ANNUAL REPORT

Disability and Communication Access Board

July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009

Linda Lingle, Governor, State of Hawaii
Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D., Director of Health

Disability and Communication Access Board
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OVERVIEW

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) is a Governor-appointed, statewide, 17-member Board whose mission is to advocate and promote the full integration of independence, equal access, and quality of life for persons with disabilities in society.

This Report highlights key accomplishments for the year July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009.

DCAB BOARD MEMBERS

Charles Fleming, Chairperson
Nani Fife, Vice-Chairperson

Dean Aoki
Ron Awa
Ed Chevy
Sharon Fountain
Peter Fritz
Mark Giblin
Ann Ito
Brian Kajiyama
Lance Kaneshiro
Marie Kimmey
Lucy Miller, Ph.D. (from 11/08)
Christina Pilkington (to 11/08)
Glenn Morgan
Mark Obatake
Norman Oleson
Correna Pawn-White

STAFF

Francine Wai, Executive Director

Debbra Jackson, Planner

Charlotte Townsend, Coordinator Program and Policy Development Unit
William Nakamatsu, Program Specialist
Judy Paik, Program Specialist
Kristine Pagano, Communication Access Specialist
Leonard Lau, Program/IT Specialist
Jacob Dalton, Communication Access Technician

Curtis Motoyama, Facility Access Coordinator
Gary Batcheller, Facility Access Specialist
Duane Buote, Facility Access Specialist
Mona Higa, Facility Access Specialist
David Poe, Facility Access Specialist
Laurie Palenske, Facility Access Support Specialist

Susan Rocco, SPIN Coordinator
Jan Tateishi, SPIN Program Specialist

Cindy Omura, Secretary/Researcher
Rene Clymer, Clerk Typist/Researcher
James Letoto, Office Assistant
Geraldine Kealoha, Office Assistant

CIVIL RIGHTS, ADA COORDINATION, AND CITIZENSHIP

State and County Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordination and Training

• Per Governor's Administrative Directive 06-02, continued in the role of State ADA Coordinator by staffing quarterly meetings of the State Departments ADA liaisons and hosted quarterly meetings of the County ADA Coordinators, and provided technical assistance in resolving consumer complaints to State and County programs and services.

• Conducted eleven (11) trainings on either Title II of the ADA or general disability awareness and hosted fourteen (14) audio conference calls on the ADA for State ADA Coordinators.

• Conducted five (5) trainings for consumers on their rights or on legislative advocacy.

DBTAC PACIFIC ADA CENTER

ADA training and technical assistance is supported, in part, through an annual Memorandum of Agreement with the Pacific ADA Center in Oakland, California.

Federal ADA Legislation and Rules Analysis

• Successfully supported Congressional passage of the ADA Amendments Act and the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act.

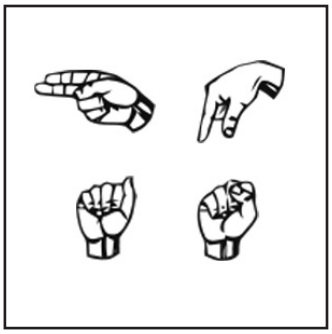
• Analyzed and commented on the proposed U.S. Department of Justice rules for Titles II and III of the ADA.

Voting Access

• Coordinated with the State Office of Elections, federal and state elections to ensure access at three hundred thirty nine (339) polling sites during the November 2008 elections.

COMMUNICATION ACCESS

Hawaii Quality Assurance System



• Administered the Hawaii Quality Assurance System (HQAS) test to credential sign language interpreters to nine (9) applicants and a local language proficiency test (HQAS+H) to three (3) applicants.

• Completed a psychometric study of the reliability and validity of HQAS.

• Created a web listing of communication access providers with information on the credentials or certificates of a practicing interpreter.

Hawaii Administrative Rules §11-218

• Amended Hawaii Administrative Rules Title 11, Chapter 218, "Communication Access Services for Persons who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind" to recognize credentials from the National Interpreter Certification (NIC) and amend the recommended fee schedule for real time captioners, effective February 27, 2009.

Communication Access and Technology Training and Technical Assistance

• Served on the Judiciary's Committee on Court Interpreting, the Office of Language Access Advisory Council, the Hawaii Interpreting Services Advisory Board to ensure consistency in the use of interpreters statewide.

• Conducted six (6) trainings on communication access to various State and community groups.

• Co-sponsored an Expo on "Making Life Accessible Through Technology."

Making Life Accessible Through Technology

FACILITY ACCESS

Document Reviews

• Conducted eight hundred seventy two (872) document (blueprint) reviews of buildings, facilities, and sites of the State and Counties per §103-50, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) to ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) and other guidelines adopted by DCAB.

