

HAB At the Active Seniors Expo

By Johnny M Quest

HAB participated at the active seniors expo this year on June 13 and 14. It was spectacular because we had more volunteers than anticipated. There was a variety of people stopping by the booth. We also had a number of people stop at the guide dog table. This year we had four tables: information table, tech table, guide dog table, and the mobility table. People were especially drawn to Vickie's dog. "Buddy". While the visitor petted buddy, Vickie gave good explanations that people need and should know. I was stationed at the tech table where I featured

"the voice.", digital tape, talking book player, and the talking script reader for prescriptions. Maureen also showed off her braille writer, while Cynthia showed off her skill of manual braille writing. At the mobility table, I used my cane to attract people into asking what the cane is used for and how to use it. There were also help from three mobility instructors. Together we had fun connecting with the community in raising awareness about vision loss and providing resources. Mahalo to all who participated in the Active Seniors event.

New HAB Members Are Hitting The Ground Running

By Sharon Ige

I'm so excited and I just can't hide it...

There are new faces in our organization this year! Our new members have not wasted any time getting involved. James

put out a shoutout for help with the New Year's Party and then brand new member Richard Koja called that day to volunteer. +++++May Hori stepped up to work on one of the auction baskets for the national convention. Johnny Quest raised his hand to head the HAB booth at the Seniors Expo right after he was voted in as a member. At the same meeting Rose Laison accepted the responsibility of managing the HAB booth at the ATRC Fair. Newly inducted

member Autumn Louise stepped up to the mike to offer resources to the Deaf and Blind community. Kalina Takushi helped to pick up the Cookie Corner fundraiser cookies so Jim and Vicky did not have to make two trips. And not only did she pick up the cookies with her daughter, she also took a case of cookies to sell.

Other new members Jamie Yong, Julian Higa, Gina and Herman Kepani took a case of cookies each.

There are also new members busy selling cookies as well. Not to mention our new treasurer Sherri Martinez. Whew! All the hats she wears must be falling off her head. And she does all of it with an awesome attitude! If that wasn't enough, Sherri took a case of cookies too!

Lastly, Jim Lawyer and Colin Hunter have agreed to help plan our next Meet and Greet. We didn't even have to twist their arms, either!

And do forgive me if I did not mention you and you are already plugging in . James says "Thank you for that!" We seasoned members can take a lesson from these newbies for sure!

Getting involved in HAB, making an impact in our community, and getting to know others in our organization is going to give you the best HAB experience. Contact James or our membership committee to keep the ball rolling.

August Meet and Greet

Why:

To get a chance to get to know and talk story with other members

Ask questions about how to get involved in HAB

When:

Saturday, August 2, 2025
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm
(After HAB meeting. We will start earlier if meeting ends before noon)

Where:

Library for the Blind and Print Disabled
909 Kapahulu Avenue

Cost:

\$5.00
Lunch subsidized by HAB
Please bring your money and give it to Jim Lawyer or Colin Hunter on the day of the meet and greet

Lunch Menu

- * Turkey and Cheese or Tuna Sandwich (Pick one)
- * Potato Chips
- * Fresh Fruit Cup
- * Cookies baked by member Rita Porter
- * Juice and Water

Catered by Braddah Snacks(blind vendor Jonah Sniffen)

RSVP uly 15,2025.

Jim Lawyer
Phone (Call/Text): 808-783-5444
Please let him know which sandwich you choose for lunch too

**Hawaii
Association
of the Blind
Pearl Highlands
Center Holo Holo
Shoppers Event**

Get your shop on with HAB’s Certified Orientation & Mobility Specialists. Pearl Highlands Center offers a food court, Sam’s Club, Ross, Liliha Bakery, and the Pizza Press. Participants can enjoy social interactions and opportunities to practice O&M Skills.

When:

Friday, August 8, 2025
4pm - 7pm

Where:

1000 Kamehameha Highway,
Pearl City, Hawaii 96782
(Handivan drop-off is the food court)

Why:

To provide a supported social gathering in a community

setting to strengthen shopping, communication and O&M skills.

RSVP

Troy Kato, COMS
Email: kato.troy@gmail.com
Phone: (310)612-3163

Liability Disclaimer: All participants are responsible for their own safety throughout the event. Hawaii Association of the Blind shall not assume any liability resulting in injury or death

**6 Reminders
for the General
Election**

By: Office of Elections

Ahead of the 2024 General Election on November 5, we have a few key reminders for Hawaii voters.

