

JAN 21 2026

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC ACCESS.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 21G, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated ·  
3 and to read as follows:

4       **"S21G- Capitol visitor center; established.** (a) There  
5        is established within the state capitol a capitol visitor center  
6        to:

7        (1) Inform and educate visitors on the history and legacy  
8               of the state legislature;  
9        (2) Inform and educate visitors about and assist visitors  
10               in navigating the state capitol in collaboration with  
11               the office of the governor; and  
12        (3) Promote the State's attractions, including its natural  
13               resources, cultural heritage, experiences, and locally  
14               produced goods and services.

15        (b) The capitol visitor center shall be maintained and  
16        operated by the legislative reference bureau.



1 SECTION 2. Section 21D-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 **"[+]§21D-6 Joint legislative access committee. [+]** There  
4 is established the joint legislative access committee which  
5 shall be composed of members of the legislature. The president  
6 of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives  
7 shall each appoint a co-chair and two members or more to the  
8 committee, one of whom shall be a member of the minority party.

9 The committee shall:

10 (1) Oversee the staff and operations of the legislative  
11 broadcast project, and recommend policies for the  
12 project which shall be adopted by concurrent  
13 resolution; and  
14 (2) Review the operations of the public access room,  
15 legislative internet project[+] capitol visitor  
16 center, and other public access projects of the  
17 legislature and recommend policies for these projects  
18 to the president of the senate and the speaker of the  
19 house of representatives."

20 SECTION 3. Section 21G-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
21 amended to read as follows:



1        "[t]S21G-1[}]    **Purpose.**    The purpose of this chapter is to  
2    establish a permanent public access program to ensure improved  
3    public participation in the legislative process[–] and improved  
4    public access to the history and legacy of the state legislature  
5    and the state capitol."

6        SECTION 4.    Section 23G-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
7    amended to read as follows:

8        "**§23G-3    General purposes of bureau.**    The purpose of the  
9    office of the legislative reference bureau shall be to:  
10        (1)    Provide a comprehensive research and reference service  
11                on legislative problems for the legislature;  
12        (2)    Conduct impartial research, including legal research,  
13                as may be necessary for the enactment of substantive  
14                legislation, upon request by the legislature,  
15                legislative committees, or legislators, or on its own  
16                initiative;  
17        (3)    Disseminate its research findings to the legislature  
18                on all research projects undertaken upon the request  
19                of the legislature or legislative committees;  
20        (4)    Secure reports of various officers and boards of the  
21                State and as far as may be of the states and of the



1                   other territories of the United States and such other  
2                   material, periodicals, or books as will furnish the  
3                   fullest information practicable upon all matters  
4                   pertaining to current or proposed legislative  
5                   problems;

6                 (5) Secure information for the legislature, legislative  
7                   committees, and legislators by cooperating with the  
8                   legislative reference services in the states and with  
9                   the legislative service conference maintained by the  
10                  council of state governments;

11                (6) Maintain a reference library for use by the  
12                  legislature and legislative service agencies. Subject  
13                  to the priorities established by the director,  
14                  reference materials may be made available to the  
15                  various departments and agencies of the State and the  
16                  general public;

17                (7) Draft or aid in drafting bills, resolutions,  
18                  memorials, and amendments thereto, including committee  
19                  reports, for the legislature, legislative committees,  
20                  and legislators when requested;



13 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general  
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
15 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for  
16 the establishment and operation of the capitol visitor center,  
17 including the establishment and hiring of full-time  
18 equivalent ( FTE) positions.

19 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the legislative  
20 reference bureau for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

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INTRODUCED BY: Stacy



# S.B. NO. 2219

**Report Title:**

LRB; Joint Legislative Access Committee; State Capitol; Public Access; Capitol Visitor Center; Appropriation; Positions

**Description:**

Establishes a Capitol Visitor Center within the State Capitol to be maintained and operated by the Legislative Reference Bureau. Requires the Joint Legislative Access Committee to review the operations of the Capitol Visitor Center and recommend policies to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Appropriates funds.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

