
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE HAWAII REVISED STATUTES TO IDENTIFY PROVISIONS IN WHICH THE TERM "IMPAIRED" OR A SIMILAR TERM IS USED TO DESCRIBE A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY AND TO SUGGEST DISABILITY-INCLUSIVE APPROPRIATE AMENDMENTS.

1 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Revised Statutes contain terminology
2 relating to persons with disabilities, and some of these terms
3 have developed negative or pejorative connotations over time;
4 and

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6 WHEREAS, disability advocates increasingly recognize that
7 using certain terms, including the word "impaired" to describe a
8 person with a disability, may suggest that the individual is
9 defective, deficient, or broken, which can perpetuate stigmas;
10 and

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12 WHEREAS, modern disability-inclusive language standards
13 favor terminology that emphasizes respect, uses person-first or
14 identity-affirming wording, and reflects the lived experiences of
15 individuals rather than outdated medicalized labels; and

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17 WHEREAS, Utah enacted similar reforms in 2017 by replacing
18 the statutory uses of "hearing impairment" with "deaf or hard of
19 hearing" and made other disability-terminology amendments to
20 modernize and destigmatize their state laws; and

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22 WHEREAS, Hawaii laws should also reflect respect, dignity,
23 and a contemporary understanding of disability terminology; now,
24 therefore,

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26 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
27 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
28 of 2026, that the Attorney General is requested to conduct a
29 comprehensive review of the Hawaii Revised Statutes to identify
30 provisions in which the term "impaired" or a similar term is
31 used to describe a person with a disability; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Attorney General is
2 requested to recommend amendments that update terminology using
3 wording that does not carry negative connotations, including
4 replacing the terms "hearing impaired" and "vision impaired"
5 with "deaf or hard of hearing" and "low vision," while
6 considering other appropriate alternatives consistent with
7 disability-inclusive language practices that do not change the
8 effect of the law or conflict with the Americans with
9 Disabilities Act; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Attorney General is
12 requested to submit a report of any findings and
13 recommendations, including proposed legislation, to the
14 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
15 the Regular Session of 2027; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
18 Resolution be transmitted to the Attorney General, and
19 Chairperson of the Disability and Communication Access Board.

OFFERED BY:

JAN 30 2026

