTENT (M/S Horvath/Akamine)

- D. [Senate Bill 2340](#) – Relating to Community Care Foster Family Homes. Clarifies that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who meet an intermediate care facility or nursing facility level of care shall not be denied residency in a licensed community care foster family home solely because of their disability or enrollment in a specific medicaid waiver program.

Staff commented there is an identical bill [House Bill 1731](#).

MOTION: SUPPORT (M/S Townsend/Horvath)

- E. [Senate Bill 2366](#) – Relating to Parking for Persons with Disabilities. Amends the fee exemption period for individuals possessing a disabled paid parking exemption permit from the first 2.5 hours or the maximum amount of time the meter allows, whichever is longer, to the first 4.5 hours.

MOTION: SUPPORT (M/S Horvath/Akamine)

- F. [House Bill 1531/Senate Bill 2121](#) – Relating to Emergency Announcements. Requires the Governor or mayor of a county to provide an American Sign Language interpreter during each official announcement broadcast via television or the Internet during a state of emergency. Requires the Governor or mayor of a county to ensure, to the fullest extent possible, that the American Sign Language interpreter's face, body, arms, and hands are visible during the broadcast. Requires a news media outlet to display the American Sign Language interpreter in a picture-in-picture window during broadcasts of official emergency announcements.

Committee member Violet Horvath mentioned that some broadcasts make the picture in picture (PIP) so small it's hard to see on smaller screens. Committee Chairperson Charlotte Townsend asked staff to research what might be an appropriate minimum size for the PIP and to incorporate their findings into DCAB's testimony.

MOTION: SUPPORT INTENT (M/S Horvath/Akamine)

- G. [Senate Bill 2267](#) – Relating to 911 Services. Requires the 911 Board to establish, implement, and maintain a statewide emergency safety profile system that allows residents to voluntarily create and manage secure personal profiles containing information relevant to emergency responses.

Staff commented this has a companion: [House Bill 1577](#).

MOTION: SUPPORT INTENT (M/S Horvath/Akamine)

- H. [Senate Bill 2385](#) – Relating to Disaster Services. Amends the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency's functions to include ensuring compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and related federal and state disability access laws by integrating the needs of individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs into emergency planning, preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation activities. Appropriates funds to establish a Disability

Integration Specialist and for programming support for disability community projects.

MOTION: SUPPORT (M/S Horvath/Townsend)

- I. [Senate Bill 2209](#) – Relating to Rental Discrimination. Allows the court to award attorneys' fees to a prevailing party in an action relating to discriminatory practices in a rental transaction based on source of income.

MOTION: MONITOR (M/S Akamine/Horvath)

- J. [Senate Bill 2210](#) – Relating to Housing Discrimination. Allows the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission to prosecute discrimination based on source of income in housing cases.

MOTION: MONITOR (M/S Horvath/Akamine)

- K. [Senate Bill 2213](#) – Relating to Environmental Protection. Requires the Department of Education to establish a statewide Environmental Stewardship Curricula Plan for public schools for certain students. Beginning with the 2027-2028 school year, requires public schools to offer an environmental stewardship course for certain students. Requires the Department of Education to establish and administer sustainability programs, including recycling and composting programs, to be implemented at public schools. Beginning 7/1/27, prohibits the use or distribution of single-use plastic utensils, trays, straws, and other disposable plastic food service products in public school cafeterias. Beginning 7/1/28, requires each public school to have at least one operational refillable water bottle filling station accessible to students and staff. Requires reports to the Board of Education and the Legislature. Appropriates funds.

No motion was made to take a position on this bill.

- L. [Senate Bill 2222](#) – Relating to Mental Health. Requires the Department of Education to identify as an excused absence any absence due to the student's mental or behavioral health. Limits the number of excused absences due to mental or behavioral health that a student may take per academic year. Exempts an absence due to the student's mental or behavioral health from the enforcement of penalties relating to compulsory school attendance.

Several people commented that the bill is poorly drafted, contradictory, and confusing.

MOTION: MONITOR (M/S Horvath/Greene)

- M. [Senate Bill 2347](#) – Relating to the Residential Landlord-Tenant Code. Requires the Office of Consumer Protection to periodically publish an accessible, multilingual notice of tenant rights. Requires a landlord to provide a tenant with a copy of the notice of tenant rights.

Staff commented there is a companion [House Bill 1776](#). DCAB often receives calls from landlords or from tenants with a disability who are not sure what their rights and obligations are under state law.

