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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  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543

March 19, 2026

The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs  
The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
The Honorable Senator Stanley Chang, Chair  
Senate Committee on Housing  
The Thirty-Third Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawai'i  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chairs Wakai, San Buenaventura, Chang, and Committee Members:

**SUBJECT:** HB1700 HD1- Relating to Housing

The Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities offers **SUPPORT for HB1700 HD1**, 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**.

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

1010 Richards Street, Rm. 118 • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813  
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • Fax (808) 586-8129 • (808) 204-2466 (VP)

March 19, 2026

## TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AND ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND ON HOUSING

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

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports House Bill 1700 House 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 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

KRISTINE PAGANO  
Acting Executive Director

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**Council Services Division**  
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209  
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

March 17, 2026

**TESTIMONY OF KIPUKAI KUALII  
COUNCIL VICE CHAIR, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL**

**ON**

**HB 1700, HD 1, RELATING TO HOUSING**

Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Senate Committee on Housing

Thursday, March 19, 2026

1:05 p.m.

Conference Room 225

Via Videoconference

Dear Chair Wakai, Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Chang, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1700, HD 1, Relating to Housing. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Kaua'i County Council.

I fully support HB 1700, HD 1, which includes housing projects for individuals with disabilities and individuals with access and functional needs as eligible projects to apply for expedited permits. This is an important measure that streamlines development and allows individuals with disabilities and access and functional needs to age in place and live independently rather than being placed in a care facility, of which there is a shortage in Hawai'i. Housing that is inclusive of people with disabilities is essential to our communities and this bill helps expedite urgently needed permitting for vulnerable populations most affected by the State's housing shortage.

*Mahalo* for your leadership and thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1700, HD 1. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188 or via email to [cokcouncil@kauai.gov](mailto:cokcouncil@kauai.gov).

Sincerely,

KIPUKAI KUALII

Council Vice Chair, Kaua'i County Council

RM:ss



March 19, 2026

**Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs  
Sen. Glenn Wakai, Chair**

**Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Sen. Joy San Buenaventura, Chair**

**Senate Committee on Housing  
Sen. Stanley Chang, Chair**

**RE: HB1700 HD1, Relating to Housing**

Chairs Wakai, San Buenaventura, Chang and members of the committees –

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, 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.**

March 19, 2026

TO: Chair Wakai and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs  
Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Chair Chang and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing  
RE: HB 1700 HD1, Relating to Housing

Dear Chairs Wakai, San Buenaventura, Chang 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.** 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.**

Thank you,



Lee Wang  
Executive Director  
Housing Hawai'i's Future  
[lee@hawaiiifuture.org](mailto:lee@hawaiiifuture.org)



Perry Arrasmith  
Director of Policy  
Housing Hawai'i's Future  
[perry@hawaiiifuture.org](mailto:perry@hawaiiifuture.org)

**HB-1700-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 6:19:21 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/19/2026 1:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

We support this excellent idea that will help people with disabilities achieve greater community inclusion and integration.



[www.AlohaILHawaii.org](http://www.AlohaILHawaii.org)

Mar 10, 2026

#### MISSION

Aloha Independent Living Hawaii (AILH) dedicated to providing independent living programs and services for persons with disabilities in Hawaii.

We work together with the community and consumers to improve the quality of life through individual choices and access to services.

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Roxanne U. Bolden

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The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs  
The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Chair  
Senate Committee on Housing  
The Thirty-Third Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawaii  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**SUBJECT:** HB1700 HD1 – Related to Housing

Chairs and Members of the Committees:

Aloha Independent Living Hawaii (AILH) respectfully submits testimony **in support of HB1700 HD1 with recommendations**. AILH is a cross-disability, community-based independent living organization serving people with disabilities statewide.

HB1700 HD1 amends section 46-90, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to include housing projects for individuals with disabilities and individuals with access and functional needs as eligible for expedited permit review in each county. This clarification recognizes that permitting delays can disproportionately affect projects serving residents with heightened vulnerability and few alternative housing options.

For individuals with disabilities, stable and accessible housing is foundational to health, independence, employment, and community integration. Delays in permitting can prolong housing insecurity, delay development of accessible units, and limit opportunities for people to live in the least restrictive, most appropriate community settings. The bill's inclusion of "individuals with access and functional needs" appropriately



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acknowledges that vulnerability may arise from disability, age, transportation limitations, language barriers, or financial constraints.

Housing access challenges are particularly acute in rural communities such as the Kau district on Hawaii Island, where long travel distances, limited public transportation, and geographic isolation compound barriers. AILH's accessible transportation planning work in Kau documented significant service gaps, including limited transit availability and extended travel times for medical care, employment, and essential services. When housing development serving individuals with disabilities is delayed in rural districts, residents may be forced to relocate away from community supports or remain in inaccessible units; expedited permits can help mitigate these geographic inequities.

AILH offers the following recommendations to strengthen implementation:

First, expedited permitting should not compromise compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Fair Housing Act, state accessibility standards, or county building codes; speed must not come at the expense of accessibility, safety, or civil rights protections.

Second, because this measure is repealed in 2031, the Legislature may wish to establish reporting requirements during the effective period. Data on the number, type, and geographic distribution of projects receiving expedited status would support evaluation and ensure the provision advances equity goals.

Third, clear guidance to counties on eligibility criteria and documentation will be important to promote consistent statewide application and avoid uneven implementation between islands.

Finally, housing equity has particular significance within Native Hawaiian communities, where multigenerational living, rural barriers, and affordability constraints intersect with disability and access and functional needs. Expediting housing projects that serve these populations can contribute to reducing longstanding disparities in housing access and stability while supporting community-based independent living.



