

Beach Access for People with Disabilities Committee

Committee membership shall comprise of self advocates, family members, watermen and women, caregivers, agencies, and professionals who have interest in and knowledge of beach access issues for people with disabilities and P&R facilities, programs and services.

Goals

Committee to discuss and develop action plans for each goal

- To advise the staff and Director of P&R of specific disability access issues that apply to P&R's cultural and recreational beach programs and services, making them accessible for people with disabilities, including physical and communication access.
- To provide the Director of P&R, the Fire Department rescue teams, the County ADA Coordinator, and MCPD with input on beach access issues for people with disabilities.
- To keep current on National trends in beach accessibility.
- To explore funding sources and community collaboration to improve accessibility to the beach and ocean.
- To advocate for people with disabilities and their families to participate in beach recreation to enhance their quality of life.

Agenda Draft 2008

Discussion topics

1. Beach access defined: beach accessibility vs. facility access and public beach access...it's more than just access across the sand and into the water: shade areas, access routes and stations on the shoreline, traffic patterns, wheelchair storage, including service dogs
2. Review public comments on the Access Board's Guidelines of Access to Outdoor Recreation Areas
3. Brief history of how Oahu got beach access. Identify differences of Oahu and Big Island beaches. Successful beach programs for people with disabilities: What works, what doesn't.
4. Identifying beaches and conditions where equipment could be used (i.e. wave action, rocky areas, boat ramps, water temperature, public demand, and other access issues)
5. Discussion of access products available with reviews from people who've used them
 - Mobi mats, PORTAFLOORS, other new products
 - All terrain beach wheelchairs
 - Gather public response to need
 - Discuss transfers and access into the water
 - Mobi-mat free trial loan as a public event/survey

6. Safety and Liability issues

Lifeguard concerns

Public training if we get beach wheelchairs

Corporation Counsel or Risk management presentation

7. Funding sources, timing, task force strategy/action plan (grants, petition legislators, matching funds, MCPD, P&R, ADA Coordinator funds, donations)

8. Creating a collaborative system for making the mats and/or all-terrain wheelchairs available to the public:

- Equipment loan details: forms, deposits, retrieval enforcement procedures, group use vs. individual use, approval for special group use at a different beach, special events, non-profits, tour groups?
- Storage and maintenance issues, installation vs. portable products
- Vandalism, theft, and damage issues (Fees & financial procedures for fines?)
- Who is responsible?
- Replacement plan

9. Public service announcements/training/ special publicity event to celebrate access

Guest Speaker Ideas for Discussions in Hilo and Kona

Dean Aoki ADA coordinator for DLNR, Glen Taguchi DLNR Big Island, Lisa Duwall ADA Landscape Arch for HVNP, Colleen Casey, Oahu Therapeutic Recreation Unit, Access Surf Hawaii (Rich and Julian), Charlotte Townsend DCAB...Inquire if funding for Oahu guests might be provided by HRP or MCPD. Have guest speaker information and action sessions open to public. Remember Sunshine Law.

Link show Big Island beaches with descriptions and photos:

http://www.hawaiiweb.com/hawaii/html/beaches/kahaluu_beach_park.html