HOW TO OBTAIN A SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER (as of 3/8/16)

Finding an Interpreter for an Assignment

1) You may contact and negotiate with an interpreter directly. Download from our website the Communication Access Providers list of sign language interpreters and negotiate the fees directly. Our website is: http://health.hawaii.gov/dcab/communication-access/

2) Contact an interpreter referral service to get a quote and they will send the interpreter to the job assignment. There are three (3) interpreter referral agencies in Honolulu (listed below in alphabetical order):

   Hawaii Interpreting Services
   Phone: (808) 394-7706
   Website: http://interpretinghawaii.com/

   Isle Interpret (*)
   Phone: (808) 445-9125
   Website: http://www.isleinterpret.com

   Language Services Hawaii
   Phone: (808) 393-7060
   Website: http://languageserviceshawaii.com/about.htm

   • The State Department of Human Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), has a contract with the interpreter agency noted above with an asterisk (*) through 6/30/17.

Paying for an Interpreter

• You may pay the interpreter directly or you may arrange with the interpreter referral agency to pay the interpreter and then pay the agency. This will involve a fee but may be more desirable if you have multiple interpreters and wish to minimize paperwork or delay (with purchase orders) in payment to the interpreters.
• The fee schedule is negotiable. However, the Disability and Communication Access Board issues a recommended fee schedule for providers which can be found at http://health.hawaii.gov/dcab/about-us/Admin-Rules/Title-11-218/ as part of its administrative rules. This will provide guidance on appropriate fees including mileage and related costs, especially if you are a state agency.

• If the assignment is related to vocational training or assistance referred by DVR, ask the deaf person if he or she is a vocational rehabilitation (VR) client. If yes, please contact their counselor to assist with the provision of a sign language interpreter.

• If the assignment is related to a medical evaluation or appointment, please ask what type of insurance the deaf person has. Some medical insurance pay for interpreters. There is also a tax credit, Disabled Access Credit – Form 8826.

For more information, contact the Disability and Communication Access Board at (808) 586-8121 or email at dcab@doh.hawaii.gov.