[www.AlohaILHawaii.org](http://www.AlohaILHawaii.org)

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#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Roxanne U. Bolden

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HB1700 HD1 advances more equitable access to housing development processes for individuals with disabilities and residents with access and functional needs. With careful implementation, transparency measures, and continued attention to accessibility standards, it can strengthen Hawaii's commitment to inclusive, community-based housing opportunities.

AILH respectfully urges passage of HB1700 HD1 with the above recommendations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha,

Roxanne Bolden  
Executive Director

## In Support of HB 1700

From: Sue Berk

Date: March 17, 2026

I support and ask your support of HB 1700.

I am a parent of a 40 year old man with Down Syndrome an Intellectual and Developmental Disability (IDD). I am also co-founder of Fuller Lives a 501c3 focused on raising awareness of the need for more residential options for adults with IDD when their parents can no longer care for them in the family home.

- In 2018 our organization surveyed parents. 67% of families surveyed, who currently have an adult with IDD living with them, will need an alternative residential placement for the person they care for in 5 to 10 years.
- Per the 2023 RISP report (website below) there are 3031 individuals receiving Long Term Support Services in Hawaii. 80% of them are over the age of 21. And 80% of those still live with their parents. **And parents are getting old!**
- So, about 2400 adults with IDD will be needing care outside their family home in the next few years.
- More group homes or needed. More residential options are needed.

Because of the facts noted above, I fully support EXPEDITING Permit applications for single-family and multi-family housing projects and housing projects for individuals with disabilities and individuals with access and functional needs.

<https://publications.ici.umn.edu/risp/state-profiles/hawaii>

Warm Regards,

*Sue Berk*

President, Fuller Lives

Thank You!!



**HB-1700-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 8:43:50 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/19/2026 1:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

1700 HB RELATING TO HOUSING.

INCREASE PRIVATE NURSING HOME W/PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

**HB-1700-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 4:12:07 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/19/2026 1:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Chevelle Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Wakai, Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Chang, Vice Chair Chang, Vice Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Hashimoto, and Members of the Committees,

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of this important measure.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Chevelle Davis

To: Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Committee on Energy & Intergovernmental Affairs

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair  
Committee on Health & Human Services

Senator Stanley Chang, Chair  
Senator Troy N. Hashimoto, Vice Chair  
Committee on Housing

From: Veronica Moore, Individual Citizen

Date: March 18, 2026

RE: House Bill 1700 HD1  
Measure Title: RELATING TO HOUSING.  
Report Title: Individuals with Disabilities; Access and Functional Needs; Housing  
Projects; Expedited Permits

To All Concerned,

My name is Veronica Moore and I support House Bill 1700 HD1. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Veronica M. Moore

**LATE**

**HB-1700-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 3:20:48 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/19/2026 1:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jennifer Barrett Fajardo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairs, Vice-Chairs, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Jennifer Barrett Fajardo, a Hawai'i resident, ALS advocate and former caregiver to my husband, who lived with ALS.

I am writing in strong support of HB 1700 HD1, Relating to Housing.

Through my experience as a caregiver, I saw firsthand how quickly ALS changes what a person and their family need to live safely at home. Everyday spaces that once worked, doorways, bathrooms, entryways, can become barriers almost overnight. Making necessary home modifications is not optional; it is essential to maintaining safety, dignity, and quality of life.

However, these modifications often need to happen urgently. Delays in the permitting process can create real risks, including falls, hospitalizations, or being forced to leave home sooner than expected.

This bill would help ensure that individuals living with ALS and other disabilities can make critical accessibility changes in a timely manner. It would ease the burden on families and allow more people to remain safely in their homes for as long as possible.

Thank you for your consideration and for supporting individuals and families navigating serious illness.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Barrett Fajardo

**PRESIDENT & CEO**

Sheri Strahl, MPH, MBA

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Hawaii State Senate  
Committee on Energy and  
Intergovernmental Affairs  
Committee on Health and Human Services  
Committee on Housing

Thursday, March 19, 2026

Dear Chairs, Vice-Chairs, and Members of the Committees:

The ALS Network respectfully submits testimony in strong support of HB 1700 HD1, Relating to Housing. This bill would allow individuals with disabilities to apply for expedited building permits for eligible projects intended to improve accessibility and safety.

ALS Network is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization serving individuals and families living with ALS in Hawaii. Through Care, Research, and Advocacy, we work to ensure people affected by ALS have access to comprehensive support, advance scientific progress toward treatments and cures, and promote policies that strengthen access to care. In Hawaii, our focus includes providing direct care services and support to families navigating this devastating disease. On behalf of the communities we serve, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) is a progressive, fatal neuromuscular disease that gradually robs individuals of their ability to walk, speak, swallow, and eventually breathe. As mobility declines, home environments that were once safe and functional quickly become inaccessible and hazardous. Doorways become too narrow for wheelchairs, bathrooms lack roll-in access, and entryways without ramps can confine individuals to their homes.

HB 1700 HD1 would help individuals with ALS and other debilitating conditions make timely home modifications that improve accessibility and safety. For many families facing ALS, the costs associated with modifying a home—such as installing ramps, widening doorways, retrofitting bathrooms with roll-in showers, lowering countertops, or adding stair lifts—can be significant and often arise unexpectedly after diagnosis.

Because ALS progresses rapidly, timing is critical. Delays in the ability to modify a home can result in preventable falls, hospitalizations, or premature institutionalization. Enabling individuals to make accessibility improvements in a timely manner helps preserve independence, dignity, and quality of life, while supporting aging and care in the community and reducing strain on caregivers and the broader health care system.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Sheri Strahl



California Mailing Address  
PO Box 7082  
Woodland Hills, CA 91365-7082

Hawai'i Mailing Address  
PO Box 11284  
Honolulu, HI 96828-0261

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