• Rendered five (5) interpretive opinions on design guidelines applicable to §103-50 HRS and rendered decisions on two (2) site specific alternate design requests following public hearings on Kauai (Lydgate Trail Path) and Oahu (Manoa Library).

Master and Community Planning

• Analyzed and reviewed two (2) master plans to incorporate accessibility at the earliest stages of planning and conceptual design.

• Participated as a member of the Department of Health's Safety and Healthy Community Environments Committee, the Complete Streets Task Force (which successfully advocated for legislation on the issue of complete streets), and the Home for Life Committee (which successfully advocated for legislation to create a Home for Life Task Force).

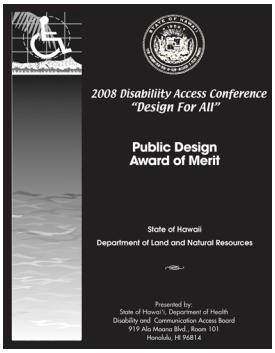
Training and Technical Assistance

• Coordinated the 2008 Design For All Conference and conducted nineteen (19) workshops or training sessions for the architectural and engineering community on accessible and exemplary design.

• Developed twelve (12) "Access E-Bulletins" to disseminate information on facility access to the architectural and engineering community.

• Responded to one thousand three hundred seventy six (1,376) requests by fax or email from design professionals for assistance on accessible design guidelines.

Awards for Excellence in Design



• Coordinated the 2008 Accessible Design Awards to recognize accessible and exemplary design of public and private buildings, facilities, sites, and recognized the awardees at the 2008 Design For All Conference.

• Co-sponsored, with the Assistive Technology Resource Centers of Hawaii, the first Chaminade Student Design Awards for excellent in interior design for aging in place in residential homes and combined the awards with the hosting of three (3) workshops on "Accessible Home Design."

Code Analysis

• Provided extensive analysis and recommendations to the State Building Code Council, established in 2008 to develop a Statewide Building Code modeled after the International Building Code (IBC). DCAB's Standing Committee on Facility Access served as the Investigative Committee on Accessibility for the Council and made recommendations on the accessibility language to be included in the State Building Code.

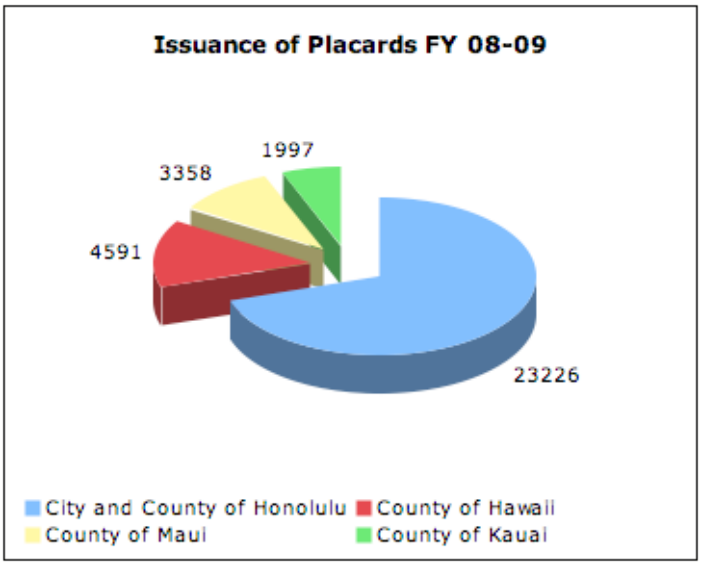
• Reviewed and provided extensive comments to the U.S. Department of Justice on the proposed adoption of the new ADAAG, as used by the U.S. Access Board, as it applies to the ADA Titles II and III.

PARKING FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

DCAB administers the parking program for persons with disabilities in the State of Hawaii per §291, Part III, HRS and in compliance with Federal Law, P.L. 100-641.

Issuance of Parking Placards to Qualified Persons with Disabilities

• Coordinated the issuance of 33,212 placards (including purchasing and disbursing the placards, decals, identification cards, and application forms) to qualified persons with mobility impairments by the four (4) Counties in FY 2008-2009. The number of placards issued by County was as follows: City and County of Honolulu 23,266, County of Hawaii 4,591, County of Maui 3,358, and the County of Kauai 1,997. Of the total placards issued 27,994 or 84% were four-year or permanent placards and 5,218 or 16% were temporary placards issued for a period of six (6) months or less. A total of 73,817 individuals held active placards as of June 2009.



• Oversaw the transaction of disbursement of $397,764 to the Counties for issuing the placards on behalf of the State of Hawaii and the collection of $74,422 from the Counties for placards issued to consumers.

• Retrieved 1,144 placards from the estates of deceased placard holders (for a return rate of 48% from letters mailed to the respective estates) and 8,101 expired placards upon renewal of the expired placard or for reasons other than death of the permittee.

