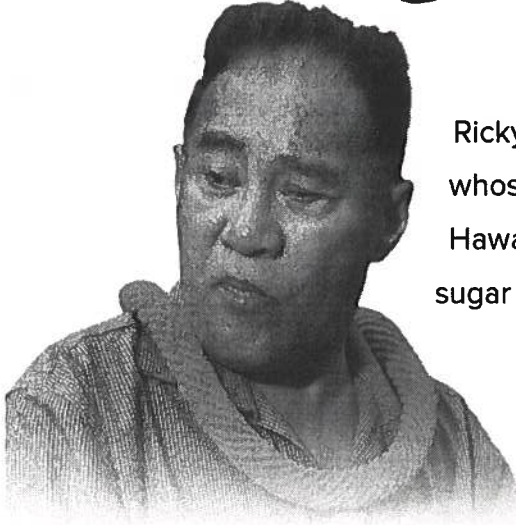


Ricky Melchor



Ricky Melchor was born and raised on Maui; and whose parents and grandparents migrated to Hawaii from the Philippines in 1946 to work in the sugar plantation and pineapple fields.

He earned an Associate of Science degree in Human Services from Maui Community College; a Bachelor of Science degree in Family Resources from the University of Hawaii at Manoa; and a Master of Arts degree in Professional Counseling with an emphasis in Marriage & Family Therapy from the American School of Professional Psychology.

Mr. Melchor is the former Rehabilitation Counselor and Teacher for the blind with Ho'opono Services for the Blind; a former Branch Administrator for the Maui Center For Independent Living, serving persons with disabilities; and a former ordained deacon in the Episcopal Diocese of Hawaii where part of his ministry was serving the elderly and disabled.

Currently, Mr. Melchor is a member of the American Counseling Association, American Association of Marriage & Family Therapists and the National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii. Mr. Melchor retired as a Benefit Employment Support Services Specialist, State of Hawaii.

Training Agenda

Introduction: 12:45 p.m. - 12:50 p.m.

What is Blindness and its causes: 12:50 p.m. - 1:10 p.m.

Psychological Effects of Being Blind: 1:10 p.m. - 1:20 p.m.

Communication with the Blind: 1:20 p.m. - 1:35 p.m.

Canes and Walking sticks for the Blind: 1:35 p.m. - 1:40 p.m.

A.D.A Law & Case Scenarios: 1:40 p.m. - 2:05 p.m.

Q & A: 2:05 p.m. - 2:25 p.m.

Evaluation: 2:25 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

GOAL:

**In 1.75 Hours, Participants will learn Five Psycho
Social areas regarding Blindness**

Blindness

About 500,000 people are legally blind in the United States. Over half of them are 65 years of age or older. There are many types of blindness. A legally blind person is one who has visual acuity, sharpness of vision, of 20/200 or worse. A person with 20/200 vision can see something from a distance of 20 feet of what another person with 20/20 vision can see in 200 feet. A person may also be legally blind if they have a very limited field of vision; what a person sees all around when looking steadily at an object. Other conditions of blindness involve the inability to see under certain circumstances. Color blindness, an inherited condition, is the inability to tell colors apart. Night blindness could be caused by various eye diseases or by lack of vitamin A in a person's diet. Another type of blindness is snow blindness. It is the temporary loss of vision when exposed to bright sunlight reflected by snow. Ninety-five percent of blindness is caused by diseases. The other five percent are caused by injuries. An injury or disease may affect one or both the eyes, the nerves connecting the eyes and the brain, or the visual center of the brain.

