

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



SIERRA WHITESIDE
CHAIRPERSON

DAINTRY BARTOLDUS
EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
'A'UNIKE MOKU'ĀPUNI NO KA NĀ KĀWAI KULA
PRINCESS VICTORIA KAMĀMALU BUILDING
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
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April 7, 2026

The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
The Thirty-Third Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB1700 HD1 SD1 Relating to Housing

The Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities offers **SUPPORT for HB1700 HD1 SD1**, which includes housing projects for individuals with disabilities and those with access and functional needs as eligible projects to apply for expedited permits.

The Council appreciates the Legislature's recognition that individuals with disabilities and those with access and functional needs often face significant barriers in securing adequate housing due to longer project timelines and permitting delays. Current expedited permit processes do not explicitly include these populations, which can slow the delivery of urgently needed accessible housing.

This bill represents an important step in recognizing disability-inclusive housing as essential community infrastructure and will help communities better meet the housing needs of these populations.

As this measure is implemented, the Council looks forward to continued collaboration with disability stakeholders, housing agencies, developers, and permitting authorities to help ensure that projects benefiting from expedited permitting incorporate meaningful accessibility, usability, and inclusive design.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of **HB1700 HD1 SD1**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daintry Bartoldus".

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

Ka 'Oihana Ho'oka'a'ike no ka Po'e Kīnānā

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April 7, 2026

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

House Bill 1700 House Draft 1 Senate Draft 1– Relating to Housing

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports House Bill 1700 House Draft 1 Senate Draft 1 – Relating to Housing. This bill includes housing projects for individuals with disabilities and individuals with access and functional needs as eligible projects to apply for expedited permits. It requires reports to the Legislature. It repeals 6/30/2031 and is effective 7/1/3000.

Allowing expedited permits for housing projects designed for individuals with disabilities and individuals with access and functional needs allows aging in place. Due to the shortage of care facilities, it is important to include housing projects to ensure that individuals with disabilities and individuals with access and functional needs can live independently.

The Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines applies to housing projects that utilize state or local government funds. These projects would also have to comply with the Fair Housing Act regulations if they contain any covered multifamily dwellings, which are defined as (1) all dwelling units in buildings containing four or more dwelling units if such buildings have one or more elevators, and (2) all ground floor dwelling units in other buildings containing four or more units.

Private housing projects that meet the definition of covered multifamily dwellings must comply with the Fair Housing Act, but are not subject to the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Therefore, DCAB requests Section 1 be amended to read as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 46-90, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending its title and subsection (a) to read as follows:

"[{ }§46-90[]] Expedited permits; single-family [and]; multi-family; individuals with disabilities and individuals with access and functional needs; housing [project] projects; permit applications; review time eligibility. (a) Permit applications for single-family and multi-family housing projects and housing projects for individuals with disabilities and individuals with access and functional needs in each county shall be eligible for an expedited permit approval pursuant to this section[-]; provided that housing projects approved for expedited permits for individuals with disabilities and individuals with access and functional needs shall not compromise

compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Fair Housing Act, state accessibility standards, or county building codes when applicable.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,



KRISTINE PAGANO
Acting Executive Director

HB-1700-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 6:22:04 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Louis Erteschik	Testifying for Hawaii Disability Rights Center	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support.



April 7, 2026

Senate Committee on Judiciary
Sen. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Sen. Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

RE: HB1700 HD1 SD1, Relating to Housing

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the committee –

Navian Hawaii is a nonprofit organization supporting the needs of Hawai'i's aging population, including through hospice, palliative care, and integrated support services. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony **in support of** HB1700 HD1 SD1, Relating to Housing. This bill would include housing projects for individuals with disabilities and individuals with access and functional needs as eligible projects to apply for expedited permits.

Hawai'i is undergoing a major demographic shift, with a rapidly aging population that will have profound implications for our healthcare infrastructure. In 2023, over 21% of Hawai'i's residents were aged 65 and older – a proportion that has been increasing and is projected to reach one in four by 2035. The fastest-growing segment includes those over 80 years old, a group that will require intensive levels of care, including skilled nursing, palliative, and hospice services.

