

## AIRA Project At A Glance

The Hawaii Association of the Blind is excited to announce that it is sponsoring free Aira services at our Daniel K. Inouye Airport for 12 months, unlimited users, unlimited minutes, 24/7 service by an Aira agent starting September 15, 2023. The AIRA Zone covers the airport vicinity, including the parking areas and the curbside.

### Rationale

In line with the mission of the Hawaii Association of the Blind to advocate for EQUALITY, INDEPENDENCE and OPPORTUNITY for the blind, the project hopes to provide professional visual assistance to any blind or visually impaired person navigating the DKI Airport. This service is not only limited to the blind community of Hawaii traveling through our airport but also those coming from other airports, not to mention blind visually impaired individuals working at the Airport. The service is available 24/7 by a professional visual assistant trained for this purpose.

It's a highly liberating feeling and confidence-building experience to be navigating the DKI airport sans the help of your husband or wife or parents or friends from the time you get off the vehicle, to the airline ticketing counter, to the TSA checkpoint, to the gate and finally to your seat in the aircraft. We are not talking of persons who still have some sight left, or someone who doesn't even use a white cane to understand how a blind person TRULY feels when traveling alone, much more to other locations via an airplane. Imagine how many blind and visually impaired persons, specifically in Hawaii, can avail of this priceless visual assistance provided 24/7 live by an actual professional.

### What is Visual Interpreting?

Aira is a live, human-to-human professional assistance service, an accommodation or productivity tool, that enhances independence by delivering on-demand, skilled and reliable visual interpreting for just about any task.

### Who Uses Aira?

Simple, anyone who wants visual information, anytime, anywhere.

### How Does Visual Interpreting Work?

Using the camera and an app on your smart phone, and now on the Envision Glasses, a trained agent will assist by visually interpreting your surroundings, from describing to reading, from explaining to navigating – just about anything, safely and securely.

### On Your Terms

With Aira, at the touch of a button, people who want access to visual information have it, enhancing everyday efficiency, engagement, and independence. Aira service has not only been employed in a number of institutions, academe, big box stores but in 48 other airports, worldwide as well. The McCarran Airport, in Las Vegas is a good example of an airport where blind and visually impaired persons can call an Aira agent for visual assistance 24/7 to get around the facility. And this service is provided free of charge to the blind individual.

For more information, please visit Aira website at:

<https://aira.io>

Aira service is likewise available in other countries such as UK, Australia, and New Zealand. It is in this vein that HAB is proud to be a catalyst and a pioneer in providing live professional visual assistance to the blind community of Hawaii beginning at the Daniel K. Inouye Airport.