The chief diseases that cause blindness are:

= Diabetes

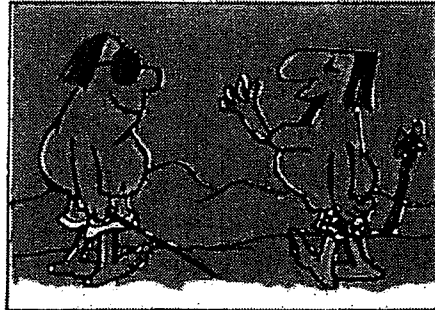
= Cataract

= Glaucoma

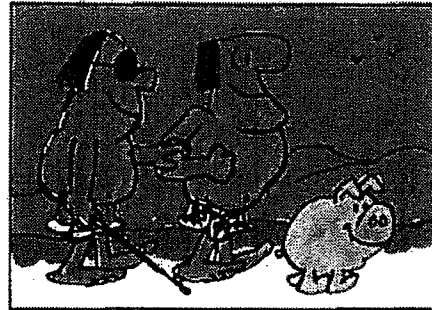
= Retinopathy

= Macular Degeneration

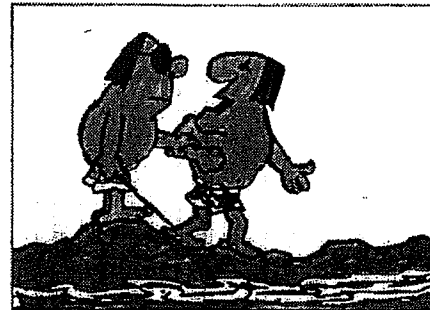
Helpful Hints when you're with a Blind Person



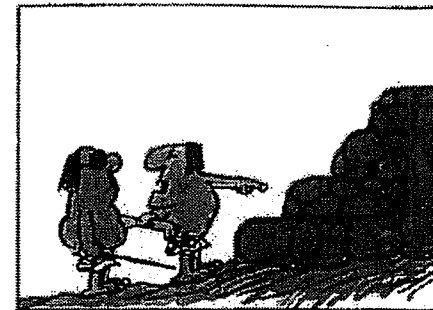
Let him know who you are. Ask if he needs assistance.



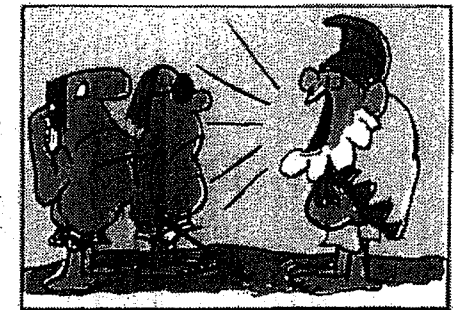
Let him take your arm so he could follow the movement of your body. Walk half a pace ahead of him.



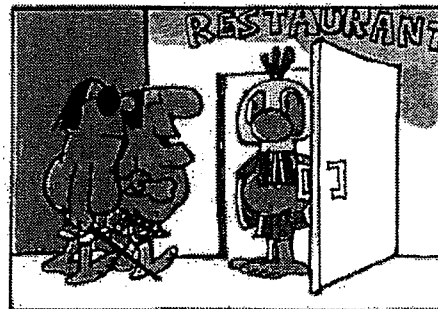
Tell him about narrow or crowded places; or if you're turning right or left.



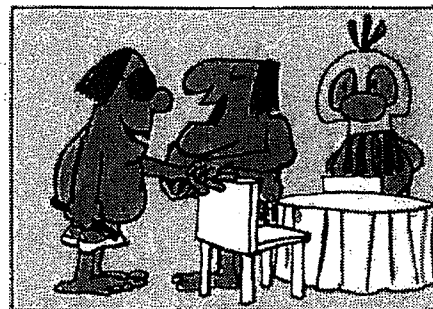
When you're approaching steps, tell him if you're going up or down.



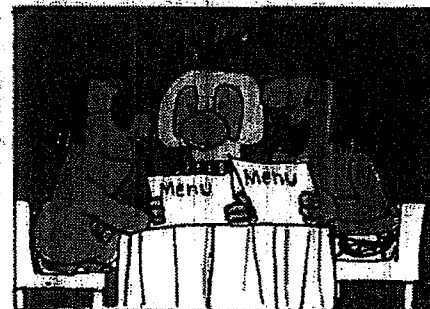
Talk in a normal tone. He's not hard of hearing. Use words like "see" and "look". He uses them, too.



Warn him when nearing a door- if it opens toward or away- left or right. Tell him to shut it after him.



