

COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (DRAFT)

May 10, 2007

County Building, 4th Floor Conference Room

CONVENE: 2:02 p.m.

PRESENT: Norita DeLima, Chair
Marguerite Rowland, Vice-Chair
Darren Quinn
Karen Hue Sing-Ledesma
Donald Reaser
Andrew Valentine, Jr.

EXCUSED: Patricia Duckwork
Kealoha Laemoa

ADMIN.: Edward Kushi, Deputy Corporation Counsel

STAFF: Denny Schwind, ADA Coordinator

GUESTS: Tracy Souza
Charlotte Smith
Harry Johnson, Maui Economic Opportunity
Ramoda Anand
Anthony Simmons
Matt Moser
Mary Matsukawa
Susie Eng, State Workforce Development Division
Tony DeJetley

MR. SCHWIND: Alright, we can just go ahead. We had opened the meeting at about two minutes after 2:00. We had a motion to accept the minutes as distributed by Mr. Valentine.

MR. VALENTINE: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: I'll second.

MR. SCHWIND: Second.

MR. SOUZA: . . . (inaudible) . . .

CHAIR DELIMA: Do we—

MR. SOUZA: It's been approved and seconded . . . accept the minutes?

CHAIR DELIMA: The minutes have been approved as distributed.

MR. SCHWIND: We have some members of the public here that want to make a presentation.

CHAIR DELIMA: Can you please identify yourselves as we go around the room. My name is Norita Delima. I'm the Chair for the Commission on the Handicapped. I also volunteer for the State Commission with the Civil Defense.

MR. SOUZA: I'm Tracy.Souza. I'm the former Chair.

MR. REASER: I'm Don Reaser.

MR. SCHWIND: Member.

MR. JOHNSON: Harry Johnson from MEO.

MR. ANAND: . . . (inaudible) . . .

MR. SIMMONDS: Ramoda Anand, Commissioner.

MR. SCHWIND: Past commissioner.

MR. KUSHI: Oh, Ed Kushi from the Corp. Counsel's office.

MR. DEJETLEY: Tony DeJetley.

MS. ENG: Susie Eng, Workforce Development Division.

MS. MATSUKAWA: Mary Matsukawa, State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Ex-officio.

MS. SMITH: Charlotte Smith, the Commission founder and ex-officio.

MS. HUE SING-LEDESMA: Karen Hue Sing-Ledesma.

MR. VALENTINE: Andrew Valentine, Commissioner.

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: Margo Rowland, Commissioner.

MR. QUINN: Darren Quinn, Commissioner.

MR. MOSER: Matt Moser, caregiver for Darren.

MR. SCHWIND: Dennis Schwind, ADA Coordinator. Good afternoon.

UNKNOWN: . . . (unknown) . . .

MR. SCHWIND: I'm sorry.

UNKNOWN: . . . printed agenda.

MR. SCHWIND: You didn't get an agenda? Is there anybody else that needs an agenda, maybe we can take a break? You need one? One--

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: We got it in the mail about a week ago.

MR. SCHWIND: Two, three. Okay, you want to just hang on for a second, I'll get some made. I will turn this off just in case . . . (break in recording) . . .

RECESS

RECONVENE

CHAIR DELIMA: I call this meeting back to order. We have for public testimony Mr. DeJetley from Hana to speak.

MR. DEJETLEY: I'd like to thank the Committee for hearing me today. What, the reason I'm here is because of an issue which occurred on May 5 at Hamoa Beach. For those of you who don't know what Hamoa Beach is. Hamoa Beach is a beach in Hana, which is known around the world and is in several publications and has a very, very high rating throughout the world as being the best beach in the world.

However, at the top of Hamoa Beach—can I pass these around?

MR. SCHWIND: Sure.

MR. DEJETLEY: At the top of Hamoa beach, if you take a look, there is no type of handicapped parking whatsoever at all. The staircase going down to the beach is unmaintained and hazardous. The only access down to Hamoa Beach is through a private driveway, which is gated.

In the past it has been accessed upon request, which means if you send someone, if you were unable to walk down, you would send someone

down, ask them to unlock the gate, and then you would be allowed to drive down, unload and then move the car back up to the top to park on the roadside.

On Sunday they blocked that access and they said no access would be granted to anyone whatsoever at all, handicapped or not. Saturday and then Sunday a reporter came out to get the story. And Sunday a day or so said that, they changed the story a little bit where they said it's the policy not to let anyone down, but it would be a good deed if they did let someone down to unload.

It's just to bring you, bring attention to the situation out there. I think everyone should have equal opportunity to go to Hamoa Beach. The hotel does have a restroom with, for their hotel guests which does have a ramp. However, the public restroom, the only way to access it is a flight of stairs, which means if you're not staying at the hotel and you're in a wheelchair, technically you couldn't use the restroom down there.

I think some changes should be made and that's the reason I seek the Committee's help.

MR. VALENTINE: May I ask you a question?

CHAIR DELIMA: Sure.

MR. VALENTINE: Valentine speaking. Who owns the driveway that you're talking about?

MR. DEJETLEY: Hotel Hana Maui.

MR. VALENTINE: And they have the control of the, let me see, control of the driveway, public restroom—

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: No, they have their own restroom.

MR. DEJETLEY: Overall access.

MR. VALENTINE: Overall access. So the public access that's available is only through a stairway, a stairway down there, but it's on public land. on County land?

MR. DEJETLEY: It is not. It is privately owned.

MR. VALENTINE: That's all private. So the beach, it's public but there's no—

MR. DEJETLEY: Access.

MR. VALENTINE: Ah.

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: You know, I just want to kind of follow up on that because we've been out to Hamoa a number of times, and it's gotten to the point that unless I can get somebody to open that back gate, I can't get down there. And it's really frustrating. Even once you get down there, it's very steep and to back back up or get a car down there, like, I mean my handicapped van could no more go down that hill. I mean, it's, the whole situation is very bad. So I concur with what you're reporting, definitely.

Now, is the road that runs in front of there, is that a County road or a State road?

MR. DEJETLEY: I do not know. I do know that it's patrolled by County police officers, but I don't know who owns the road. I do know that surrounding access to Hamoa Beach is owned by Hotel Hana Maui, and I did bring it up to the beach attendant that I need, to give you an idea, I have a back injury, which I suffered in 1998. I try my best. Some days it bothers me, some days it doesn't. I was celebrating my daughter's birthday, my back was acting up. I needed to unload a cooler, something I've done my entire life at that beach. I was denied access by the beachboy. I then called the hotel manager and I brought it to his attention that isn't there some type of loading-unloading for Americans with Disabilities. He replied, regardless if I had a disability or not, regardless if I was in a wheelchair, he would not grant me access due to liability.