As this trend continues, Hawai'i will face a dramatic rise in demand for inpatient and residential care facilities. Yet at present, constructing such facilities is exceptionally difficult due in large part to delays in the permitting process. One of our projects, on Gulick Ave, is expected to be stuck for two years in the Department of Planning and Permitting, critically delaying up to 20 beds from servicing our kūpuna. As our industry works to significantly increase the availability of beds, the problem will only worsen.

Expedited permitting for housing projects targeting individuals with disabilities and access and functional needs is a critical first step in addressing systemic inefficiencies. This will in turn support better health outcomes, offering more beds for the most vulnerable members of our population.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

April 7, 2026

TO: Chair Rhoads and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary
RE: HB 1700 HD1 SD1, Relating to Housing

Dear Chair Rhoads and Committee Members,

Housing Hawai'i's Future is a nonprofit dedicated to creating opportunities for Hawai'i's next generation by ending the workforce housing shortage.

We strongly support House Bill 1700 HD1 SD1. This measure allows projects serving individuals with disabilities and those with access and functional needs to qualify for expedited permitting processes.

Expedited permitting is a proven strategy to reduce development delays and costs, which can be particularly burdensome for projects serving vulnerable populations. By explicitly including these housing projects, this measure addresses longstanding barriers that have limited the availability of accessible units and slowed progress toward a more inclusive housing landscape. This approach aligns with best practices in other jurisdictions that have sought to streamline development for underserved communities.

Let's expand housing opportunities for everyone. **Please advance House Bill 1700 HD1 SD1.**

Thank you,



Lee Wang
Executive Director
Housing Hawai'i's Future
lee@hawaiisfuture.org



Perry Arrasmith
Director of Policy
Housing Hawai'i's Future
perry@hawaiisfuture.org



Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce

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Randy Kurohara

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Matthew Pickett

James Staub

Jase Takeya

Nimr Tamimi

Jennifer Tobey

Joni Waltjen

Irene Yamanaka

Tracie Yoshimoto

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 10:15 AM

RE: HB1700 HD1 SD1 Relating to Housing - SUPPORT

Aloha e Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabard, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce, representing more than 350 businesses and individual members primarily on the east side of Hawai'i Island, we respectfully submit testimony in strong support of HB1700 HD1 SD1, Relating to Housing.

Access to safe, stable, and appropriate housing remains a critical issue for our community. We recognize that individuals with disabilities and those with access and functional needs often face additional barriers when securing housing, including the need for specialized accommodations and supportive infrastructure.

By allowing housing projects that serve these populations to qualify for expedited permitting, this measure helps reduce unnecessary delays and supports the timely development of much-needed housing. Streamlining the process for these projects is a practical and compassionate step that ensures some of our State's most vulnerable residents are not left waiting for essential housing.

From a business and economic perspective, increasing the availability of stable housing strengthens workforce participation, supports community well-being, and contributes to a more resilient local economy.

We appreciate the Legislature's continued commitment to addressing Hawai'i's housing challenges and respectfully urge your support for HB1700 HD1 SD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Carla Kuo
Executive Officer
Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce

HB-1700-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 4:55:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jackie Keefe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Jackie Keefe and I am in **strong support of HB1700 HD1 SD1**, which includes housing projects for individuals with disabilities and individuals with access and functional needs as eligible projects to apply for expedited permits.

I worked for the past 14 months as an Inclusive Recovery Advocacy Specialist for Lahaina wildfire survivors. In this work, I have had the opportunity to learn about our disability community from some of the folks who have experience navigating their most stubborn barriers.

One thing I've learned is that we do not set up our disability community for success because we do not invest in them. Whether we're talking about our built environment, support services, healthcare, or otherwise, we have a long way to go towards creating an inclusive community in Hawai'i.

Our disability community severely lacks inclusive housing, and this bill would create an important pathway towards expediting this sort of project.

Please pass HB1700 HD1 SD1!

Mahalo for your consideration,

Jackie Keefe, Lahaina

LATE

HB-1700-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 12:21:58 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin Peralta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB 1700 relating to housing and that it would provide an expedited building permit process for those who live with disabilities. While there is an expedited process for green energy projects, there should be a process for health-related reasons, such as fall prevention. Please pass HB 1700. Thank you for this opportunity to testify!

LATE

HB-1700-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 12:40:11 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glen Kagamida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT!!! MAHALO!