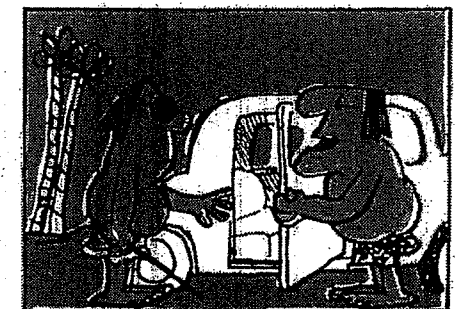
Show him the chair by putting his hand on the arm or back of it. Describe objects before him.



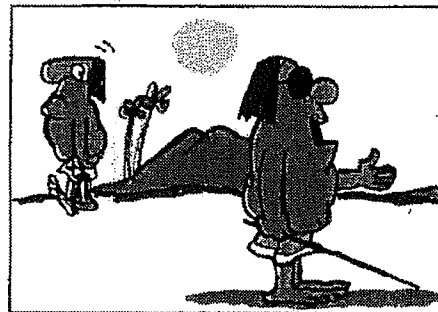
Read the menu to him. Prices, too. Tell him where his food is on his plate.



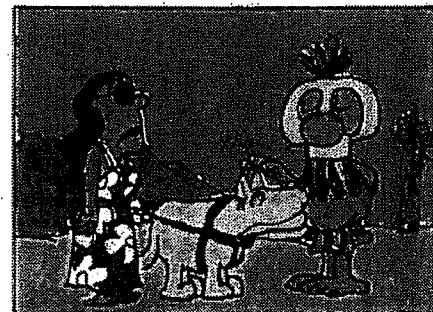
Talk to him directly, not through a third party. Do let him do his own talking.



Going into a car, tell him which way it's facing. Tell him when you're closing doors so he would not get his fingers caught.



Tell him when you leave so he won't talk to the "air". Don't leave him stranded.



Petting dog guides is a "no-no". Dog guides in harness are at work.

HO'OPONO

Rehabilitation Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired
State of Hawaii/ Department of Human Services
1901 Bachelot St Honolulu, Hawaii 96817 ph: 586-5268

- VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
- ADJUSTMENT TO BLINDNESS
- EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED PERSONS
- LOW VISION CLINIC
- HO'OPONO WORKSHOP
- PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

Illustrated by **CORKY TRINIDAD** and the ALOHA EDEN cartoon characters
courtesy of the HONOLULU STAR-BULLETIN

Hawaii

State Law:

Section 347-17 Driver of vehicle, caution. Any driver of a vehicle shall, on approaching a person who is blind or visually handicapped, and is carrying or using an exposed cane or walking stick which is painted white in color or painted white tipped with red, or a person who is blind or visually handicapped and using a guide dog, take such reasonable precautions before proceeding as may be necessary to avoid an accident or injury to the blind or visually handicapped person. [L 1947, c 35, Section 2; am L 1955, c 92, Section 1; RL 1955, Section 109-24; am L 1959, c 246, Section 10; am L 1963, c 193, Section 36; HRS Section 347-17]

(https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/hrscurrent/Vol07_Ch0346-0398/HRS0347/HRS_0347-0017.htm)

Penalty:

Section 347-18. Penalty. Any person who violates section 347-16 or 347-17 shall be fined not more than \$100 or imprisoned not more than six months, or both.

https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/hrscurrent/Vol07_Ch0346-0398/HRS0347/HRS_0347-0018.htm

Mobility devices.