CHAIR DELIMA: Go ahead, Mr. Valentine.

MR. VALENTINE: Mr. Valentine. Question. Going back to the Midwest, I'm thinking this but, can we as a council, a commission, request a clarification of the hotel's policy for allowing access to that beach across their property lines?

MR. SCHWIND: Request from the hotel?

MR. VALENTINE: From the hotel.

MR. SCHWIND: Oh, certainly.

MR. VALENTINE: From the hotel, what their policy is and with that, what my thinking is, if we get that, then we know how to approach County officials and to negotiate access for us. If it's a public beach--and I understand

how some of the things happen--if a public beach that can be utilized by our constituents, then we need to find access, some type and negotiate access. We had that same kind of thing in Indianapolis at our big reservoir, and we had to negotiate with the property owner to, they have a specified access protocol for persons with disabilities to get to the public beach that was on the reservoir itself.

MR. SCHWIND: Yeah, we certainly can request—this is Denny—certainly we can request a policy, yeah, would you please, yeah—from the hotel. After talking to Tony, I did do a little research and certainly this is not the final answer, but I am looking into what legally is required of the hotel in terms of beach access. And based on what I know so far is that the hotel comes under Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, just like the County comes under Title II. The hotel is obligated to provide access to any of its activities for its guests. So if a guest that needs an accommodation to get down to that beach, the hotel has to figure out how to get that person down there.

But in terms of non-guests, now we're talking about private property issue that the ADA does not support in terms of a non-registered guest for the hotel. You're a member of the community that wants to get down to that beach through private property. Okay. And to do so, the hotel—again, this is not chiseled in granite by any means—but to my understanding of the ADA law, they do not need to provide accessible access to the members of the public.

Now, even though they've done it in the past, evidently their lawyers or whatever had felt that it's now a liability for the hotel to allow vehicles down through that driveway, down to the beach where they can unload materials or passengers.

So that's I found out so far. If anything changes I certainly, you know, will inform the Commission at our next meeting. But I believe that it is an issue that I don't mean to say that the Commission shouldn't pursue it and encourage the hotel to try to provide an accommodation for the residents that had been using that pathway since day one to access the beach area. But I don't think right now that they're legally obligated under Title III of the ADA to provide that level of access to non-hotel guests.

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: Denny, I have a question. The beach itself is public.

MR. SCHWIND: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: And my understanding is that it's required on the private sector to allow public access to public beaches. I mean—

MR. SCHWIND: And they are.

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: What, I'm sorry?

MR. SCHWIND: I said and they are.

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: So why can, I mean it seems to me that would it be the State or the County that would require the hotel to allow public access to a public beach. I mean it's like all the hotels _____ from the Renaissance to the Maui Prince, they all have to have public access to their beaches.

MR. DEJETLEY: I wanted to bring something up earlier but—

MR. SCHWIND: Sure.

MR. DEJETLEY: The reason I'm seeking the Committee's help is it's not just, there is public access. You can walk down to the beach. No one will block you from walking down to the beach. It's seeking equal, which gives me the same right as you to both go to the beach, and that's what they're not providing, is equal access to people with disabilities to go to the beach as someone who can walk down the steps.

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: Right.

MR. SCHWIND: And that's the kind of gray area right now because it is an issue of the beach belongs to everybody. The property belongs to the hotel. And, again, if you're a registered guest of the hotel, they have to provide you with access down to the, just like they would for any of their other registered guests.

The question is for non-registered guests of the hotel and what type of rights they have in terms of accessing that beach. That's the part that I'm really not a 100 percent sure yet, but I will find out before our next meeting. You know, what, the County has no authority to enforce the ADA, nor the State of Hawaii. Only the courts and the Department of Justice can enforce it, but this Commission can certainly encourage the hotel, you know, to develop a policy that would provide access for individuals with disabilities to access that.

Whether they're legally or obligated or not, I haven't gotten far enough to find out whether or not they legally need to provide that level of access, although it's the proper thing to do.

Mr. Valentine.

MR. VALENTINE: Mr. Valentine speaking. You're right _____, they're not legally obligated. It is from past experience, it's a negotiated process. If there is public access then the question is negotiations, the upbringing of that public access. That's why we need to know what their policy is so when we confront the County Council or whatever entities of the County of how we develop the access that's there to allow, you know, the wheelchair, develop a good wheelchair access, Maui especially. The hotel does not have to allow vehicular access. Went through some court hearings on that. As long as there is foot traffic access, which in our case, Tracy and some of us, wheelchair access, that's access.

They don't have to allow vehicular access. There is another liability situation there, but the key is getting whatever footpath available, upgrade it so that people using walkers and/or wheelchairs can access that area. And that's where the negotiation process comes in.

If I can go back to a situation in Indiana . . . (inaudible) . . . they had to put in what I call zig zag ramps down to that site. That took some negotiation process, but it admit there was nominal access to all people, all persons to the site. And there was not the concern that a vehicle access would create a greater problem down the road. It took some negotiation process, but it did happen now. Some of those places have upgraded to allow an access drive for some things, but it was a long process.

The key is now is to find out what they do so we can ask for expanded access so that all persons in walkers and/or wheelchairs, whatever process they have can get down to that site. That's something that we can make recommendations on and can get through with the auspices of the ADA and other laws that are on the books. Vehicular, it's a long battle. We don't have enough lifetime to battle right now probably because the geographics or whatever. But we can get some progress on this.

MR. SCHWIND: Well, as a Title III entity, under the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act, they are required to do readily achievable barrier removal, which means that if it's easy to move the obstacle out of the way, then you can do it. There are, there is recourse for any Title III entity and that's financial burden and that's technically infeasible. So if the stairway is there and you can't put a ramp in, it's just impossible to build it, then you can't do it. And if the other side, part of that question is if it's \$4 million to put a ramp in, then they're going to claim financial hardship.

But, you know, we're not going to leave it at that. I will follow up on this. We will, with your permission, we'll submit a letter asking the hotel to provide the Commission with a written letter of, written copy of their policy,

then we can bring this up in our next meeting. Because I know that we all want to provide access as best we can.

MR. VALENTINE: One of the things we found out is that through coalitions, other groups and organizations, we were able to bring pressure to bear on those property owners. So it may be a thing that we find, we have to find out what, for example, what fraternal organizations meet there on a regular basis and then approach it. You know, you meet there all the time. You realize that we have constituents who are here and never can and through that process, we had to involve the Army Reserve units, some other groups like the Shriner's whatever to bring pressure to bear on that owner to expand things because they didn't want to lose that image of being the good host hotel.

MR. SCHWIND: Sure.

