

MAR 10 2026

SENATE CONCURRENT 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15 individuals rather than outdated medicalized labels; and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 Senate of the Thirty-third
27 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the
28 House of Representatives concurring, that the Attorney General
29 is requested to conduct a comprehensive review of the Hawaii
30 Revised Statutes to identify provisions in which the term



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1 "impaired" or a similar term is used to describe a person with a
2 disability; and

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

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

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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
21 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Attorney General,
22 and Chairperson of the Disability and Communication Access
23 Board.

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OFFERED BY:

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. V. A. J.", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is highly cursive and loops back.