



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
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MINUTES

Standing Committee on Communication Access Meeting

Location: Kamamalu Building
1010 Richards Street, Conference Room 111A
Honolulu, HI 96813

Date: February 13, 2018
Time: 11:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Misella Tomita, Chairperson; Nikki Kepo'o, Board Member;
Francine Wai, Kirby Shaw, Colin Whited, Kamaile Hopfe, Staff

ABSENT: Ed Chevy, Board Member

SIGN LANGUAGE

INTERPRETERS: Sarah Comerford, Michelle Morris

GUESTS: Mala Arkin (Individual), Heather Benjamin (Hawaii Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf), Yoshiko Chino (Individual), Ann Ito (Individual), Susan Kroe-Unabia (Isle Interpret), Ami Tsuji-Jones (Individual)

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Misella Tomita called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m.

II. Introductions

The attendees introduced themselves.

III. Approval of January 9, 2018 Meeting Minutes

The Committee approved the January 9, 2018 minutes (M/S/P Kepoo/Tomita).

NOTE: The minutes were written in the order the items were shown on the agenda, not as they were discussed at the meeting.

IV. Old Business

A. Hawaii Quality Assurance System – Update

Staff announced that the current number of interpreters enrolled in the Continuing Education Program stands at 30. A total of 10 interpreters were granted an extension to complete their CEUs for the cycle that ended on December 31, 2017. One (1) interpreter has since earned the necessary CEUs; the remaining nine (9) have until the end of March 2018 to earn their

remaining CEUs. They have until the end of March 2018 to earn their remaining CEUs.

Staff also announced that DCAB received evaluations and scored the HQAS Test performance of one HQAS interpreter, whose credential had expired. The interpreter achieved an HQAS Level IV +H credential.

B. HQAS Continuing Education Unit Workshops – Update

Staff announced that on January 13, 2018, DCAB Staff hosted a CEU workshop entitled, "Vocabulary of the Legislative and Budget Process." A total of 15 individuals attended, and overall feedback was that the workshop was very well received. Staff is working with the University of Hawaii Comprehensive Service Center (UH-CSC) to coordinate a second workshop for those unable to attend on January 13. There were also requests for remote (Neighbor Island) participation, so staff will explore this option for the second workshop.

Also, staff announced that DCAB is continuing to work with Hand Ninjas to plan the DCAB co-sponsored CEU workshop. It is planned for March 9 – 11, 2018 at Kapiolani Community College. Further announcements will be made in the near future.

C. Amend Hawaii Administrative Rules, Title 11, Chapter 218, "Communication Access Services for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind" – Continued Discussion

See attached: "Addendum to the Communication Access Committee Meeting – February 13, 2018."

D. Communication Access Fact Sheets – Update

Staff announced that DCAB worked with the University of Hawaii Comprehensive Service Center to produce a "fact vlog" on legislation to require open captioning at movie theaters. This video can be viewed on DCAB's website. Staff has begun working with UH-CSC to produce a second "fact vlog" on legislation (other than open captioning) relating to communication access.

E. Legislation on Open Captioning and Audio Descriptions at Movie Theaters – Update

Staff provided an update on open captioning legislation. Legislation has moved through both chambers of the legislature. Measures are waiting to be heard by their final referred committees before crossing over to the opposite chamber.

F. Interpreter Mentoring Program

Due to time constraints, this item was moved to the next committee meeting.

V. New Business

A. Emergency Alerts – Access for Individuals who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or Deaf-Blind

Francine Wai reported that staff has contacted the Office of the Governor regarding the lack of communication access on the emergency alerts on Saturday, January 13, 2018. Further updates are forthcoming.

B. Status on Other Legislation Relating to Communication Access

Staff provided an update on legislation to require captioning during televised emergency announcements. DCAB's position is to support the intent, while offering comments that additional requirements, such as live American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation, will increase the number of individuals that are afforded effective communication during emergency broadcasts. This is important to note because a significant number of individuals with a hearing disability graduate high school without the reading proficiency needed to effectively understand written emergency announcements. The measure moved through the House with support. Legislation is awaiting to be heard by their final referred committees before crossing over to the opposite chamber.

Staff also shared an update on legislation to create a fund within the legislature to pay for interpreters at meetings of the Deaf and Blind Task Force. The measure will be heard on February 14, 2018 by the House Committee on Health and Human Services. DCAB is taking a position of support.

VI. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. at 1010 Richards Street (Kamamalu Building) in Room 118.

VII. Announcements

None.

VIII. Open Forum

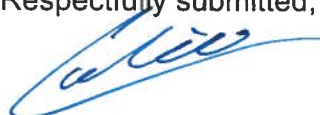
No issues discussed.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

NOTE: All votes were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,



COLIN M. WHITED