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: Well, I think what we could look at is the Hana Community Association, you know, as in addition to our Commission in terms of their representing the Hana community and Hana members that are disabled that are unable to access that beach.

MR. VALENTINE: Of course.

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: I think that would be, you know, it would broaden it.

MR. VALENTINE: The coalition with other entities like ours is important to bring pressure to bear. We had to bring everybody in to our little circle of wagons to get this going, any issue going. So, yes, who do we have to contact in Hana? Let us know so that we can approach them. You know, get those community groups involved as well.

MR. SCHWIND: Would you have the owner information for the hotel and—

MR. DEJETLEY: ____ Resorts, LLC is the managing partner.

MR. SCHWIND: I'm sorry.

MR. DEJETLEY: --operating is the managing entity of Hotel Hana Maui. The General Manager of Hotel Hana Maui is Doug Chang. He's also was appointed to my knowledge by Governor Linda Lingle as one of the head of Hawaii Tourism Authority.

MR. SCHWIND: Interesting.

MR. VALENTINE: All that ____ is important.

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: But your family has been in Hana a long time. I recognize your last name.

MR. DEJETLEY: Yes, absolutely.

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: I recognize your last name. So that's a very important part of it, too, is that the people who live there for a very long time. I mean they deserve access to that beach.

CHAIR DELIMA: I recommend that we, Commission write a letter to the hotel to get more information.

MR. SCHWIND: Okay.

MR. VALENTINE: And is there a County—not a County—a city councilor or Committee for Hana, and we need to contact—

MR. SCHWIND: There's a Council Member, which is—

MR. VALENTINE: Is that Council Member and whatever government entity for a better term that manages Hana itself and get their input. Because they may have done things that we're not even aware of in the past.

MR. SCHWIND: There's a Council Member that represents the Hana district, and that's—

MR. VALENTINE: Okay, then we need some input from that Council Member, please.

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: What about the State representative?

MR. VALENTINE: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: I mean it seems like because—

MR. SCHWIND: Mele Carroll, okay.

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: Because you're dealing with Hotel Hana Maui to get as many on your team as possible would not—

MR. VALENTINE: Yeah, we need all elected officials that—

MR. SCHWIND: Well, I think what we can do is "cc" them at least in our request and let them be aware of what the request is.

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: Absolutely.

MR. SCHWIND: Absolutely, okay.

CHAIR DELIMA: Yes, Mr. Reaser. Identify yourself.

MR. REASER: If I could, I think that's an excellent point.--I'm Don Reaser—is to copy them on a letter but give the hotel the first opportunity to respond before we get the wagons in circle.

MR. SCHWIND: Sure. Okay.

MR. REASER: See what they have to say and then we can take a position.

MR. VALENTINE: Exactly. Yeah, contact the hotel and then our response, after the hotel contacts then we bring in everybody else. But, you're right. . . . (inaudible) . . . then we let everybody know what the hotel said.

MS. MATSUKAWA: So may I make a suggestion. It's Mary Matsukawa. In the letter that you would request that they would respond and give a deadline of two weeks. You would like to have a response by, so then we can determine whether or not they've responded.

MR. SCHWIND: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: So does this, I mean are we on the right track to make you feel like you're going to get the support you need from our committee?

MR. DEJETLEY: Yes, I'm very happy with some type of forcing the hotel to come with some policy or create some policy in the way they've handled it. Because if we called the hotel to find policy and we've gotten five different answers from five different people. Today there's an article in the Maui Time about that. And there is no clear cut policy.

Also, one thing which does alarm me is certain, I'm not going to point fingers or say names, but certain politicians who have been in office for many, many years have always realized this problem but have never said anything about it, so that is why I am relying on this Committee to push instead of—

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: So we've kind of talked about one approach. Are there any other ideas or approaches that you would have that you could suggest to us that might be helpful?

MR. DEJETLEY: It is hearsay on this, but there was to my knowledge an agreement established between Hana Ranch back in the early '70s and the County of Maui on undisputed shoreline access equally. I do not have the resources to search for that, but it was an early '70s case to my understanding.

MR. VALENTINE: Hana Ranch.

MR. DEJETLEY: The County of Maui versus Hana Ranch. And I do believe it was settled out of court to my understanding.

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: And that was a lawsuit that was brought to bear in terms of access?

MR. DEJETLEY: Access in general.

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: So anything else that would be helpful for us to know?

MR. DEJETLEY: Not at this time.

CHAIR DELIMA: Do I have any volunteer to write the letter?

MR. VALENTINE: Do we have to write the letter? Sure, I'll work with Denny to get it out. Sure. I don't mind. Some time we can get together and . . . (inaudible) . . . because it has to also, whatever that we write has to meet County guidelines as well so he's our County contact.

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: Yeah.

MR. SOUZA: And you write the letter, bring it to the committee, the committee approves it.

MR. VALENTINE: Yeah, we probably need to have an ad hoc sub meeting before the letter goes out because we want to have a response before the next Commission meeting. So we'll need to meet with, you know, the, I guess the executive office of our Council or two or three or whatever and to get their approval and then send it out because we want a response before our next meeting. So that's going to be up on a . . . (inaudible) . . . get it out pretty quick.

MR. SCHWIND: Well, the only way to do that is to just trust whoever is going to write the letter that it'll have the support of the other members and mail it out because by the time—

MR. VALENTINE: Well, we at least need to run it by the Chairperson.

MR. SCHWIND: Okay.

MR. VALENTINE: Protocol-wise.

MR. SCHWIND: Well, why don't three of us work on it?

MR. VALENTINE: Yeah, it has to go by the Chairperson as the Chairperson is our official.

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: The other thing is for faxes or e-mails. I mean I could get it and get it back to you in no time.

MR. SCHWIND: Okay, does everybody have e-mail? Norita doesn't have e-mail. You don't have fax. Yeah, so for this go-round, we'll just do it paper, paper trail.

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: Okay.

MR. SCHWIND: Alright, anything else, Mr. DeJetley?

MR. DEJETLEY: . . . (inaudible) . . .

MR. SCHWIND: Okay. Alright. Mary, did you have—

CHAIR DELIMA: No, we'll move on to the reports.

MR. SCHWIND: Oh, you have to do your goals, unfinished business. Weren't we going to work on those, Item III?

CHAIR DELIMA: Oh, okay. I see. Do you folks have your short- and long-term goals?

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: Yes.

CHAIR DELIMA: Okay. Marguerite, you can start.

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: You want me to start?

CHAIR DELIMA: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: My, well, I have a couple of things, but my short- and long-term goals involves handicapped parking. I just feel like for however long I've been on this Commission, two or three years, I'm not even sure, I feel like we have made no progress, as much as we've discussed it. And I guess my goal is short- and long-term is to somehow convince the Police

Department that they need to start issuing tickets in handicapped stalls. Because the volunteer commission idea hasn't worked. It hasn't happened. In the meantime, the handicapped stalls are overflowing. So that's my long- and short-term goal on that.

