

# **DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD**

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March 2, 2021

## TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senate Bill 135, SD1 – Relating to Telecommunication

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports Senate Bill 135, SD1, which requires the Office of Enterprise Technology Services to conduct a study to determine appropriate state office buildings that can provide equitable telecommunication access to allow residents and residents with disabilities to remotely participate in legislative hearings for the Counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui and rural areas of the City and County of Honolulu.

Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act requires state and local governments to provide equal access for individuals who are disabled when providing services, programs, or activities. When it comes to determining appropriate state office buildings where residents can remotely participate in legislative hearings, it is important to ensure that the identified buildings and programs are equally accessible to the full spectrum of persons with disabilities. DCAB supports the language added to SD1 of this measure requiring that the buildings identified are equally accessible to persons with disabilities.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW Executive Director

DAVID Y. IGE GOVERNOR



DOUGLAS MURDOCK CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

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Written Testimony of DOUGLAS MURDOCK Chief Information Officer Enterprise Technology Services

Before the

#### SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021

### SENATE BILL 135 SD1 RELATING TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee:

The Office of Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) **supports the intent** of the bill, which requires ETS to conduct a study to determine appropriate state office buildings that can provide equitable telecommunication access to allow residents and residents with disabilities to remotely participate in legislative hearings for the counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui and rural areas of the City and County of Honolulu.

ETS will do its best to gather information to assist the legislature. However, ETS does not have the expertise or authority to secure or designate facilities in other departments nor does it have the expertise to design, renovate, build and manage such facilities to adequately provide residents with disabilities the ability to remotely participate in legislative hearings. The involvement of the Department of Accounting and General Services, Department of Education, University of Hawaii, the counties and others in a working group might be more effective.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

<u>SB-135-SD-1</u> Submitted on: 2/25/2021 9:27:59 AM Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support. Study may result in more accessibility, especially by those with physical lmitations, to legislative hearings, especially significant in view of COVID-19 and its social distancing limitations.