



PATRICIA MORRISSEY
STATEWIDE ELECTIONS
ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
CHAIR

**STATE OF HAWAII
STATEWIDE ELECTIONS ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
STATEWIDE ELECTIONS ACCESSIBILITY
NEEDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

MAY 7, 2024 @ 1:30 PM

Pursuant to Section 92-3.7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the Statewide Elections Accessibility Needs Advisory Committee will be meeting remotely using interactive conference technology. Members of the public may have participated in the meeting via Zoom.

Committee Members in Attendance:

Patricia Morrissey, Chair
James Gashel, Vice Chair
Ramoda Anand

PROCEEDINGS

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Statewide Elections Accessibility Needs Advisory Committee was called to order by Chair Morrissey at 1:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum

All members of the Statewide Elections Accessibility Needs Advisory Committee were present at the meeting with the exception of Committee Members Keim and Nelson.

III. Approval of minutes for the April 2, 2024 meeting

Vice Chair Gashel made a motion to approve the minutes for the meeting of April 2, 2024, which was seconded by Committee Member Anand, and approved by the Committee.

- IV. Update from the Office of Elections on the status of the Committee's previous recommendations relating to voter education, outreach, and accessible voting

The agenda item was not addressed.

- V. Status of HB 1976

The Committee was unable to address the agenda item. Chair Morrissey shared that a complaint was filed with the Office of Elections (OE) regarding the agenda item and said that it will be discussed in the next meeting.

- VI. Review and discussion regarding the Department of Justice's updated voting guidance

Chair Morrissey shared that she had not read the guidance and suggested to postpone the review and discussion until the next meeting. Vice Chair Gashel said he will provide a presentation to the Committee about the topic in the next meeting.

- VII. Review and discussion about a resource to share information on how voting center works can assist voters with accessibility needs

Vice Chair Gashel expressed that the document was a good first draft. He recommended several revisions including: replacing "volunteers" with "workers" and recommend that the pamphlet include the phone numbers to the County Elections Divisions and OE.

Donald Sakamoto, Chair for the City & County of Honolulu Elections Accessibility Needs Advisory Committee, asked for the draft prepared by Chair Morrissey be read. Nedielyn Bueno, Voter Services Section Head, OE, read the document, which included information about how to assist voters in various situations including: providing assistance with long lines, drop off locations, and at the entrance of voter service centers.

Chair Morrissey said she would like to finalize and distribute the pamphlet in the next month so they are able to conduct a training soon. Vice Chair Gashel added that the Committee can make a YouTube video for the workers to supplement the pamphlet.

- VIII. Discussion about transportation assistance for voters with accessibility needs

Regarding the Committee's recommendation to provide transportation assistance for voters with accessibility needs, Chair Morrissey expressed that there are monetary issues given the bill to provide the Committee a budget

did not passed. She continued that there is a need to provide transportation to the voter service centers and suggested the following: Put out a notice to voters with accessibility needs that offers free rides to voter service centers. After their visit, the voter will submit proof to OE and OE will reimburse the cost of the ride up to \$15.

Anthony Akamine, Election Information Specialist, OE, shared that there may be an issue relating to providing incentives or money to vote. He shared he will discuss further with OE's legal counsel.

Chair Morrissey continued that she imagines that only a few people would use the service and anticipates that a maximum of \$2,500 would need to be available for the program. She commented that there would need to be deadlines for vouchers.

IX. Discussion on a Question & Answer resource material related to accessibility needs for Hotline use

Chair Morrissey lead the conversation by asking the Committee to brainstorm questions specifically about accessibility that OE's hotline should anticipate. Vice Chair Gashel responded that callers may ask about using an accessible electronic ballot including how to receive and send the ballot. Vice Chair Gashel said he will work with OE further.

Committee Member Anand left the meeting at 2:28 pm.

X. General discussion on issues for voters with disabilities

The agenda item was not addressed.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned once Committee Member Anand left the meeting as there was no longer quorum.