And then my other long-term goal I think is the idea of education in the community, and maybe even in regard to handicap parking, if we put a notice in the paper about that it's going to be enforced or educating the public about where the problems are. One being handicapped parking.]

CHAIR DELIMA: Okay, Darryl, do you have yours?

MR. QUINN: Darren.

CHAIR DELIMA: I mean Darren. I'm sorry.

MR. QUINN: My goals are still a long-term goal would be to get the sidewalks on Baldwin Avenue . . . (inaudible) . . . smooth, flat sidewalk like . . . (inaudible) . . . And the short-term goal would be, I think lately . . . (inaudible) . . . bank in Paia needs some sort of flashing light or sign or something because I've seen close calls every day I've been doing there . . . up and down Baldwin. . . . (inaudible) . . . State issue, but, yeah, that crosswalk at the bank, right up Baldwin is pretty dangerous. So a flashing light or some bumps or whatever might wake up some people . . . (inaudible) . . . crosswalks. That's the reason they're there. So that's it, the sidewalks and the crosswalks are my two goals still—

CHAIR DELIMA: Karen, do you have your long-term and short-term?

MR. SCHWIND: . . . (inaudible) . . .

CHAIR DELIMA: Oh, I'm sorry.

MS. HUE SING-LEDESMA: Yeah, at the other meeting . . . disability awareness day, so I think that would be something to look towards as a short-term since it can be done yearly. And through that, then of course, again, it would be education in the community and stores and different facilities to have equal access, to improve, especially a lot of our parks. That's my—

MR. SCHWIND: Education by doing PSA announcements?

MS. HUE SING-LEDESMA: PSAs, anything. Articles in the newspaper, you know, through this disability awareness day, it could be different targets. Let's say access into different store, you know how a store should be set up to allow room through aisles. You know, nothing on the floor.

Thresholds. So building, construction, the crosswalks, lights, you know that type. So that's my long-term, you know, too numerous to list all the different areas that I see that needs improvements. Anything, should we call it disability cultural awareness, things like that.

CHAIR DELIMA: Mr. Valentine.

MR. VALENTINE: Oh, yes. Well, you covered lot of mine—this is Andrew Valentine again. Awareness is the cornucopia of all of it, and it breaks down. But the awareness day that we sponsored, awareness through recognition. For example, to have it processed, or recognizing various businesses or community facilities like churches or whatever that have access. Or have done things to make sure we have access. Examples, one of the things we did back in the Midwest was developed a universal logo, we used universal access logo with our little headline under it that a store can put in its window where a group of our people who would have processed . . . (inaudible) . . . accessible for us, you know, in wheelchairs or whatever. And they put that little symbol on their front door because that person that needed access would know they can go in and get around well. It didn't cost much and we used various _____ or whatever to be our legs in going out and surveying. And we as a council went out to places and certified that these, we can go in and get out. And, therefore, we put on, on so and so store, we put, we gave that little stamp put up on his front door.

And eventually we developed a directory like that for our community and other places. You have a directory and you know which hotels, which churches, which banks, which whatever had nominal ADA access. And but that guy . . . (inaudible) . . . it involved, it involves utilizing college fraternal groups, student groups, other . . . (inaudible) . . . to feed into us what places are accessible. And we maintained that kind of directory so that our County ADA person had a file to show who volunteered . . . which places had accessible facilities for our people, be it a church or whatever.

Because my goal . . . what churches have good wheelchair access because their members are going to get older and going to need "restrooms and ramps". That's one of my _____. Another thing is recreation access, beaches or whatever. If you can't get to the beach—this is a recreation community. If we can't get to the beaches, what the heck are they for? I don't want to sit yards back and say, oh, wow, it looks good down there. I want to get down to as close as I can to the sand if I can't get in the sand. And that should be for everybody. And I've noticed that a lot more people are coming here as tourists on vacation because I see them on the buses and so forth in chairs. And they're bringing dollars

in our community, then a nominal amount of beaches and recreation facilities should be fully accessible.

And if that's a matter of going through the County Council to get the Parks Department or whatever, so be it. But these are areas where we have . . . ADA impacts the ____ groups we have access to, then I'm with Marguerite. The police enforcing the park, and I know they are short staffed, but what does it take to drive by and see if there's a placard hanging in the mirror, on the mirror or license plate there. If it's not there, it's a sizable fine for violating that. I worked a lot of years to make sure that happened in the Midwest, and even going to Washington to testify about enforcement like that. There's some college campuses that do a better job enforcing it with greater fines than most communities.

Well, we've got the law in Hawaii, and I know the police are busy. They took an oath. That's their job. Enforce the parking. We spend money. It burns my grit when I go to the mall or something and I can't get in the parking because some . . . I mean the yo-yo may have a limitation, but the law says you've got to have the placard or the plate, period. If I go park, no placard, I'm entitled to the ticket.

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND; Well, the other part of that is that I think the doctors need to issue temporary permits to people who are just temporary.

MR. SCHWIND: They do.

MR. VALENTINE. They do. They can.

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: They do, but like a friend of ours just had a broken bone that needed, you know, some rehab. They issued a four-year permit. Well, they don't need a four-year permit. And so I think it's educating the doctors as well.

MR. VALENTINE: No, well, the County failed because the County is supposed to . . . you know, on the form it says is this is a permit or a long-term disability? If it's a temporary disability, it's only for six months.

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: Right, exactly.

MR. VALENTINE: And so somebody at the County level did not read the form right. More than likely. More than likely. But in some cases—

MR. SCHWIND: I think more than likely the doctors because—

MR. VALENTINE: But I've seen both. But then—

MR. SCHWIND: Because the County employees, we don't know these things.

MR. VALENTINE: And I've seen cases, too, where people change it after they've left the doctor's office.

MR. SCHWIND: Yeah.

MR. VALENTINE: And I know a case where something, that has happened. Where they changed that. But if, I don't think there's an easy answer to that, that particular part, but, you know, the key is if we enforce what we've got, it'll get better. And if we need to attend the Police Commission's meetings or whatever, I'll go because that's tantamount to our success, is enforcing the parking.

MR. SCHWIND: Mary, wasn't there something that Robert Douglas did at one time, compiled kind of a policy or procedure thing for doctors to look at when they're issuing those certification documents to, that qualify individuals for permits? And he tried to provide training so that they didn't do that. They didn't issue a permanent permit when a temporary permit would be more than adequate? I remember that was one of the Commission's agendas way back when, when Mr. Douglas was here. And maybe we can go back and look through our records and see what he did at that time because—

MS. MATSUKAWA: I think DCAB has the criteria, you know, so—

MR. SCHWIND: Okay, maybe I can—

MR. VALENTINE: The form is very clear.

