

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1341

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 18, 2025

RE: S.B. No. 1496
S.D. 1
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Human Services & Homelessness, to which was referred S.B. No. 1496, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CIVIL RIGHTS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to make it an unlawful discriminatory practice for a place of public accommodation to deny a person with a disability full and equal enjoyment of, or information related to, their goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations using information and community technology intended for use by the general public.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the State Council on Developmental Disabilities; State Health Planning and Development Agency; Disability and Communication Access Board; Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission; Hawaii Disability Rights Center; Hawaii Self-Advocacy Advisory Council; National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii; and seven individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Human Services.

Your Committee finds that the digital era has transformed how businesses and service providers interact with customers, with websites and mobile applications now serving as primary platforms

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for reservations, orders, sales, and access to essential information. Your Committee further finds that equitable access to these digital platforms is critical to ensuring that all individuals, including those with disabilities, can fully benefit from the goods, services, and amenities offered by places of public accommodation. While state and federal laws prohibit discrimination in public accommodations based on disability, clearer guidelines are needed to support businesses in implementing accessible electronic services. This measure seeks to address these challenges by explicitly prohibiting places of public accommodation from restricting access to goods, services, and information through digital platforms, ensuring that persons with disabilities receive full and equal access in the modern information landscape.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Human Services & Homelessness that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1496, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1496, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Human Services &
Homelessness,


LISA MARTEN, Chair



HB2R 1741

Bill/Resolution No.: SB1496 SDI		Committee Referral: HSH, JHA		Date: 3/13/2025	
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.					
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)					
HSH Members		Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. MARTEN, Lisa (C)		X			
2. OLDS, Ikaika (VC)		X			
3. AMATO, Terez		X			
4. CHUN, Cory M.		X			
5. KEOHOKAPU-LEE LOY, Sue L.		X			
6. TAKAYAMA, Gregg		X			
7. TAKENOUCHI, Jenna		X			
8. ALCOS III, David		X			
9. GARCIA, Diamond		X			
TOTAL (9)		9			
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)					
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: _____					
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO					