



Who pays for a Sign Language Interpreter?

Isle Interpret (ISLE) is a scheduling agency that offers a variety of services to serve persons who are Deaf statewide.

For medical services, we recommend a medical provider check with a patient's insurance plan to see if the insurance will cover the cost of medical interpreting. If insurance covers the cost of a sign language interpreter, there are 2 typical options.

- The insurance company will take the appointment information and will schedule an interpreter.
- The insurance company will provide preauthorization and the medical facility schedules an interpreter (the preauthorization documents need to be provided to the scheduling agency).

If an insurance company does not cover the interpreting cost, the medical provider is responsible for the cost. The Hawaii Civil Rights Commission and Disability and Communication Access Board created 2 documents to help healthcare facilities understand their obligation to provide interpreters and information about deaf patient rights.

- The Hawaii Civil Rights Commission and Disability and Communication Access Board's [Guidance for Healthcare Providers in Ensuring Effective Communication](#)
- The Hawaii Civil Rights Commission and Disability and Communication Access Board's [Access to Healthcare; \(Deaf Patient\) Your Rights to a Sign Language Interpreter](#)

A deaf person may request access to **non-medical services**. Businesses may not charge a deaf people additional cost to recover the costs of ADA compliance. The cost of providing access should be viewed as a business expense, like other expenses that make up a business's overall cost of doing business.

ADA Disability Access Tax Incentives

If any private business (medical or non-medical) provides communication access to a deaf person, their business may qualify for Disabled Access Tax Incentives to offsetting the costs of providing access as mandated by the ADA.

- **Tax Credit:** The tax credit is available for businesses with annual revenues of \$1,000,000 or less, or 30 or less full-time employees. A credit of up to \$5000 a year is available to offset a business's costs for removing barriers, like hiring interpreters.
- **Tax Deduction:** The tax deduction is available to all businesses with a maximum deduction of \$15,000 annually.

For more information on tax incentives: www.ada.gov/reachingout/lesson81.htm Tax credit forms can be found at: www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8826.pdf To contact the Department of Justice's ADA Information line: 1-800-514-0301. Please contact your accountant for more information about the Disabled Access Tax Incentives