MS. MATSUKAWA: Yeah, it's very clear.

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: The other thing is collecting expired placards. I mean there are several cars I've walked by that they have a placard that they'd cut the bottom where the date is. So it looks like a handicapped sticker.

MS. MATSUKAWA: But then, you know, DCAB is trying to trace, doing a database where they can trace when it was issued and when it expires. I think, I can check with DCAB on that.

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: I mean I just feel like we need to—

MR. VALENTINE: If the placard is mutilated it's invalid. There's a statement down there. If it's been whatever on purpose or by accident, it's an invalid placard, and the police are supposed to issue—

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: But if nobody's checking it.

MR. SCHWIND: Yeah, if the dates are—

MR. VALENTINE: If enforcement is going on, they'll catch it. The key is the enforcement. And that's an immediate resolution.

CHAIR DELIMA: Mr. Reaser, you have any . . . on long-term?

MR. REASER: Yes, I have a couple. My first would be to refer to what are '07 Action Plan is with the State, and to ensure that--again, this is a question for the County—are all of our emergency areas prepared to handle as it states here level 2 shelters. Are we currently, have we surveyed, are our shelters prepared to handle level 2?

MR. SCHWIND: What are you reading?

MS. MATSUKAWA: That's the DCAB.

MR. SCHWIND: Yeah, they're just working on that now, so—

CHAIR DELIMA: Yeah, we're working on it—

MR. SCHWIND: Yeah, it's not a final plan yet.

MR. REASER: So is this a year? I mean is this one that, a long-term goal that we should monitor to ensure or—

MR. SCHWIND: I believe it should be short term, but it will be a long-term goal, but, yes, I think providing equal access to everybody regarding shelters is a high priority for the State and the County. A lot of the issues are that the shelters traditionally are owned by the State of Hawaii because they're schools. They're funded and managed by the Department of Education. During a disaster, they're managed by the Red Cross, but they are a program provided by the County of Maui, so you have a lot of bureaucracy involved. Now looking at the facility itself, in terms of the physical access in and out of the school, the State is, by law, required to provide parking, accessible pass, accessible restrooms for all of the schools.

In the Project Civic Access, when we looked at several of those shelters, schools that are used as shelters, there were issues regarding accessibility concerns and that's part of the agreement between the Department of Justice, State of Hawaii and the County of Maui to ensure that those facilities are brought up to current standards.

But that was a snapshot of all the shelters that are out there. And it's something that's going to take a while to fulfill in terms of ensuring that. But it's certainly something that the Commission should keep on top of and keep checking with the Civil Defense. Maybe inviting him to a meeting in the future to find out how they're doing in terms of the accessibility concerns at our shelters.

MR. REASER: That's certainly one that I had. Also, as ____ was saying, in supporting the activities in Paia, it would be nice to survey some of the handicapped parking that's provided at the grocery store adjacent parking. That supermarket is . . . (inaudible) . . . has not added any parking. And I'm sure they aren't to Code on parking at all. But is there a way we can survey what the amount of _____.

MR. SCHWIND: Oh, on Baldwin Avenue?

MR. REASER: Is there a way we can survey the requirements to ensure that the . . . (inaudible) . . . people are supplying it?

MR. SCHWIND: Well, there's two issues here. One is the number of parking stalls is based on the square footage of the buildings or the businesses in which it's serving. So that's a number. That's a fixed number. The County doesn't authorize our permits or whatever without taking into account a visitor's ability to park some place.

Once that parking lot is there, then the ADA kicks in and there's a ratio—

MR. REASER: Yes.

MR. SCHWIND: --of how many stalls need to be accessible. And basically, it's one per 25.

MR. REASER: One per 25.

MR. SCHWIND: Yeah. So if it's, if you have 25 or fewer stalls, then you need to have one accessible stall, and it has to be a van accessible stall which means that it has an eight-foot access aisle. So basically two stalls. Okay. If the stores change or whatever in terms of square footage, again, that would have an impact on the County issuing a permit for that alteration or expansion, and that may require additional stall, parking stalls. If it does then those would have to be accounted for in terms of the accessible stalls.

MR. REASER: That would be one of my short-term—

MR. SCHWIND: Yeah. In terms of surveying, we don't, the County doesn't have the resources to do that. I know that on Oahu, they had the volunteers that issued the violations for abuse of accessible stalls. They kind of put together a little packet, and they were out there measuring things. And then they would take that information back to DCAB and DCAB would just write a letter. I mean, again because DCAB can't fine them, but at least they could say our crew was out there. We noticed that the stall is not compliant because it's not wide enough, the side slope is too steep, or the sign is incorrect. Just to provide that information to the property owner.

MR. REASER: Some of that we could do personally.

MR. SCHWIND: Yeah, I don't see why not. And they have offered several times to come to Maui, but there has been a very limited interest in people attending that. But if it is something that the Commission is interested in, I can certainly get them back here and provide training. But that means someone's got to go out and do something. I mean, if you don't then—

MR. VALENTINE: Along that line, has this Commission ever made inroads into Maui Community College to see if there are student groups that we can attract to be our _____ for example. That usually works. If you got a college group that is already an organized fraternity or whatever, group, that takes an interest in your issues, then they become your legs and will go out and do things. And that saved us a lot of time and effort. And I—

MR. SCHWIND: Yeah, you're talking about monitoring abuse or are you talking about looking—

MR. VALENTINE: They become our cohorts to do things for us. If we can gain some inroads with at least one group, then we've become their annual project. And whatever we need, they will help us do.

MR. SCHWIND: Yeah, as far as I know, I don't believe the Commission has made any contact with any of the schools or colleges.

MR. VALENTINE: You know, I think different college groups are working with other activities, we need to find one.

MS. MATSUKAWA: I'd like to mention that I met Lisa _____. She's the new Disabilities, Disabilities Student Services Council there. So MCC finally has somebody there.

MR. SCHWIND: Wow.

MR. VALENTINE: . . . (inaudible) . . . name.

MS. MATSUKAWA: Lisa _____

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: Well, the other thing is that so many of the schools are requiring community projects now at this point that, I mean, you could also work with one faculty member and have it be a requirement of their students or a choice of their students.

MR. SCHWIND: Yeah, I see them fitting into maybe looking at whether or not the parking stalls themselves, the numbers are correct and the stall is correct. But not in terms of issuing the citations—

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: No, no.

