



# DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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

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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: April 30, 2026  
TIME: 11:00 a.m.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPANTS: Donald Sakamoto, Fanny Yeh

#### SIGN LANGUAGE

INTERPRETERS: Jordan Kotani and Keri Lee

#### REAL TIME

CAPTIONERS: April Chandler and Kelly DeCamp

- I. Chairperson Gerald Isobe called the meeting to order at 11:14 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 January 8, 2026.

The minutes of the January 8, 2026, meeting were approved as circulated (M/S/P Tom/Isobe).

- V. Old Business

- A. Continuing discussion on the Continuing Education Unit (CEU) Workshop Funding Application Form, including next steps related to a recent sponsor request.

The Committee continued discussion on the CEU Workshop Funding Application Form, focusing on timelines and submission requirements. The Committee

proposed adding a submission deadline of two (2) weeks prior to the workshop date to allow adequate processing time (M/S/P Tom/Isobe).

B. Continuing discussion and planning for the 2026 Communication Access Conference.

The Committee continued planning for the 2026 Communication Access Conference, reviewing venue options and costs. The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i was identified as the preferred option due to lower cost, accessibility, and parking, with Ala Moana Hotel noted as a possible alternate site. The Committee discussed potential dates and proposed a tentative date of Saturday, September 26, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., pending venue availability. The Committee also proposed registration fees to encourage attendance commitment, setting them at \$40 for professionals and \$20 for Deaf/Hard of Hearing/Deaf-Blind community members (M/S/P Tom/Isobe).

C. Review and Establish a Disability and Communication Access Board Guiding Principles on Communication Access – Draft.

The Committee reviewed the draft Disability and Communication Access Board Guiding Principles on Communication Access. Members expressed agreement with the draft and adopted them as circulated (M/S/P Tom/Isobe).

VI. New Business

A. Staff Speaking Engagement Report on the following activities:

i. February 11, 2026, John A. Burns School of Medicine.

Staff provided a presentation to approximately seventy (70) medical students on ADA requirements, communication access in medical settings, the use of interpreters and Video Remote Interpreting (VRI), and challenges facing the Deaf community, including interpreter shortages.

ii. April 13, 2026, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

Staff provided back-to-back presentations to two (2) ASL 102 classes, reaching approximately forty two (42) students. The presentation covered ADA requirements, communication access, and the need for interpreters in Hawai'i, including certification pathways for students interested in becoming interpreters.

iii. April 21, 2026, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

Staff participated in a panel discussion at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UH) focused on the interpreter shortage in Hawai'i and the need to establish an interpreter training program at UH. The panel included UH department leadership, American Sign Language (ASL) instructor, and a community interpreter, with approximately thirty (30) individuals attending in person and thirty four (34) participants joining via Zoom. Discussion also

addressed communication access needs across the Deaf community, including Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and late-deafened individuals.

B. Report on the outcome of an applicant for the Hawai'i Quality Assurance System (HQAS) test.

Staff reported that the applicant passed the HQAS test at Level 5. The applicant is originally from the mainland and has been residing in Hawai'i for an extended period of time.

VII. Open Forum

During the Open Forum, public participant Fanny Yeh inquired about the status of the interpreter training program at the University of Hawai'i. Staff provided a brief update noting it remains under legislative consideration, with funding still being discussed through the budget process.

Public participant Donald Sakamoto requested future agenda consideration for emergency preparedness planning for the Deaf and disabled community, particularly regarding shelters and disaster response procedures. In response, staff noted related legislation is currently in progress that includes provisions for disability-focused emergency planning and coordination within the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency.

VIII. Announcement of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 4, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:13 p.m.

NOTE: All votes were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,

JUSTIN TOKIOKA