



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**News Release**

**LINDA LINGLE**  
GOVERNOR

---

CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO, M.D., DIRECTOR  
Phone: (808) 586-4410  
Fax: (808) 586-4444

---

For Immediate Release: August 23, 2005

05-56

**HAWAII RECEIVES \$300,000 TO ENSURE VOTING RIGHTS  
FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

HONOLULU –The Hawaii State Department of Health's Disability & Communication Access Board (DCAB) and the Office of Elections have received a \$300,000 Election Assistance to Individuals with Disabilities (EAID) federal grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The grant will help the State meet requirements of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) by ensuring Hawaii's voting process is accessible to people with disabilities.

Francine Wai, DCAB Executive Director said, "The purpose of this funding is to make polling sites more accessible, create alternative ways of voting that are independent and private for people with disabilities, and to include people with disabilities in all aspects of voting including working at the polls. These major improvements are targeted for the 2006 elections."

Beginning in October 2005, a voter kick-off event will bring the disability community together to "talk story" about their voting experiences and accessibility needs. Throughout the fall, smaller voter workshops will be held to focus on increasing voter registration among the disability community and will provide information on how to register to vote, what to expect at the polls, accessibility tools available and voting rights.

For more information about the Election Assistance for Individual with Disabilities project or to participate in future events, contact Joan Bird at 808-586-8121 (V/TTY), [joan.bird@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:joan.bird@doh.hawaii.gov).

###

For information contact:  
Joan Bird  
Disability & Communication Access Board  
Hawaii State Department of Health  
Phone: 808-586-8121  
E-mail: [joan.bird@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:joan.bird@doh.hawaii.gov)