

JAN 25 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD, IN
COLLABORATION WITH THE OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY
SERVICES, TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP ON ACCESSIBLE
GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS.

1 WHEREAS, an accessible document is a document created to be
2 as easily readable by a sighted reader as a low-vision or non-
3 sighted reader; and

4
5 WHEREAS, accessible documents allow individuals who use
6 screen readers to navigate through the document, utilize the
7 properties to move from one part of a document to another, hear
8 descriptions of photographs and images from image tags, and have
9 equal access to the information; and

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11 WHEREAS, public agencies that are required to provide
12 accessible documents do not always have staff that understand
13 how to make the information accessible; and

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15 WHEREAS, the increasing use of technology to communicate
16 can also present complications and challenges, such as the
17 various state agency websites that post public meeting notices,
18 agendas, and attached resource documents that may not
19 necessarily all be in accessible formats, especially when
20 attachments are scanned copies; and

21
22 WHEREAS, the State's Disability and Communication Access
23 Board serves as the public advocate of persons with disabilities
24 by providing advice and recommendations on matters relating to
25 access, with an emphasis on state and county legislative matters
26 and administrative rules, policies, and procedures, and also
27 provides technical assistance and guidance to state and county
28 entities to meet state, federal, and county requirements for
29 access for persons with disabilities; and

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31 WHEREAS, the State's Office of Enterprise Technology
32 Services, headed by the Chief Information Officer, is charged
33 with organizing, managing, and overseeing statewide information
34 technology governance, including establishing, coordinating, and



S.R. NO. 5

1 managing a program to provide a means for public access to
2 public information and developing and operating an information
3 network; now, therefore,
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5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
6 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,
7 that the Disability and Communication Access Board, in
8 collaboration with the Office on Enterprise Technology Services,
9 is requested to convene a working group on accessible government
10 documents; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
13 to:
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- 15 (1) Research other states' laws and use of technologies to
16 provide government documents, including documents
17 provided by private entities under contract with the
18 State, in accessible formats;
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- 20 (2) Evaluate and recommend strategies to improve the
21 provisions of government documents, including
22 documents provided by private entities under contract
23 with the State, in accessible formats, including
24 identifying means for effective and efficient
25 oversight; and
26
- 27 (3) Make recommendations to the Legislature about how to
28 further the policy of providing accessible government
29 documents; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a representative of the
32 Disability and Communication Access Board and representative of
33 the Office of Enterprise Technology Services are requested to
34 serve as co-chairs of the working group and invite one
35 representative from each of the following entities to serve as
36 working group members:
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- 38 (1) The Center on Disability Studies at the University of
39 Hawai'i at Manoa;
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- 41 (2) The Office of the Lieutenant Governor;
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- 1 (3) The Department of Accounting and General Services;
- 2
- 3 (4) The Information Technology and Systems Department at
- 4 the Judiciary;
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- 6 (5) The Department of the Attorney General;
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- 8 (6) The Office of the Chief Clerk of the House of
- 9 Representatives;
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- 11 (7) The Office of the Chief Clerk of the Senate;
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- 13 (8) The Office of Information Practices;
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- 15 (9) The Civil Rights Commission;
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- 17 (10) The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation of the
- 18 Department of Human Services;
- 19
- 20 (11) An advocacy group for blind persons;
- 21
- 22 (12) An advocacy group for deaf persons; and
- 23
- 24 (13) Other interested individuals; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Disability and
27 Communication Access Board is requested to submit a report on
28 behalf of the working group of its findings and recommendations,
29 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
30 than forty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
31 2022; and

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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the working
34 group serve without compensation; and

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
37 Resolution be transmitted to the Lieutenant Governor, Attorney
38 General, Comptroller, Chairperson of the Disability and
39 Communication Access Board, Chief Information Officer,
40 Administrative Director of the Courts, Chief Clerk of the
41 Senate, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives, Director of
42 the Center on Disability Studies, Director of the Office of



S.R. NO. 5

1 Information Practices, Executive Director of the Civil Rights
2 Commission, President of the National Federation for the Blind -
3 Hawaii Chapter, Administrator of the Division of Vocational
4 Rehabilitation, and President of the Aloha State Association of
5 the Deaf.

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OFFERED BY: _____

Karl Rhoads