MR. SCHWIND: --because, again, everybody deserves a day in court. And you write the ticket, you go to court, you know. Both as the recipient and as the individual. So that's one of the downsides, down things about the volunteer parking enforcement group is every ticket you write, you spend your day in court. And that's hard on people that have another life outside volunteering.

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: Which brings it back to the Police Department.

MR. SCHWIND: Yeah, but then they're 40 officers down. They're so far behind that they're working 12, 16 hour shifts, so it's hard.

MR. VALENTINE: Can we invite somebody from the Police Department to come to our next meeting.

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: He's come a bunch of times.

CHAIR DELIMA: I tried to invite him this month, but he never got back to me.

MR. SCHWIND: We usually have an officer.

MS. MATSUKAWA: On that, Denny, going back to Margo . . . they're short staffed, and they can't hire enough police officers. There's one officer in Wailuku. I think it's Sergeant Tagumi [sic] who rides in a little cart, like a golf cart.

MR. VALENTINE: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

MS. MATSUKAWA: And I was thinking if we could get him in and just get the data on his little beat because he's out there all the time issuing parking tickets. I think it is going to be hard to get the Police Department behind it

because they're so short staffed. I think if we could just focus with him to begin with, find out if he is citing people for disability parking. Actually, I was parked next to someone that got . . . (CHANGE TAPE) . . .

CHAIR DELIMA: . . . and work on the sidewalks on Waieka [sic]. And my long goals would be to work on the sidewalks at, by Harbor Lights. Because there's no sidewalk. If you wanted to go from Foodland side to go around. Because right now they have a sidewalk up to the first gate at Harbor Lights, but they have the gate locked. So there's no access if I wanted to go that route. I cannot go down on the grass because it's not accessible. The sidewalks, a sidewalk goes and then it stops, so I would like to see a sidewalk right around.

MR. SCHWIND: No sidewalk, no discrimination.

CHAIR DELIMA: Huh?

MR. SCHWIND: Sidewalks are not required by the ADA. If you put a sidewalk in, it needs to be accessible, but sidewalks are not a requirement with the ADA.

CHAIR DELIMA: Oh, okay.

MR. SCHWIND: But it doesn't mean that we can't pursue that and say, hey, State, you know, we have "x" number of people living here and we need that sidewalk extended to from Point A to whatever.

UNKNOWN: Or the other thing is to get Harbor Lights to unlock that door.

CHAIR DELIMA: I tried and they said we need to come to the County and work with the County for the sidewalk. So I don't know.

UNKNOWN: What about the gate, though? Did you ask about having that gate opened up?

CHAIR DELIMA: They said they're leaving it locked for security purposes.

MR. VALENTINE: Twenty-four hours a day?

CHAIR DELIMA: So the only way you can get access to the gate is you have to be a tenant and they give you a card that they swipe to get in and out of that gate.

MR. VALENTINE: That meets ADA, if they're a resident.

MR. SCHWIND: If you're a resident, you can get in. Okay, well, that's fair.

CHAIR DELIMA: Yeah—

MR. SCHWIND: Okay. Or if you're visiting then you need to have that resident come and meet you there.

MR. VALENTINE: Right, exactly.

CHAIR DELIMA: Okay. Charlotte, you have anything to say about long, short?

MS. SMITH: Well, I think my long- and short-term goals is still the same. Maybe not just affordable and accessible houses and that is obviously a very, going to be a very long time in the process. I got an article from the paper. Denny, I think you reproduced it.

MR. SCHWIND: Yeah, I did.

MS. SMITH: And I wanted this passed out and I also got a letter that this same person wrote to The Maui News on the subject. He works with the Office on Aging apparently. . . . (inaudible) . . . let's see, his name is Peter Durkson, that's D-u-r-k-s-o-n.

Maui's, a majority of Maui residents are very hard working people who find it nearly impossible to rent, let alone own an affordable place to live. Most of these same people would also like to live in their homes for their entire lifespan, safely, comfortable, comfortably, and independently and not be forced out of their home into an expensive nursing facility.

Maui's Residential Workforce Housing Policy helps meet one of these needs by requiring the developers, including affordable housing units in their projects demonstrating what County government can do.

Similarly in Maui County Council on Aging Subcommittee is advocating a lifespan residential housing ordinance, which would require that basic accessibility features be included in all new residences.

. . . (inaudible) . . . step entrances, entrance, wider doorways and a wheelchair-friendly bathroom can enable residents to age in place and not be forced into an expensive adult care setting . . . (inaudible) . . . The time has come, therefore, for the Mayor's Office to form an affordable and accessible housing coalition, which brings the diverse stakeholders together. Meeting and working together on a regular basis can be mutually beneficial to all.

And there's a little more to the letter, but basically I think it would be a good idea to have this person speak to the, to the group and because he seems to be working on this. And very few other people are. So if we could invite him and we can get this also copied and get copies of the letter. So that's my short- and long-term goal.

CHAIR DELIMA: Okay—

MR. SCHWIND: . . . work with him and maybe get him, and invite him—

UNKNOWN: Can I, can I mention something. Mary Matsukawa has these disability issues housing forum fliers on the table, and Peter Durkson will be speaking this coming Thursday.

MR. SCHWIND: Oh, wow.

UNKNOWN: At the Cameron Center. So I did, you know, later on I wanted to mention all the different things that are coming up that we need to make everyone aware of if possible—

MR. SOUZA: I have a comment. MEO doesn't want us to go any place on a third Thursday . . . Transportation meeting. Can we get transportation?

MR. JOHNSON: Let me go back to the first question. What was the question?

MR. SOUZA: The question is I've been told that on the third Thursday of every month, there's a drivers' meeting, drivers' meeting for the MEO drivers so we can't get transportation on the third Thursdays.

MR. JOHNSON: On the third Thursday of every month—this is Harry Johnson speaking—on the third Thursday of every month, we do have a drivers' meeting which allows us to . . . (inaudible) . . . our operations. It gives an opportunity. As far as that being law, so to speak, it's not written in any of our policies with MEO. We're just looking at an opportunity for us to hold a meeting. I would continue to probably ask if there is something available to our office and we can see what we can do for something similar to this. But it is not law for MEO in our transportation policy. This just gives us an opportunity to meet with our drivers.

MR. SCHWIND: What time is your meeting?

MR. JOHNSON: The meeting actually lasts three sessions because we have about 80 drivers.

MR. SCHWIND: Oh, wow.

MR. JOHNSON: Yeah. And that's the only time we have. Thursdays is our lighter days for our operations, and that's the reason why we schedule it in three sessions.

MS. MATSUKAWA: Am I hearing right? This is Mary Matsukawa. If somebody needed a ride to attend the forum, you would try and work something out with them?