1. Hawaii is a vote-by-mail state. Your General Election ballot will arrive by mail. Registered Hawaii voters automatically receive a mail ballot for every election.
2. Check that your voter registration is current. Visit elections.hawaii.gov or call (808) 453-VOTE (8683) to verify that your voter registration is accurate. If you have moved or changed your mailing address since the Primary Election, you must update your voter registration to ensure that your mail ballot is sent to your current address. Conveniently update online or by submitting

a Voter Registration Application. Voter Registration Applications are also available at post offices or libraries.

3. Sign up for ballot notifications. Be able to track when your ballot has been mailed and when your voted ballot has been received through ballot notifications. Sign up to receive alerts by text, email, or a phone message at elections.hawaii.gov.
4. Sign your ballot return envelope. You can expect to receive your ballot packet by October 18 for the General Election. Before your ballot arrives, review statements from the candidates at elections.hawaii.gov. You must sign the return envelope for your ballot to be counted.
5. Your ballot must be received by 7:00 pm on November 5. Voted ballots can be returned by mail or dropped off at a ballot drop box. Visit elections.hawaii.gov for location details. Ballots received after the deadline cannot be counted.
6. Assistance is available. In need of assistance? Consider the following accessible options: 1) Visit a voter service center to vote using accessible voting equipment, or 2) Request an electronic ballot and mark your ballot using your personal compatible device. Visit elections.hawaii.gov to learn more about accessible voting.

Steam is adding screen reader support and other accessibility tools

by Adi Robertson

Jun 19, 2025, 9:00 AM EDT

The screen reader is SteamOS only; most other features are also coming to Big Picture Mode.

Adi Robertson is a senior tech and policy editor focused on VR, online platforms, and free expression. Adi has covered video games, biohacking, and more for The Verge since 2011.

Valve is introducing accessibility features for players with disabilities in its latest beta for Steam Big Picture Mode and SteamOS. The features — listed in full and explained here — include options to modify the Steam UI, like a high contrast mode, as well as a built-in screen reader for SteamOS.

In its post, Valve describes the features as “just the first accessibility features we’re making available.” For now players on both Big Picture Mode and SteamOS will get:

1. A scaling slider for text size
2. High-contrast mode to make buttons and text more visible
3. A “reduce motion” toggle that disables some animation and screen transition effects

SteamOS devices (at this point, the Steam Deck and Lenovo Legion Go S) can also find:

1. A screen reader with adjustable pitch, volume, and reading rate, enabled and disabled either through settings or with a two-button shortcut
2. A color filter that affects both the Steam UI and any games you're playing — you can choose between grayscale, inverted display brightness, or inverted display colors

The features are available on a new Accessibility tab in the settings, seen below for SteamOS.

This is the SteamOS version — Big Picture won't get the color filter or screen reader. Image: Valve

Earlier this month Valve also started letting Steam users filter games by accessibility support — including some options similar to the ones above, as well as adjustable difficulty and speech-to-text or text-to-speech chat. It's encouraging players with disabilities to suggest more features in a discussion thread (a mono audio toggle is looking popular.) And for anyone who doesn't need these features, while I haven't been able to try the beta yet, it sounds like might all be getting a bare-bones universal Kurosawa mode.

NFB-Newsline Instructions for Accessing the ACB 2025 Convention Program Information

To access the 2025 ACB Convention agenda on Newsline, you will need to have an account. You should use your assigned 6-digit identification number, and your 4-digit security code.

Using the telephone access method: You can use the toll-free number 1-888-882-1629, then press 5 at the Newsline Main Menu for "Newspapers in a Different State". Then press 5 again for "National Meetings of Interest to the Print-Disabled". From there, you can press 1 for the ACB 2025 Convention Agenda.

You will find the virtual convention event schedule in the Calendar section by pressing 11.

If you want to email any of the articles to your inbox, simply press Pound 9 and follow the prompts.

To read the agenda online using WEB NEWS ON DEMAND, visit www.nfbnewslineonline.org. After logging in with your identification number and security code, you select "PUBLICATIONS ORGANIZED BY STATE", and then select the category "NATIONAL MEETINGS

OF INTEREST TO THE PRINT-DISABLED” and select the ACB 2025 Convention Agenda.

To read the agenda using NEWSLINE Mobile for iOS, open the Newsline app and navigate to the second page which is the “INFORMATION SOURCES”

page. From there, select ALL PUBLICATIONS, and search ACB 2025 Convention Agenda or scroll down to find it in the list of publications. You can download the app from the App Store as NFB-Newsline Mobile.