Public Education and Outreach

• Conducted six (6) speaking engagements to civic organizations to increase public awareness.

• Developed three (3) videos to assist the public as well as entities responsible for providing accessible parking spaces on (1) how to obtain a parking permit, (2) rights and responsibilities of permit holders, and (3) how to design an accessible parking stall. The videos were uploaded to YouTube and are available through the DCAB web site.

Enforcement of Accessible Parking Spaces

• Continued to work with the County police departments and parking control agencies to enforce the correct use of accessible parking spaces by contacting businesses and management agencies to seek voluntary compliance to correct design standards.

Parking-Related Legislation and Advocacy

• Successfully opposed several bills in the 2008 Legislature intended to expand the eligibility of the parking program and prepared a 'White Paper' outlining the rationale for program eligibility.

EDUCATION
(Special Parent Information Network)

The goals and objectives of DCAB in the area of Education and Training are carried out by the Special Parent Information Network (SPIN) under a Memorandum of Agreement with the State Department of Education.

SPIN 'Warm Line'

• Provided information on programs and services available to support a child with special needs through one thousand five hundred one (1,501) warm line phone calls and emails.

Parent and Professional Training

• Sponsored its annual conference "In SPIN We Trust" with three hundred eighty five (385) participants in attendance and conducted nine (9) additional individualized presentations to parents or professionals on subjects ranging from positive behavioral supports to due process.

SPIN News and Information

• Published four (4) regular and one (1) special edition of the SPIN newsletter offered to all families with a child with an Individualized Education Program through the Department of Education school system. Maintained parent resources through the SPIN web site.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Implementation

• Collaborated with and provided staff support to the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) to review the State Department of Education's proposed revisions to Chapter 19, 56, and 53.

COMMUNITY LIVING

Increasing Community-Based Services

• Supported legislation to maintain services for persons with disabilities, given reduced funding. Some of the legislation that DCAB monitored and or supported included establishing a center for deafness, continuation of the Aging and Disability Resource Center, condominium living for people who are elderly or disabled, and environmental sensitivity.

• Served on the QUEST Expanded Access (QExA) Advisory Group and provided technical assistance on outreach efforts as the Department of Human Services rolled out its managed care program for individuals who are aged, blind, and disabled.

• Served on advisory committees for the Aging and Disability Resource Center, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Advisory Board, Respite Task Force, Stride Mentoring, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Grievance and Appeals, Partnership in Community Living Committee, Center for Disability Studies, Mental Health Transformation-State Incentive Grant Work, and the Assistive Technology Resource Centers of Hawaii.

Emergency Preparedness Planning and Initiatives

• Hosted a community forum to update the "2008 Interagency Action Plan for the Emergency Preparedness of People with Disabilities and Special Health Needs." The Plan is targeted for completion in summer 2009.

• Published a report "Emergency Planning for People with Disabilities: 2008 Agency Readiness Survey."

• Initiated the development of two (2) videos on emergency preparedness for people with disabilities utilizing funds from the Centers for Disease Control Public Health and Emergency Preparedness Cooperative Agreement. The videos are targeted for completion in fall 2009.

TRANSPORTATION AND TRAVEL

Ground Transportation

• Served on the City and County of Honolulu's Department of Transportation Services Advisory Committee for Accessible Transportation.

• Provided comments on the State Department of Transportation's "Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan" and served on its Review Committee for FTA 5310 program funding.

Air Travel

• Updated the "Hawaii Traveler Tips" guide to assist visitors with disabilities on travel to Hawaii and its fact sheet on the Air Carrier Access Act for persons with disabilities due to the adoption of new rules, effective May 2009.

Water Transportation Systems

• Provided recommendations to Hawaii Super Ferry Inc. and to the City and County of Honolulu's The Boat on the accessibility of their respective water systems. (Note: Both services were discontinued in FY 2009.)

Rail Transit

• Met with and provided written comments to the City and County of Honolulu and its consultants on facility design and program needs of persons with disabilities on the proposed rail system.

Motor Vehicle Licensing Procedures

• Assisted the State Motor Vehicle Licensing Division to develop a Procedures Manual and a training video for front line County staff to assist them in responding to applicants who might have disabilities applying for a driver's license.

EMPLOYMENT

Employment Plans, Policies, and Legislation

• Reviewed and commented on the State and County new policies and procedures relating to reasonable accommodation in the workplace and on the State Vocational Rehabilitation Plan and its Order of Selection.

• Successfully achieved amending State law to include comparable employment language to the ADA Amendments Act.

Employment Nondiscrimination Training

• Conducted ten (10) ADA Title I related trainings, including the new ADA Amendments Act.

• Participated with the Pacific ADA Center to conduct a survey of employer perceived barriers to hiring people with disabilities.