MR. JOHNSON: We would take a look, first of all, to see what we have available. If that's something that we cannot meet, then we would probably refer you back to Maui Bus, and that's an opportunity as an avenue to also look at.

MR. VALENTINE: . . . (inaudible) . . . has the policy changed? It had been in the past, third Wednesday was the surplus bus day. There was no public shuttle. Shopping center on the third Thursdays. And that's, since that surplus day has been eliminated, are you still now having the shuttles on the third Wednesday of the month as opposed to the third Thursday?

MR. JOHNSON: It kind of depends on what shuttle you're talking about.

MR. VALENTINE: I'm talking about the Kihei shuttle. But usually . . . always been told that on the third Wednesday is when the shuttle, the shuttle runs on the third Wednesday. Then when I called reservations, they didn't know, but they gave me reservations for the shuttle on Thursdays, so—

MR. JOHNSON: Before the—

MR. VALENTINE: It's a gray area here.

MR. JOHNSON: --Kihei shuttle, there is a third Wednesday. That's the only change with Kihei, and that's been going on at least for the last five years or so.

MR. VALENTINE: So then they gave me a reservation for a shuttle that don't exist then this morning.

MR. JOHNSON: I'd probably have to check into that.

MR. VALENTINE: Please.

MR. JOHNSON: You're requesting for a Thursday?

MR. VALENTINE: Yeah, I made reservations this morning and they gave me . . .
(inaudible) . . . next Thursday and—

MR. JOHNSON: Okay. I can speak to you after this meeting that way we can
get this meeting going.

CHAIR DELIMA: Okay. We'll go to new business. The new business is
attendance. It's very important that we all meet each month because we
need at least five people before we can hold a meeting. So I ask that
each one of us members be at the meeting each month because we did
sign a commitment to the County, and I'm hoping that each member take
that into consideration.

Also I put schedules on the table for each month, with what days we're
going to meet.

. . . (inaudible – several members speaking at once) . . .

MR. SCHWIND: Second Thursday.

CHAIR DELIMA: Second Thursday of each month, but I have all the dates.
Okay, if not we'll go to reports. I have here from Kauai about their meeting
with the Civil Defense and the Mayor's committee, advisory committee if
anybody wants to look at it. You're welcomed to look at it.

MR. SCHWIND: Also have DCAB report, you can pass that around.

CHAIR DELIMA: And DCAB report. Okay, and do we have anymore from
transportation to report, Mr. Johnson?

MR. JOHNSON: . . . (inaudible) . . . addressed today and then also what was
addressed last, in our last meeting. I think we pretty much covered the
general subjects that we wanted to discuss. Unless there's anything else
that needs to be discussed by the Committee—

CHAIR DELIMA: Before I forget, if anybody wants the Maui Bus schedules, I
have it here.

MS. HUE SING-LEDESMA: I'd like to ask, this is Karen Hue Sing speaking. I'd
like to ask Harry about the—what was it called?—_____ regional
transportation, like central. There's no crossing boundaries?

MR. JOHNSON: Correct. The current contract that we have with the County
does not allow our geographical crossing. If they wanted a geographical
crossing, they should conduct that more with Maui Bus. And that's how

we're working hand-in-hand with Maui Bus to provide that portion if they desire to go, for instance, from Central to Lahaina. Or from Lahaina to Upcountry.

MS. HUE SING-LEDESMA: So if I, so other than Kahului, if I caught the Maui Bus out to Lahaina and then needed a more direct drop off to someone's home, say maybe up at Lahainaluna Road, so I would call MEO and arrange that?

MR. JOHNSON: That particular service, the fixed route schedule is actually run by, under the County, it's actually being produced by Robert's. Now, under the contract that the County has with Robert's, the Robert's portion, the fixed route schedule has to provide an off-route bus for _____.

MS. HUE SING-LEDESMA: Route so—

MR. JOHNSON: Off route.

MS. HUE SING-LEDESMA: So from Kaahumanu it goes to the Wharf. So then if I needed to go up to Lahainaluna Road, Robert's will do an off-route?

MR. JOHNSON: Because you're utilizing the fixed-route service, Robert's would have to provide an avenue to get to your destination.

MR. SOUZA: So you give Robert's a call and you tell them what day you want to go Lahainaluna Road, what time and they're supposed to accommodate you.

MS. HUE SING-LEDESMA: So that's an ADA requirement?

MR. JOHNSON: In a fixed-route, yes. In a fixed-route.

MS. MATSUKAWA: Is it within a certain mile?

MR. JOHNSON: I believe it's within a three-quarter mile.

MR. VALENTINE: It's three-quarter either way, but it's also negotiable. It's in the individual entity, you know, can negotiate for further, but basically it's three-quarter mile, either side of the fixed-route. But they can make variances. But it's a case-by-case application.

MR. SOUZA: You have any questions, call Robert's. They can help you.

MR. SCHWIND: Well, I didn't even know that myself.

CHAIR DELIMA: We don't have no reports from Molokai.

MR. SCHWIND: The member resigned.

CHAIR DELIMA: One member resigned and the other one asked to be excused for today.

UNKNOWN: Who resigned?

CHAIR DELIMA: Alexander, Mr. Alexander.

MR. SCHWIND: _____

UNKNOWN: So will he be replaced? How does that work?

MR. SCHWIND: Yeah, he'll submit his letter of resignation to the Mayor's Office, and then they go through a screening process, first of all, to see if a volunteer is interested in serving on this Commission. And if so, then that goes through Council for approval. Or if no one has applied for whatever reason not to serve on this Commission, they'll look in other commissions and touch base with them to see if they'd be interested in serving on this Commission. So it takes several months, but the vacancy will be filled.

CHAIR DELIMA: Denny. Yes, go ahead, Mr. Johnson.

MR. JOHNSON: Actually, I have a comment. In regards to the minutes that we had in our last meeting, I just wanted to advise everyone that that issue with Molokai in regards to MEO services there on Molokai has been settled after our last meeting. So I just wanted to advise you.

MR. SCHWIND: Oh, great. Thank you.

CHAIR DELIMA: Denny, you have anything—

MR. SCHWIND: I guess with me it's forward, we're moving forward along with our Project Civic Access agreement with the Department of Justice and also with the Skaff lawsuit. Both of those projects I had previously mentioned are on track.

I was able to attend a conference about two weeks ago of the ADA Coordinators' Association. I attended a four-day workshop. The first day I attended, I focused in on case law under Title I of the ADA and found out how much I didn't know about employment issues. So for the rest of the conference I went back to my comfort zone, which was accessibility, _____ under Title II.