MOTION: SUPPORT INTENT (M/S Greene/Horvath)

- N. [Senate Bill 2348](#) – Relating to Cardiovascular Screening. Requires cardiovascular screening for students, including student athletes. Requires the Department of Education, in collaboration with the Department of Health, to distribute educational and informational materials regarding sudden cardiac arrest. Requires the Department of Education to implement policies, programs, training, and continuing education that increase health care provider knowledge of cardiovascular screening guidelines.

MOTION: MONITOR (M/S Horvath/Akamine)

- O. [Senate Bill 2364](#) – Relating to Home Care Agencies. Prohibits a home care agency or person with a financial interest in the home care agency from providing home care services to a client if the home care agency or person owns or leases the client's residence.

Staff explained there is a licensing requirement for residential care homes that some companies are getting around by being both the landlord who rents a room to someone and the agency which is providing in home care services to the tenant.

MOTION: MONITOR (M/S Townsend/Greene)

- P. [Senate Bill 2365](#) – Relating to Community-Based Care. Requires the Department of Health to adopt rules mandating that each primary caregiver and substitute caregiver in a Community Care Foster Family Home be a licensed nurse or certified nurse aide. Makes the requirements for primary and substitute

caregivers applicable to all Community Care Foster Family Homes, regardless of the number of clients in the home.

MOTION: MONITOR (M/S Townsend/Horvath)

The Committee approved all of the positions it took at this meeting.

MOTION: APPROVED (M/S/P Greene/Akamine)

VI. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 2, 2026, at 12:00 p.m.

VII. The meeting adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

NOTE: All votes were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,

BRYAN K. MICK



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DRAFT MINUTES

Standing Committee on Communication Access Meeting

LOCATION: Virtual via Zoom and In-Person Location

Kamamalu Building

1010 Richards Street, Rm. 111A and 111B

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

DATE: October 30, 2025

TIME: 11:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Gerald Isobe, Chairperson; LisaAnn Tom, Board Member; Bryan Mick, Justin
"Pono" Tokioka, Staff

PUBLIC PARTICIPANTS: Donald Sakamoto, Nani Watanabe

SIGN LANGUAGE

INTERPRETERS: Keri Lee and Sabina Wilford

REAL TIME

CAPTIONERS: April Chandler and Kelly DeCamp

- I. Chairperson Gerald Isobe called the meeting to order at 11:08 a.m.
- II. Board members, staff, captioners, and sign language interpreters introduced themselves.
- III. Statement from Public and Written Testimonies Submitted.

No written testimonies were submitted.

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes of September 11, 2025.

The minutes of the September 11, 2025, meeting were approved as circulated (M/S/P Tom/Isobe).

V. Old Business

A. Review of Establishment of American Sign Language Classes in Elementary Schools.

This is a continuing discussion from our last meeting on September 11, 2025 regarding the establishment of American Sign Language (ASL) classes in public elementary schools. Board member LisaAnn Tom expressed strong support for offering ASL at the elementary level and noted that some ASL teachers are already brainstorming potential curriculum ideas. She suggested the Department of Education (DOE) review how ASL could fit into current school schedules.

Chairperson Gerald Isobe emphasized the benefits of early exposure, noting that young children pick up languages easily through interactive and visual methods. He and Board member LisaAnn Tom discussed potential collaboration between special education teachers and Deaf instructors, possibly starting in schools near existing ASL programs, such as Pearl City High School. He also suggested that special education teachers could help facilitate instruction, while Board member LisaAnn Tom proposed offering ASL as an elective or enrichment class.

Board member LisaAnn Tom will continue consulting with ASL teachers and parent coordinators to gather curriculum ideas and share updates.

TESTIMONY: Nani Watanabe highlighted that other languages like Japanese, French, and Spanish are offered, so ASL should be included as well.

The Committee agreed and stated that research would be conducted on how other states implement ASL in elementary schools. Staff confirmed the research would begin after this meeting, with a report to follow at the next meeting.

VI. New Business

A. Report on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Advisory Board (DHHAB) Meeting held on September 20, 2025.

Staff reported that the meeting went well and two (2) new staff members were recently hired to support the Deaf section of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR). The Board proposed forming a subcommittee to focus on collecting data about Kids of Deaf Adults (KODAs), including surveying their experiences and potential interest in becoming interpreters. Staff will participate in the subcommittee to help with survey development and interpreter recruitment efforts.

Board member LisaAnn Tom supported the survey idea and staff confirmed it would be distributed online via email to parents of KODA children and through networks such as DVR. Clarification was provided that KODA refers to children under age 18 with Deaf parents, while CODA refers to adult children of Deaf adults. Staff noted that outreach to Deaf individuals on Maui, Kauai, and the Big Island is challenging due to limited DVR involvement and staffing shortages.

