



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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INTERPRETIVE OPINION

Pursuant to §103-50, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), all buildings and facilities constructed by, or on behalf of the State or any county, shall conform to the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) and amendments. In accordance to HRS §103-50 and Chapter 11-217, Hawaii Administrative Rules, the Disability and Communication Access Board has authority to issue interpretive opinions to HRS §103-50 design standards.

Docket: **DCAB 2008-05:** Is an accessible route required to accessible elements that are intended to be accessible to people who use a walking aid, people who have difficulty bending/stooping, people who are blind and to people who are deaf?

Summary: ADAAG Section 4.3.2 states: “At least one accessible route complying with 4.3 shall connect accessible buildings, accessible facilities, accessible elements, and accessible spaces that are on the same site.” There are a number of accessible elements that are not intended for wheelchair access. The accessible route requirement to these types of elements should be determined on a case-by-case basis. Signage, text telephones (TTY), and audio and visual alarms primarily serve people who are blind or deaf. According to the U.S. Access Board, signage, a TTY and audio or visual alarms are not meant to serve individuals with mobility impairments and as such are not required to be on an accessible route. The U.S. Access Board stated, assembly area seats must typically be located on sloping aisles to maximize viewing angles, making providing an accessible route to each designated aisle seat extremely difficult. For this reason, the 2004 ADA/ABA Accessibility Guidelines require designated aisle seats to be the ones located closest to an accessible route.

Ruling: For buildings or facilities subject to HRS §103-50,

ADAAG Section 4.3 Accessible Routes.

An accessible route complying with ADAAG Section 4.3 is required to accessible elements as required by ADAAG Sections 4.3.2(2) and 4.3.2(3) with the following exceptions:

1. An accessible route shall not be required to:
 - Permanent Room Signs
 - Directional and Informational signage
 - Audible and Visual Alarms
 - TTY's
2. An accessible route shall not be required to the designated aisle seats required by ADAAG Section 4.1.3(19)(a). The designated aisle seats required by ADAAG Section 4.1.3(19)(a) shall be the aisle seats located closest to accessible routes.

[Rul: 08/13/08] (Auth and Imp: HRS §103-50)

If you have any questions or comments regarding this ruling, please call us at 586-8121.

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