



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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February 9, 2009

LATE TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill 306 – Relating to Transportation

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) is a statewide board with seventeen (17) members appointed by the Governor, thirteen (13) of whom are persons with disabilities or family members. The Board's mission is to advocate and promote full inclusion, independence, equal access, and quality of life for persons with disabilities in society. This testimony represents a position voted upon by the Legislative Committee of the Board.

DCAB supports House Bill 306 - Relating to Transportation which seeks a "complete streets" policy that ensure usability by people of all ages and physical ability.

Our office served as one of twenty-seven national members of the U.S. Access Board's Advisory Committee on Public Rights of Way. As such we strive to develop appropriate policies and design standards for sidewalks and other public right of way venues with an emphasis on access for persons with disabilities. In addition, we review all construction projects of the State of Hawaii and the counties in the public right of way for access. It has not been until recently that street design has acknowledged the importance of inclusive pedestrian design for safety. We therefore support this bill to create additional importance to this issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this issue.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES W. FLEMING
Chairperson

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director