

MAR 10 2026

SENATE 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15 individuals rather than outdated medicalized labels; and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,
28 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
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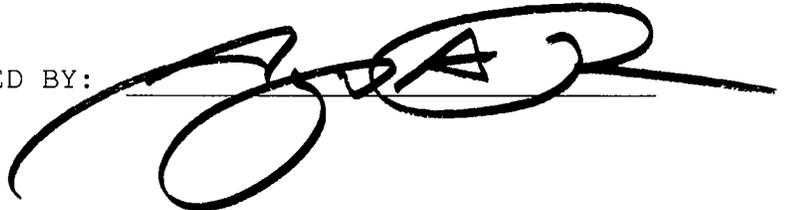
S.R. NO. 51

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

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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

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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.
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OFFERED BY: _____

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal line. The signature is highly cursive and appears to be the name of the person offering the resolution.