State Reasonable Accommodation Requests

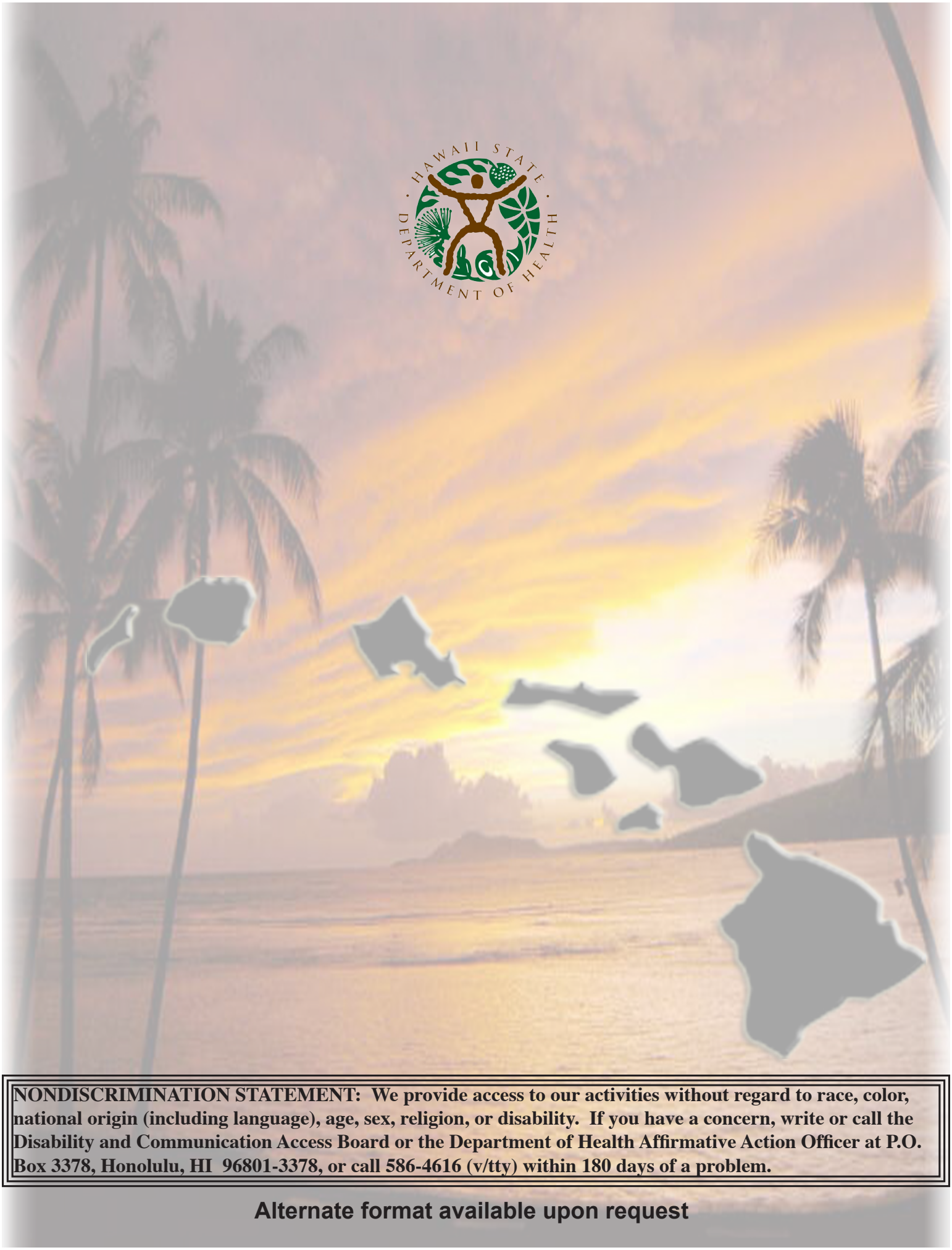
• Provided extensive consultations on twelve (12) complex reasonable accommodation cases for State employees with disabilities.

OTHER INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

• Responded to 3,790 inquiries (excluding the SPIN warm line and design fax inquiries) on programs, services, and laws affecting people with disabilities.

• Expanded its web site with information and videos on the ADA, design, communication access, parking, community resources, emergency preparedness, parent information, visitor information, and voting.

• Published three (3) editions of its newsletter (discontinued due to funding in early 2009).



NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT: We provide access to our activities without regard to race, color, national origin (including language), age, sex, religion, or disability. If you have a concern, write or call the Disability and Communication Access Board or the Department of Health Affirmative Action Officer at P.O. Box 3378, Honolulu, HI 96801-3378, or call 586-4616 (v/tty) within 180 days of a problem.

Alternate format available upon request