

This is the Disability Rights Hawaii Newsletter for November 2011. It is available by email, print, or Large Print. Please contact ronald@hawaii.edu, or call 961-5601, to add or remove your name from the mailing list, or to change the format of your Newsletter.

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..... November 18 Meeting Announcement

Disability Rights Hawaii will hold a meeting on Friday, November 18, from 12:00 noon to 2:00 PM in the ADRC Building at 1555 Kinoole Street in Hilo. This will be our regular bimonthly meeting, although it is happening at an unusual time. This month is will be focused on the possibility of DRH members and friends participating in the November 27 parade in Hilo, sponsored by the Jaycees. The meeting will begin with discussion of our local East Hawaii problems in accessibility. At 1:00 PM we will begin planning for the November 27 parade.

First Note: We may not be able to get enough participants to attend this parade, because of the fact that the parade will begin at 5:30 PM. If this is so, we will address the Jaycees about making their parade more accessible.

Second Note: If you are able and willing to "march" (or roll, or ride on a truck or in a balloon, or move in any other way ...) with DRH in the parade, please let us know -- either by coming to the meeting or by contacting us at our contact numbers (ronald@hawaii.edu, or 961-5602). We will march if we can. If we cannot, we will try to discuss with the Jaycees about how to make a more accessible parade.

The meeting will also feature more discussion of Linda's "Village" concept (see below) and an update report from Officer Reynold Kahalewai regarding improvements in the accessibility of the Coconut Island area.

..... September 27 Meeting Notes

Present: Daniel Grant-Johnson, Janice Mancini, Pauline Aughe, Nancy Lombard, Donald Haumea, Teri Spinola-Campbell, Linda Toms Barker, Emily Souza, Chris Cholas, Marvin ..., Marty Mimmack

Danny called the meeting to order and introductions went around the table. The group first brought up Martin Hodapp's concerns about getting a DRH group to participate in the parade. Should we do a sign up sheet? We have to sign up as a group to be in the parade. Who do we contact? The Jaycees. Danny will determine the contact person. Linda will do 4-square design for a banner.

We discussed the problems Ron had with Continental airlines in Hilo, discussed in last month's Newsletter. We decided to put both his letter of apology from Continental, his letter from United (from years ago), and Chris's letter from Hawaiian and other airlines on our site also. These can be printed out and used as evidence for fliers who feel victimized by airlines.

NEWS: Airlines are legally required to bring OUR wheelchairs to the gate of the airplane when we deplane. Their excuses do not hold water, and we have proven it again and again. Go Airlines together with TSA caused a Maui delay that resulted in one DRH member missing the flight.

Linda discussed the concept of a cooperative village ... Village to Village has a website. She suggested that DRH might be interested in developing such a concept in the Hilo area.

We discussed the problem of the locking of parks for 'safety' reasons. This often blocks the entry of people with disabilities, but not other people. Chris commented also on the locking of elevators, and locking of Lava Tree park. Reasons were for prevention of vandalism but it harmed the interests of pwds.

We can always call the Police, at 935-3311. This is a non-emergency number, so it sometimes results in slow response. But when we see a car without a permit parked in an accessible parking space, the Traffic Division of the Police Department has a warning letter that they will send.

Let's start collecting those letters! (I just missed one today -- I'm ashamed of myself, and I'll carry writing material in the future, so I can forward these complaints.)

Teri says that the Traffic Division of HPD (commanded by Sgt. Robert Pauole) will fill out a "Traffic hazard form." We need to state the license plate number, date, time, and location.

Officer Kahalewai began discussing his responsibility for *community policing* with us. The idea is to design the environment so that violations are not encouraged. He said that he would contact Bob Fitzgerald in Parks & Rec about bollards designs of the parking space near Coconut Island (the bollards are meant to prevent the flooding).

Donald said that one more place where the parking is being abused is Ahalanui.

Teri described the Consent Decree on curb ramps. Bill Hecker, Bruce Clark, and Teri inspected sites. The Court hearing will be held on whether there is any need for additional requirement on curb ramps. We can still put in requests for more changes for curb ramps that are hard to use. We can also request additional curb ramps, and request repair to sidewalks.

Alan Rudo discussed his work with us. He does Fair Housing for the County. There is no real enforcement available at the County level. The County Housing system is not set up as an easy system for private builders to get information to comply with the law. Alan reviewed a property on Ponahawai that had received complaints from several members of the public. The owner and

architect claimed that they had known the requirements and attempted to get it done right. But the builder made modifications that made the place inaccessible.

Day Lum (property managers) manages said that they were going to work with the property owner to get compliance. Alan suggested that there might be a proactive way to get compliance. (We will pursue how this will work.) New International Standards require starting a building within 3 months after pulling a permit. There is a problem with locating architects experienced in ADA matters on the Big Island these days -- some of them we know have been hired by the County. Although Day Lum and the owner have committed to working together to fix the problem, we're concerned about if and when this will actually work.

Alan encouraged DRH to look for Capacity Building Grants. We could cooperate with the County to get one of these grants. He sometimes works with 501c3s. DRH could consider this. We should consider putting together seminars regarding the legal requirements for accessibility for developers. Lots of ideas to pursue for DRH.