



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 and 1010 Richards Street, Rooms 111A and 111B

Date: June 4, 2026

Time: 11:00 a.m.

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

GUESTS: Emma Caires, Michael Maeda

SIGN LANGUAGE

INTERPRETERS: Denise Green and Sabina Wilford

REAL TIME

CAPTIONERS: Kelly DeCamp and Faith Langenkamp

I. Chairperson Gerald Isobe called the meeting to order at 11:06 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 April 30, 2026.

The minutes of the April 30, 2026, meeting were approved as circulated (M/S/P Tom/Isobe).

V. Old Business

A. Review and approval of revisions to the description of the Disability and Communication Access Board purpose statement in Section 1 of the Continuing Education Unit (CEU) Workshop Funding Application Form, including clarification of application requirements and submission deadline language.

The Committee reviewed the proposed revisions to Section 1 of the CEU Workshop Funding Application Form. The primary change clarified the application submission deadline language, specifying that applications must be submitted at least three (3) months prior to the workshop date or they will be considered incomplete and not reviewed. The Committee approved the revised form (M/S/P Tom/Isobe).

- B. Continuing discussion and planning for the 2026 Communication Access Conference, including announcement of the conference venue, establishment of admission fees, and identification of workshop topics.

The Committee received an update on planning for the 2026 Communication Access Conference. Staff announced that the conference will be held on September 26, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i. Admission fees were confirmed at \$20.00 for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deaf-Blind community participants, and \$40.00 for professionals. Registration will include lunch, parking, communication access workshops, and continuing education opportunities.

The Committee also discussed conference workshop topics and speaker recruitment. Staff reported ongoing efforts to secure presenters from the mainland, including experts on artificial intelligence, communication access technologies, and digital communication. Members emphasized the importance of focusing on emerging technology and communication trends while aligning the conference with Deaf Awareness Month.

VI. New Business

- A. Section 3 of the Plan of Action - Communication Access
The plan of action purpose is to formalize the Board's philosophy that underlies its policy statements, and to set forth the goals and objectives that guide its actions for the fiscal year (FY).

1. Review and discussion of the current FY 2025-2026 Plan of Action goals and objectives.

The Committee reviewed the current FY 2025–2026 Plan of Action goals and objectives and discussed staff recommendations for FY 2026–2027. Staff explained that the majority of goals and objectives would remain unchanged, with several revisions proposed to better reflect current priorities and ongoing initiatives.

2. Discussion including staff recommendations for the FY 2026-2027 goals and objectives and approval of FY 2026-2027 Plan of Action goals and objectives.

The Committee reviewed and supported the following recommended changes:

Staff recommendations for the FY2026-2027 objectives are:

3.1.4 Update and maintain a registry of current communication access providers (for Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and other persons with communication access disabilities) and their credentials and post it on the Disability and Communication Access Board's website. ~~[(Priority 2)]~~ (Priority 3)

The priority level was reduced from Priority 2 to Priority 3 because updates are made only as needed.

~~3.2.3 Collaborate effort or organize a celebration for a Deaf Awareness event. (Priority 1)~~ Amend objective to read: Facilitate an annual State Communication Access Conference. (Priority 2)

Revise the objective from “organizing a Deaf Awareness event” to “facilitating an annual State Communication Access Conference” and assign it Priority 2.

~~3.4.3 Follow up on the report on the status of American Sign Language Services in Hawaii, pursuant to Act 2024-24, by proposing funding to support efforts to increase the number of ASL interpreters in the State. (Priority 1)~~ Amend objective to read: Advocate for an Interpreter Training Program legislation to support efforts to increase the number of American Sign Language interpreters in the State. (Priority 1)

Amend the objective to be “advocating for legislation establishing an Interpreter Training Program (ITP) to increase the number of American Sign Language interpreters in Hawai‘i” and maintain it as Priority 1. Staff noted that related legislation was introduced during the 2026 legislative session but did not pass.

Add new objective “3.4.4 Pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution 63 Senate Draft 1, conduct a study on the health care communication needs of patients who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind, and submit findings and recommendations to the Legislature. (Priority 1)”

Add an objective that “DCAB to conduct a study on the healthcare communication needs of individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind and submit findings and recommendations to the Legislature, pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution 63 SD1.” This objective was designated Priority 1.

Committee members also discussed ongoing efforts to provide continuing education opportunities for interpreters and the importance of increasing interpreter availability statewide. Board member LisaAnn Tom suggested exploring collaboration with researchers who have previously conducted related healthcare communication studies.

Board member LisaAnn Tom moved to approve the FY 2026–2027 Plan of Action goals and objectives, including the recommended revisions and new objective. Chairman Gerald Isobe seconded the motion (M/S/P Tom/Isobe).

By unanimous consent, the agenda was taken out of order to consider Item V.B., Continuing discussion and planning for the 2026 Communication Access Conference, including announcement of the conference venue, establishment of admission fees, and identification of workshop topics.

The Committee discussed admission fees for students attending the conference. The committee approved a motion that all students, including elementary, middle school, high school, undergraduate, and graduate students, be eligible for a conference admission fee of \$10.00 upon presentation of proof of current student status (M/S/P Isobe/Tom).

Recess: 12:17 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Following the recess, the Committee considered potential themes for the 2026 conference. The committee approved a motion that the official theme for the 2026 Communication Access Conference be “Deaf Awareness Month: The Next Generation of Communication Access” (M/S/P Tom/Isobe).

VII. Open Forum

No comments, questions, or additional matters were raised by Committee members or members of the public.

VIII. Announcement of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 10, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:48 p.m.

NOTE: All votes were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,

JUSTIN TOKIOKA