TESTIMONY: Nani Watanabe reported on the Maui Deaf community, noting limited gathering opportunities and a need for proactive engagement.

The next DHHAB meeting is scheduled for November 8, 2025, when further updates are expected.

B. Update on the Deaf Awareness Day event held on September 27, 2025.

Deaf Awareness Day on September 27, 2025 drew one hundred twenty five (125) attendees, marking a successful turnout. The day opened with remarks from Board Chair Charlotte Townsend and a speech by Dr. Angel Ramos, principal of the Hawai'i School for the Deaf and the Blind. A panel of five (5) Deaf community members shared personal stories about communication access in families, schools, and workplaces, while a Deaf museum exhibit offered historical perspectives of local Deaf individuals through stories and photographs, enriching the cultural context. The event was livestreamed for remote audiences.

Although the event was well-received, several areas for improvement were noted. Some feedback suggested that the panel discussion ran too long, which prevented the planned entertainment from occurring. The Committee recommended implementing time limits for panelists to maintain the schedule and allow for audience participation. There was also discussion about attracting more hearing participants, since raising awareness about Deaf culture and accessibility among hearing individuals is a primary goal. Ideas for future events included separating

activities for Deaf and hearing audiences, planning further in advance, and ensuring accessibility for Deaf-Blind attendees. Despite minor setbacks, the event was considered a success, and the Committee expressed confidence that the next Deaf Awareness Day would benefit from improved planning and engagement strategies.

C. Summary of the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency (HIEMA) meeting on September 30, 2025.

The Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency (HIEMA) meeting on September 30, 2025, involved DCAB staff to discuss improving communication access for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. The discussion focused on lessons learned from past tsunami warnings, emphasizing the need for on-screen interpreters, captioning for TV broadcasts, social media posts, and press announcements.

TESTIMONY: Donald Sakamoto highlighted additional considerations for tourists who may face language barriers, suggesting the use of visual cues for emergencies and exploring multilingual captioning options.

Staff acknowledged these challenges and noted that HIEMA is exploring ways to integrate solutions, including referrals to the Office of Language Access for non-English communication. The meeting was described as productive, and HIEMA expressed a desire to continue collaborating with DCAB, with the new staff responsible for press and public information still learning about DCAB's services and available referral resources.

D. Review of quarterly Communication Access statistics.

Staff presented the quarterly Communication Access statistics, summarizing key activities and outcomes. One Hawaii Quality Assurance System (HQAS) applicant was tested during the quarter, and twenty three (23) interpreters remain active in the Continuing Education Program. Staff provided five (5) instances of technical assistance related to the revised Hawai'i Administrative Rules, Title 11, Chapter 218 and continued to post monthly updates of credentialed communication access providers on the DCAB website.

Eight (8) interviews were conducted with interpreter training program representatives across the country to explore effective models for Hawai'i. Following this, staff met with Senator San Buenaventura to discuss support for establishing an Interpreter Training Program at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

Thirty (30) technical assistance responses were provided to individuals and agencies on effective communication, including collaboration with HIEMA to improve emergency accessibility following the recent tsunami warning.

Other ongoing activities included monitoring the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) updates on communication access and meeting with the Office of Enterprise Technology Services to advance the draft Hawai'i Electronic Information Technology Disability Access Standards. Several projects, such as first responder training and continuing education workshops, had no activity this quarter.

E. Real-time captioning of phone calls at no cost funded by the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) fund which is administered by the Federal Communications Commission.

The discussion focused on real-time captioning of phone calls offered at no cost through funding from the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) fund, which is administered by the FCC. Staff clarified that DCAB does not endorse or promote any specific company but shared information about a new FCC-approved service called "Rogervoice."

This service provides an app that enables real-time captioning for phone calls, allowing Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals to communicate directly with hearing persons without the need for a video relay interpreter. The app generates live transcripts of spoken conversations and allows users to type their responses. Staff noted that the program is free of charge and may serve as a helpful communication tool for the community, though it has not yet been tested by DCAB staff.

F. Recap of the Deaf Safari Day event held on October 25, 2025.

Staff provided a recap of the Deaf Safari Day event held on October 25, 2025, hosted by Relay Hawaii. Approximately seventy five (75) people attended, including members of the Deaf community, ASL students, and several families with children, some of whom traveled from the neighbor islands to participate. Staff noted that it was encouraging to see new faces and appreciated the strong turnout of vendors who set up booths to share resources and information.