We are moving along with our position, which is for a Civil Rights Specialist position who will be handling the employment issues. Recruitment has been closed on that, and we are in the process of, Personnel Services is in the process of qualifying the applicants for that position. That position, again, will focus more on Title I employment issues of the ADA, but also with respect to other Federal laws that deal with civil rights issues. So I'm looking forward to having that person on board to assist me within the next couple of months.

UNKNOWN: Here, here.

MR. SCHWIND: Yeah, finally. Well, what happened is is that every Administration say, okay, Managing Director, you're the Civil Rights Compliance Officer. And a lot of them, unfortunately, don't have that type of background, so they rely very heavily on our Corporation Counsel or our attorneys that specialize in that area or Mr. Schwind who seems to be the expert on everything that's going on . . . (BREAK IN RECORDING) . . .

CHAIR DELIMA: . . . the only announcement I have is I took it on myself—I hope you folks, members, don't mind—but I invited the Mayor for next meeting. And they're supposed to get back to me.

MR. SCHWIND: The Mayor.

UNKNOWN: For?

MR. SCHWIND: Did she attend? Wasn't she here?

MR. SOUZA: What the reason?

CHAIR DELIMA: So that she get to know us commissioners, and if we have any questions for her, to give her the opportunity to ask us questions herself.

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: Great.

UNKNOWN: Could I make—

CHAIR DELIMA: And also . . . yes.

UNKNOWN: Go ahead and finish.

CHAIR DELIMA: And the second thing I have for the agenda for new business next month is maybe we can start working on planning for the awareness with . . . (inaudible) . . .

UNKNOWN: Mr. who?

CHAIR DELIMA: For July. I'm plugging it for July.

MS. HUE SING-LEDESMA: Plan for what kind of awareness?

CHAIR DELIMA: Mr. Bash.

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: Bass.

MR. SCHWIND: Oh, Bass. Oh, okay. Yeah, great. Fantastic.

CHAIR DELIMA: I mean, I target for July.

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: Sounds great. Perfect.

MS. MATSUKAWA: You know, when, is there a certain month that—

CHAIR DELIMA: No, it's just—

MS. MATSUKAWA: --designated to Disability Awareness Month?

UNKNOWN: Well, October is . . . (inaudible) . . . people with disabilities with awareness.

CHAIR DELIMA: Well, I don't want to wait that long. I figure if we can, even if we gotta do two.

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: Sounds great.

CHAIR DELIMA: I don't want to wait that long. So maybe next month we can come back with ideas or who are we going to invite to do the awareness besides the Mayor.

MS. MATSUKAWA: One thing . . . are you finished?

CHAIR DELIMA: Yes.

MS. MATSUKAWA: One thing that I'd like the group to know that I found out is that the Mayor has appointed a Housing Commissioner. We didn't have a Housing Commissioner prior to this Administration. So that may be something we'd like to ask her about, and the person is Jo-Ann Ridao. So there have been some changes in the County housing. We now have two percent of the conveyance tax going to an affordable housing fund, and there's been some changes in the language in the County Council

regarding housing. So maybe she could address some of those issues, too.

MS. SMITH: I have a comment. This is certainly two steps forward, at least one step back department. But the retail stores like, my problem is Safeway. They've also had, they've always had these check writing areas at the checkout counters with these pull-out shelves. People in wheelchairs can use to write checks and so forth. Well, now they've got these electronic gizmos where you punch in your pin numbers, and it's way up there. And I'm, I try to use my card every time so they'll have to cope with me every time. And I have, I've said I'm going to do an Akaku program called shopping in a hole about this sort of thing. And one of the Safeway the checkout women says every time, are you going to do that yet, because I want to see that done?

CHAIR DELIMA: Safeway is not the only store.

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: It's not. It's all of them.

CHAIR DELIMA: It's all of them.

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: Foodland. It's way up.

MR. SCHWIND: You mean they swipe your card?

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: Uh-huh.

MS. SMITH: That's where you swipe your card and the screen is tilted back this way so you can't see the thing from the chair.

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: But I think the other thing is that could be part of our public awareness campaign because, I mean, that would be a great way to sort of access, not just the Safeway and the Foodlands, but the Macy's and everybody else. I just think public awareness is going to be real key at this point to get some action. Could we talk to the Mayor about the handicapped parking since that's an issue for us? For me?

MR. SCHWIND: Talk to the Mayor.

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: Yeah.

MR. SCHWIND: Oh, yeah.

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: When she's here. I think it would be great to let her know.

MR. SCHWIND: I look forward to it.

MS. HUE SING-LEDESMA: Can I make an announcement?

CHAIR DELIMA: Sure.

MS. HUE SING-LEDESMA: This is in regards to a forum that we had two weeks ago. It was called the National Road to Freedom. And it's about the ADA, which was done in 1974, 5.

MR. SCHWIND: Ninety-one. ADA?

MS. HUE SING-LEDESMA: ADA.

. . . (inaudible – several members speaking at the same time) . . .

UNKNOWN: . . . (inaudible) . . . Act of 1973 was the one you're thinking of.

MS. HUE SING-LEDESMA: Okay, and so with our ADA, a lot of the laws have been overlooked, and so I have here, I have some flyers and information that I'll pass around so everyone can take. I also have a petition that is called "Keep the Promise, Restore the ADA". And there's a, you can read on it, and if you're willing to sign it, I'll take it and turn it in to the headquarters.

MR. VALENTINE: What this did was it tracks the history of the development of ADA and the passing of it of what kind of things went on in the past to generate the need and what has been done since then. So we have a panoramic view and understanding of everything it involves. It involved on ADA before and since its passing it is an awareness tool to make the community at-large, 50 states and what has been done, what still needs to be done, and what needs to be re-addressed. Because some things have been kind of fading away because now we got ____ ADA. You know, the . . . (inaudible) . . . Section 504, you know, is sitting in the corner, but it still applies ADA. Just provide us more tools to implement things that Section 504 set up. And people are not aware that those things are, they think that everything's been "done". Not so. It's still a big fight on the terms. This deal is going to be, it's great. In fact, I'm co-sponsoring the set up . . . (inaudible) . . . Indianapolis later on, latter part of this year, through my contacts back there, so the awareness can go out more. Tremendous display.

CHAIR DELIMA: The last announcement I have is the next meeting will be on June 14 at two o'clock at the County Building on the 4th floor.

VICE-CHAIR ROWLAND: . . . (inaudible) . . . this room's worked out fine. I think it's fine.

MR. SCHWIND: It's alright? Yeah. Okay, that's a wrap.

CHAIR DELIMA: If not, I'll ask somebody to close the meeting.

MR. SCHWIND: You can close it . . . (inaudible) . . .

CHAIR DELIMA: Okay. I close the meeting. Meeting is adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT: 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JAN INOUE-OGATA