



## DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

Ka 'Oihana Ho'oka'a'ike no ka Po'e Kīnānā

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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



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