DCAB staff attended the event and distributed outreach materials to raise awareness about available services and programs. The event was described as a positive community gathering that provided valuable exposure and connection opportunities for Deaf individuals and their families from across the state.

VII. Open Forum

During the open forum, a public comment from Donald Sakamoto shared his thoughts on how technology could improve communication between individuals who are blind and those who are Deaf. He expressed interest in exploring the potential of artificial intelligence and emerging tools such as Meta smart glasses or Ray-Bans that could one day translate sign language into speech or text and vice versa. He noted that while interpreters are helpful, having accessible technology for direct communication would be a significant advancement.

Staff responded that AI-based sign language interpretation tools are still in early development and not yet capable of recognizing the natural grammar and structure of ASL. One example mentioned was a company called Handspeak, which uses a camera to translate signed input into text, though it requires slow, deliberate signing to function accurately. Staff explained that while current tools have limitations, there is growing investment in this area, and future improvements could make such technology more practical. The discussion concluded on an optimistic note, acknowledging that continued innovation in AI could one day bridge communication between Deaf and blind individuals more seamlessly.

VIII. Announcement of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 8, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:21 p.m.

NOTE: All votes were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,

JUSTIN TOKIOKA



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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DRAFT MINUTES Standing Committee on Facility Access Meeting

Location: Virtual Location Via Zoom

Date: January 9, 2026

Time: 10:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Michael Nojima, Chairperson; Scott Fleming, Dayne Greene, Teri Spinola-Campbell, Board Members; Kristine Pagano, Rodney Kanno, Glenn Arakaki, Staff

ABSENT: Ron Awa, Board Member

I. Chairperson Michael Nojima called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m. and reviewed the Virtual Meeting Procedures.

II. Roll was called and Board members and staff introduced themselves.

III. Statement from the Public and Written Testimonies Submitted

No public statements or written testimonies were submitted.

VIII. Approval of Committee Meeting Minutes of April 22, 2025.

The April 22, 2025 meeting minutes were approved as circulated (M/S/P Spinola-Campbell/Greene).

IX. Old Business

A. Document Reviews and Implementation of Fee Schedule – Update

Report on review fees collected and the number of document reviews conducted between April 22, 2025 to January 8, 2026.

Rodney Kanno informed Committee members that the Facility Access Unit (FAU) reviewed seven hundred sixty six (766) projects from April 22, 2025 to January 8, 2026 of which three hundred forty four (344) were new submittals. FAU collected \$704,453.07 in fees during that same time period. Rodney Kanno shared that during the same time period from April 22, 2024 to January 8, 2025, FAU conducted eight hundred three (803) project reviews of which four hundred ten (410) were new submittals and collected \$809,696.02 during that time period.

X. New Business

A. Interpretive Opinion

DCAB 2026-01 Slope of Walking Surfaces – Clarifies that 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.

Rodney Kanno explained to Committee members that Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) section 403.3 of the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design requires that cross slopes are to be no greater than 1:48. In a scenario where two (2) pedestrian walkways with two percent (2%) cross slopes meet at a right angle, the diagonal slope from one corner to the opposing diagonal corner exceeds two percent (2%).

Rodney Kanno explained that ADAAG section 403.3 is silent about diagonals at a change in direction condition at walking surfaces.

The guidance received from U.S. Access Board was that the only cross slopes of concern are those measured perpendicular to the direction of pedestrian travel. The Department of Justice could not provide any guidance since there is no documentation that addresses the condition DCAB inquired about.

Rodney Kanno explained to Committee members that staff's recommendation is to review the cross slope that is perpendicular to the direction of entry and direction of exit where change in direction occurs within accessible routes.

Chairperson Michael Nojima asked Committee members if they had questions or comments regarding the interpretive opinion. Chairperson Michael Nojima had a

question about the slopes shown in one of the illustrations which was included in the documentation that was provided to Committee members. Rodney Kanno clarified the slopes shown on the illustration. There was no further discussion. The Committee approved the recommended ruling (M/S/P Fleming/Spinola-Campbell).

XI. Open Forum

No items were raised.

XII. Announcement of Next Meeting

The next meeting is TBD.

XIII. Adjournment

XIV. The meeting was adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

NOTE: All votes were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,

RODNEY KANNO



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STAFF SUMMARY FOR THE DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD GENERAL MEETING

March 19, 2026

TOPIC: U.S. Access Board Seeks Public Comment Regarding Approach to Technical Requirements for Universal Changing Stations.