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- (a) *Use of wheelchairs and manually-powered mobility aids.* A public accommodation shall permit individuals with mobility disabilities to use wheelchairs and manually-powered mobility aids, such as walkers, crutches, canes, braces, or other similar devices designed for use by individuals with mobility disabilities in any areas open to pedestrian use.
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- (b)
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 -
 -
 - (1) *Use of other power-driven mobility devices.* A public accommodation shall make reasonable modifications in its policies, practices, or procedures to permit the use of other power-driven mobility devices by individuals with mobility disabilities, unless the public accommodation can demonstrate that the class of other power-driven mobility devices cannot be operated in accordance with legitimate safety requirements that the public accommodation has adopted pursuant to § 36.301(b).
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 -
 - (2) *Assessment factors.* In determining whether a particular other power-driven mobility device can be allowed in a specific facility as a reasonable modification under paragraph (b)(1) of this section, a public accommodation shall consider –
 - (i) The type, size, weight, dimensions, and speed of the device;
 - (ii) The facility's volume of pedestrian traffic (which may vary at different times of the day, week, month, or year);
 - (iii) The facility's design and operational characteristics (*e.g.*, whether its business is conducted indoors, its square footage, the density and placement of stationary devices, and the availability of storage for the device, if requested by the user);
 - (iv) Whether legitimate safety requirements can be established to permit the safe operation of the other power-driven mobility device in the specific facility; and
 - (v) Whether the use of the other power-driven mobility device creates a substantial risk of serious harm to the immediate environment or natural or cultural resources, or poses a conflict with Federal land management laws and regulations.

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(1) *Inquiry about disability.* A public accommodation shall not ask an individual using a wheelchair or other power-driven mobility device questions about the nature and extent of the individual's disability.

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- (2) *Inquiry into use of other power-driven mobility device.* A public accommodation may ask a person using an other power-driven mobility device to provide a credible assurance that the mobility device is required because of the person's disability. A public accommodation that permits the use of an other power-driven mobility device by an individual with a mobility disability shall accept the presentation of a valid, State-issued disability parking placard or card, or State-issued proof of disability, as a credible assurance that the use of the other power-driven mobility device is for the individual's mobility disability. In lieu of a valid, State-issued disability parking placard or card, or State-issued proof of disability, a public accommodation shall accept as a credible assurance a verbal representation, not contradicted by observable fact, that the other power-driven mobility device is being used for a mobility disability. A "valid" disability placard or card is one that is presented by the individual to whom it was issued and is otherwise in compliance with the State of issuance's requirements for disability placards or cards.

Transportation provided by public accommodations.

- (a) *General.*
 - (1) A public accommodation that provides transportation services, but that is not primarily engaged in the business of transporting people, is subject to the general and specific provisions in subparts B, C, and D of this part for its transportation operations, except as provided in this section.

 - (2) *Examples.* Transportation services subject to this section include, but are not limited to, shuttle services operated between transportation terminals and places of public accommodation, customer shuttle bus services operated by private companies and shopping centers, student transportation systems, and transportation provided within recreational facilities such as stadiums, zoos, amusement parks, and ski resorts.

- (b) *Barrier removal.* A public accommodation subject to this section shall remove transportation barriers in existing vehicles and rail passenger cars used for transporting individuals (not including barriers that can only be removed through the retrofitting of vehicles or rail passenger cars by the installation of a hydraulic or other lift) where such removal is readily achievable.

- (c) *Requirements for vehicles and systems.* A public accommodation subject to this section shall comply with the requirements pertaining to vehicles and transportation systems in the regulations issued by the Secretary of Transportation pursuant to section 306 of the Act.

Case Scenarios

A blind home owner is not able to apply for an exemption for his property tax.

TRUE or FALSE

A blind woman is interested in applying for a housing unit in a county complex. This woman needs a handicap apartment unit.

TRUE or FALSE

A blind man is wanting to travel from Kahului to Lahaina and calls UBER to pick him up. When UBER arrives to pick up the gentleman, the driver denies the blind man service because of his guide dog.

Is this acceptable, Why or Why not?

A blind young man applies for a position with the county of Maui. He needs someone to read the exam for him, so he asks the personnel department for reasonable accommodations to take the civil service exam. but the personnel department says that they do not do that.

What can be done in this situation and why?

TAKING STOCK

(not to be confused with rustlin' cows)

ABOUT THIS TRAINING:

I LIKED...

And I THINK...

Session Locations and Accommodations Were:

Session Times and Lengths Were:

Subsequent Sessions Should:



Things That Need to GO!

A PROBLEM I HAD WHICH WAS SOLVED TODAY:



IN THE FUTURE:

NEXT TIME:

I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT: