



**STATE HEALTH PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO

JOSH GREEN, MD
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII

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April 6, 2026

TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY
Representative Greggor Ilagan, Chair
Representative Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair
Honorable Members

FROM: John C. (Jack) Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPDA, and Sr. Advisor to
Governor Josh Green, MD on Healthcare Innovation

RE: HCR 8 -- RELATING TO BUILDING PERMIT APPLICATIONS

HEARING: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 @ 09:30 am; Conference Room 423

POSITION: SUPPORT with COMMENTS

Testimony:

SHPDA strongly supports HCR 8, with comments.

HCR 8 urges Hawai'i's counties to act within 45 days on complete building permit applications for home modifications that a licensed health care provider says are essential for the safety or health of an older adult or person with a disability. HCR 8 could help older adults and people with disabilities get needed home safety modifications approved faster, which may reduce the risk of falls, injuries, and health complications. HCR 8 could also reduce delays and stress for families trying to make homes safer and more accessible for loved ones.

This would be very helpful for our KupunAloha pilot project for supporting the ability of our seniors to remain at home and age in place.

Thank you for hearing HCR 8.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

■ -- Jack Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPDA



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
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April 8, 2026

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

House Concurrent Resolution 8/House Resolution 7 – Urging the Counties to Act on Any Building Permit Application for Modification of a Residence that is Prescribed by a Licensed Health Care Provider and Found by the County to be Essential to the Safety or Health of an Older Adult or Person with a Disability Within Forty-Five Days of Receipt of a Complete Application

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports House Concurrent Resolution 8/House Resolution 7 – Urging the Counties to Act on Any Building Permit Application for Modification of a Residence that is Prescribed by a Licensed Health Care Provider and Found by the County to be Essential to the Safety or Health of an Older Adult or Person with a Disability Within Forty-Five Days of Receipt of a Complete Application.

Many people prefer to age in place, and studies have shown this is beneficial to the individual. It also prevents unnecessary placement in an institutionalized nursing facility, of which Hawaii has a shortage of. For someone with a disability, this may require physical modifications to their unit or to common areas. However, if a permit is required and a county does not issue it in a timely manner, an individual may be forced to choose between moving or allowing unpermitted construction work.

DCAB would urge that a person with a disability be offered some type of remedy when a county does not act on an accessibility related permit request within forty-five days.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

KRISTINE PAGANO
Acting Executive Director



HCR8/HR7 Counties Expedite Permitting for Aging & People with Disabilities

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Rep. Greggor Ilagan, Chair

Rep. Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair

Wednesday, Apr 8, 2026: 9:30: Room 423 Videoconference

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Supports HCR8/HR7:

ALOHA CHAIR, VICE CHAIR, AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the ad hoc leader of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide organization for substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health disorder prevention and treatment agencies and recovery-oriented services such as stabilization crisis, harm reduction and supportive housing.

We strongly support this measure urging counties to act within forty-five days on permit applications for medically necessary home modifications.

Especially important now that substance abuse agencies are now entering the housing arena to provide professionally managed housing for the most chronic.

For individuals with substance use disorders, recovery is a recognized disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Safe, stable, and appropriately modified housing is not optional—it is essential to health, safety, and sustained recovery.

Delays in permitting can mean prolonged risk, relapse, or even loss of housing for vulnerable individuals. SUD treatment providers and recovery residences serve people with disabilities and must be treated with the same urgency and protections afforded under the ADA.

This measure helps ensure timely, reasonable accommodations and supports continuity of care. We respectfully ask your support.

We appreciate the opportunity to respond and are available for questions.



www.AlohaILHawaii.org

Apr 8, 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 Greggor Ilagan, Chair
House Committee on Economic Development & Technology
The Thirty-Third Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

SUBJECT: HCR8 – Urging the Counties to Act on Any Building Permit Application For Modification of a Residence That is Prescribed By a Licensed Health Care Provider and Found By the County to be Essential to the Safety or Health of an Older Adult or Person with a Disability Within Forty-Five Days of Receipt of a Complete Application.

Chair and Members of the Committee:

Aloha Independent Living Hawaii (AILH) **strongly supports HCR8**, which urges the counties to act within forty-five days on complete building permit applications for medically prescribed home modifications that are essential to the safety or health of an older adult or person with a disability.

AILH is a statewide Center for Independent Living serving people with all types of disabilities across Hawaii. From a cross-disability Independent Living perspective, home modifications such as ramps, grab bars, widened doorways, and accessible bathrooms are basic access needs that help people remain safely in their homes and communities rather than being pushed toward avoidable institutional care.

For many disabled people and kupuna, permit delays are not just administrative problems. Delays can mean preventable falls, injuries, caregiver strain, and loss of choice about where and how a person lives. HCR8 offers a reasonable timeline that supports safety, dignity, and community living across our counties, including rural and neighbor island communities where delays can have especially serious consequences.



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This measure also fits the Committee's economic development mission. Timely approval of essential home modifications can reduce more costly health and institutional outcomes, support local construction and accessibility work, and help residents stay in their homes and communities with the supports they need.

AILH respectfully urges the Committee to pass HCR 8.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Roxanne Bolden
Executive Director