SUMMARY:

The U.S. Access Board has published an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) asking for public comment on its approach to developing technical standards for universal changing stations required to be provided by sponsors of medium and large hub airports seeking airport development project grants.

The Access Board is considering an approach to the universal changing table standard that would incorporate by reference section 613.4 of ICC A117.1– 2017 with Supplement 1, which is the portion of the existing industry standard that provides technical criteria for the surface of an adult changing table. As noted above, the Access Board participated in the development of this industry standard. The Access Board could incorporate the industry standard into its regulation with or without modifications. Alternatively, the Access Board could develop its own standard, drawing from the current ADA and ABA Accessibility Guidelines, 36 CFR part 1191, as well as its Accessibility Standards for Medical Diagnostic Equipment (MDE Standards), 36 CFR part 1195, to establish criteria for the size, capacity, height adjustability, maneuvering clearances, and side rails. While these existing guidelines and standards do not directly address universal changing tables, the criteria for maneuvering clearances, size, capacity, side rails, and height adjustability could be derived from them.

The Board has asked for comments on twelve (12) specific questions.

ANALYSIS:

Question 1: Is the better approach to incorporate the industry standard, section 613.4 of ICC A117.1–2017 with Supplement 1, by reference or to develop an original standard derived from existing federal accessibility standards? Please explain.

Staff Comment: Section 613.4 of ICC A117.1–2017 with Supplement 1 is specially designed for universal changing tables and should be used.

Question 2: Were the Access Board to incorporate by reference section 613.4 of ICC A117.1–2017 with Supplement 1, are there any provisions that should be modified or added?

Staff Comment: No.

Question 3: As described above, existing federal and industry standards diverge with respect to the height range and intermittent heights of the table surface. The Board is seeking to accommodate the widest range of individuals with disabilities who need to transfer onto and from universal changing tables, as well as caregivers of different heights who must accomplish the tasks without additional assistance. The Board is thus considering requiring the height of this surface to be continuously adjustable within a specified range, which is different than the existing federal and industry standards. The Access Board seeks public comment on the best approach to height adjustability and the optimal range.

Staff Comment: If Section 613.4 of ICC A117.1–2017 with Supplement 1 is not used, then the height of the table surface that can be continuously adjustable within a specified range should be required based on what manufacturers indicate is technically feasible.

Question 4: Please provide information about height adjustability of universal changing tables currently available on the market, and whether existing models are continuously adjustable.

Staff Comment: No comment.

Question 5: For sanitation, should the Access Board require that the universal changing table have a non-porous surface?

Staff Comment: Yes.

Question 6: What other specifications not addressed above, if any, should be required?

Staff Comment: None.

Question 7: What elements that are essential for assisted toileting should be required in the room where a universal changing table is located? Please provide specific information as to the purpose of each recommended element. In the alternative, the Board could reference A117.1–2017, Section 613.2.1 which requires specific components to be provided in a room with a universal changing table that contains one water closet and one lavatory. This includes soap dispensers, hand towel dispensers, coat hooks, waste receptacles, and signage all in compliance with A117.1–2017.

Staff Comment: A117.1–2017, Section 613.2.1 should be referenced.

Question 8: Should the Access Board incorporate by reference A117.1–2017, Section 613.2.1 instead of creating its own standard based on existing Federal accessibility guidelines? If so, should the Access Board include any additional requirements that go beyond the referenced standard?

Staff Comment: A117.1–2017, Section 613.2.1 should be referenced.

Question 9: The sanitation equipment required by ICC A117.1–2017 with Supplement 1 includes a sink and a soap dispenser. What other types of sanitation equipment, if any, should be required?

Staff Comment: Disinfecting wipes dispenser should be provided so users of the universal changing table can wipe down (disinfect) the table before use.

Question 10: With respect to privacy of the room, the Access Board will likely include a requirement that the door to the room be lockable from the inside. What other specifications for privacy, if any, should be required?

Staff Comment: DCAB supports requiring the door to the room be lockable from the inside with an “in use” indicator.

Question 11: The Access Board seeks public comment on the costs associated with the provision of a universal changing table and room where the table is located. The Board especially appreciates information about actual costs incurred in the installation of these facilities.

Staff Comment: No comment.

Question 12: The Access Board seeks information regarding the number of medium and large hub airports that would be applying for airport development grants beginning in 2030, and thus

subject to 49 U.S.C. 47107(y); the number of terminal buildings at such airports; and the number of airports and/or terminal buildings where universal changing tables are already provided.

Staff Comment: No comment.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Board submit comments on the Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM).