

**SR-165**

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shelby Pikachu Billionaire	Testifying for Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands & Ohana Unity Party	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

**\*\*Aloha kakahiaka nui, Honorable Members of the Hawaii Senate.**

**\*\* My name is \*\*Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire, HRM\*\*, Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands, H.I. Chairman, Ohana Unity Party**

I submit this testimony with a heart full of the Aloha Spirit, in full accordance with **\*\*HRS 5-7.5 Aloha Spirit Law\*\***: “Aloha is the coordination of mind and heart within each person. It brings each person to the self. Each person must think and emote good thoughts and good feelings to others.” I offer my **\*\*strong, enthusiastic, and unwavering support\*\*** for **\*\*Senate Resolution SR165\*\***

— **\*REQUESTING THE HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION TO EXAMINE THE APPLICABILITY OF EXISTING STATE ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAWS TO ALGORITHMIC AND AUTOMATED DECISION SYSTEMS\***.

This resolution is forward-thinking, protective, and deeply pono. As artificial intelligence and automated systems rapidly take over important decisions in our daily lives, we must ensure that old forms of discrimination do not simply hide behind computer code and “neutral” algorithms.

**### Why SR165 Is Critical Right Now - Algorithms are already being used to screen job applicants, approve or deny housing, determine credit scores, decide who gets public benefits, and even influence insurance rates. - These systems can \*\*replicate, amplify, and hide\*\* bias**

— especially against Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, Filipinos, women, people with disabilities, and low-income communities. - Once discrimination is baked into an algorithm, it can affect thousands of people silently and at massive scale, often with no human review or accountability. - Hawaii has strong anti-discrimination laws, but we must examine whether those laws are strong enough to handle this new digital reality. SR165 wisely asks the Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission to:

- Study whether current state laws give them enough authority to investigate and remedy algorithmic discrimination. - Identify jurisdictional, evidentiary, and enforcement challenges.

- Evaluate the need for new guidance, rules, or complaint pathways.

- Provide recommendations and proposed legislation if needed.

- Submit a report to the Legislature by early 2027. This is proactive leadership. Instead of waiting for major harm to occur, Hawai'i is getting ahead of the problem with wisdom and aloha.  
**\*\*He ali'i ka 'āina, he kauwā ke kanaka\*\***

— The land is the chief, the people are the servants. When new technologies threaten to undermine fairness and equal opportunity for our people, it is our kuleana to step forward and protect the dignity of every resident. SR165 does exactly that — ensuring that civil rights do not become outdated in the age of AI.

I strongly urge the Senate to adopt **\*\*SR165\*\*** and move this important study forward without delay. Our keiki, wahine, kūpuna, and working families deserve protection from both old and new forms of discrimination.

**\*\*E ho'omaika'i kākou\*\***

— Let us give thanks for this wise resolution and act now to safeguard justice in the digital age. Mahalo nui loa for your kuleana and for receiving this testimony.

**\*\*Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire, HRM\*\*** Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands, H.I.  
Chairman, Ohana Unity Party



# **HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION** **KOMIKINA PONO KIWILA O HAWAI‘I**

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Thursday, April 2, 2026 9:45 a.m.  
Conference Room 016 & Videoconference  
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

To:

[COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY](#)

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

From: Marcus L. Kawatachi, Executive Director of the Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission  
and HCRC Staff

**Re: SCR184 & Companion HCR192/HR182**

**HCRC Staff Comments**

**While the Commission has not yet had the opportunity to meet and take an official position on SCR184/HCR192/HR182, the Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) staff provides following comments:**

SCR184 would require the HCRC to examine the applicability of existing state anti-discrimination laws to algorithmic and automated decision systems by (1) assessing existing state laws with regard to algorithmic and automated decision making; (2) identifying potential jurisdictional or evidentiary challenges; (3) evaluating whether guidance or rulemaking will assist individuals and entities in understanding obligations and rights; (4) consideration of complaint pathways under existing state law; and (5) recommendations for legislative action.

SCR184 would require the HCRC to submit a report of its findings to the legislature prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2027.

As background, the HCRC carries out the Hawai'i constitutional mandate that no person shall be discriminated against in the exercise of their civil rights. Art. I, Sec. 5. HCRC has enforcement jurisdiction over Hawai'i's laws prohibiting discrimination in employment (Chapter 378, Part I, HRS), housing (Chapter 515, HRS), public accommodations (Chapter 489, HRS), and access to state and state-funded services (HRS § 368-1.5).

As technological advances continue to increase and as technology increasingly becomes an essential part of every day life for many individuals and industries, looking critically at how artificial intelligence and algorithmic and automated decisionmaking is being used currently and will be used in the foreseeable future becomes necessary. Algorithmic or automated systems used to screen out applicants for housing or employment may superficially appear to take the human bias or discriminatory motive out of the decisionmaking process. However, research has shown these systems may continue or exacerbate historic discriminatory practices, as learning models use existing information (that may be based on past discriminatory practices) in recommendations.<sup>1</sup>

A few jurisdictions and states have recently enacted or introduced laws to regulate and combat algorithmic discrimination, including Colorado, California, and New York City (regulating

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<sup>1</sup> Ghasemaghaei, Maryam, and Nima Kordzadeh, *Understanding how algorithmic injustice leads to making discriminatory decisions: An obedience to authority perspective*, Science Direct, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S037872062400003X>, last accessed on March 30, 2026.

Sombetzki, Pia, *How and Why Algorithms Discriminate*, Algorithm Watch, <https://algorithmwatch.org/en/how-and-why-algorithms-discriminate/>, last accessed on March 30, 2026.

artificial intelligence (AI) discrimination in the workplace).<sup>2</sup> With the increasing reliance upon AI in our society and the increasing integration of algorithmic decisionmaking in industries, it is extremely likely that more states and local jurisdictions will seek to regulate this industry.

SCR184 is incredibly timely in this regard. It is highly unlikely that AI and algorithmic decisionmaking will disappear from society. This concurrent resolution addresses the reality that algorithmic decisionmaking will continue to be a part of decisions made in employment, housing, and other areas in life, and requires the HCRC to take a critical look at existing law and anticipate problems before they arise.

The HCRC is the agency that is tasked to handle these types of discriminatory complaints in employment, housing, public accommodations, and access to state and state-funded activities. While all cases are fact-specific, the HCRC would currently take complaints alleging discriminatory practices by AI or algorithmic decisionmaking systems that fall under our jurisdiction. The HCRC staff believes that the report that will be generated from this concurrent resolution will provide critical insight into the sufficiency of existing state law in handling algorithmic discrimination, and whether future legislation may be necessary.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide these comments.

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<sup>2</sup> States Passing Laws to Prevent AI Discrimination in Workplace, March 25, 2025, LexisNexis, <https://www.lexisnexis.com/community/insights/legal/capitol-journal/b/state-net/posts/states-passing-laws-to-prevent-ai-discrimination-in-workplace>, last accessed on March 30, 2026.