

# OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRACTICES

STATE OF HAWAII  
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT BUILDING  
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 107  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
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EMAIL: oip@hawaii.gov

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Carlotta Amerino, Director

Date: March 3, 2026, 10:15 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Re: Testimony on S.B. No. 2849, S.D. 1  
Relating to Public Meetings

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill, which would (1) require that the agenda listing items to be considered, and other statutorily required information, appear at the beginning of a board's notice of a meeting under the Sunshine Law, part I of chapter 92, HRS; and (2) require all meeting notices to also include a statement of where a board packet may be viewed. The Office of Information Practices (OIP) offers comments.

The purpose clause of this bill makes clear that its intent is to require that a Sunshine Law board's agenda list items to be considered at a meeting appear before all or most of the other information included in the meeting notice. However, the proposed amendment to subsection 92-7(a) of the Sunshine Law's notice provision does not actually accomplish this. This subsection includes a long list of information required to be included in every meeting notice, and as such is already the primary contributor to the extensive "non-substantive" text raised as a concern in this bill's purpose clause. The amendment proposed by this bill would add to that list of statutorily required information a new requirement that the information be listed at the beginning of the notice, but would not specify the order in which the

various pieces of required information must be listed. Thus, it would appear to require that all information required by subsection 92-7(a) appear in the meeting notice before any information required by another Sunshine Law provision (such as the remote meetings section) or any information that is not statutorily required, which would mean that information such as contact information for testimony, instructions for requesting an auxiliary aid or service, or the newly added instructions for viewing a board packet could still come before the agenda of items to be considered. Possibly the proposed amendment could instead be read to require that the information must be listed on the meeting notice in the same order it is listed in subsection 92-7(a); however, that interpretation would mean that the entire agenda of items to be considered must appear on the notice before the time, date, and place of the meeting, which many members of the public would likely find distinctly unhelpful.

If this Committee wishes to set out the order in which the list of required information for a meeting notice must appear in a meeting notice, OIP respectfully suggests this bill should be amended to clearly require that the information be in a specific order, and clearly indicate what that order of information is. However, OIP notes that a failure to satisfy the Sunshine Law's notice requirement can and often does result in cancellation of a board's meeting. OIP asks that this Committee consider whether the public benefit of requiring all meeting notices to list the statutorily required information in a specified order would outweigh the inefficiencies caused by meeting cancellations whenever a board's meeting notice included all statutorily required information, but failed to list it in the correct order.

Finally, regarding this bill's proposal to add a new piece of statutorily required information by requiring all meeting notices to state where "the board packet" may be viewed, OIP notes that boards are not required to use a board

packet in the first place, and a board that does use a board packet is not required to have it ready at the time it files its meeting notice, since a board packet is not part of the meeting notice and has a different deadline and process (including notification to people on the board's mailing list) to be made available to the public. Many boards do use board packets regularly and include information about when and where the board packet can be viewed in their meeting notices. However, making this information a statutory requirement could be a problem for those boards that do not routinely use board packets. At the time a board prepares its meeting notice, it may not yet know if it will want to distribute materials before a meeting – in other words, to use a board packet. The sensible thing for such a board to do, even if it doesn't really expect to send out a board packet, would be to list board packet viewing information on the agenda just in case so it can still have one if needed. In other words, this requirement could result in members of the public trying to find a non-existent board packet. Because of this potential for confusion, OIP believes it is preferable to leave board packet viewing information as a voluntary element of a meeting notice, rather than mandating its inclusion. However, if this Committee does wish to add this new meeting notice requirement, OIP recommends amending it to account for boards that do not plan to use a board packet for the meeting, by adding "if applicable," at the beginning of the new language on bill page 2, line 20.

Thank you for considering OIP's testimony.



# DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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

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

March 3, 2026

## TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

### Senate Bill 2849 Senate Draft 1 – Relating to Public Meetings

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports Senate Bill 2849 Senate Draft 1 – Relating to Public Meetings. This bill requires certain information to appear at the beginning of notices for public meetings. It is effective 1/1/2525.

Many boards place much of their administrative and procedural instructions at the top of an agenda, with the exception for the instructions on how to request an auxiliary aid or service or an accommodation due to a disability which often are at the bottom of an agenda. This bill reverses that agenda structure.

Persons with disabilities who use screen readers find it difficult to navigate through pages of administrative and procedural instructions before they can learn what specific topics a board will be considering. This bill prevents that situation from occurring and increases civic participation in public meetings.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

KRISTINE PAGANO  
Acting Executive Director



Senate Committee on Government Operations

Tuesday, March 3, 2026, 10:15 AM Hearing in Conference Room 016 on  
SB 2849, SD1 Relating to Public Meetings

TESTIMONY

Douglas Meller, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members:

**The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports SB 2849, SD1.** The League believes board meeting notices should inform the public where they can review paper and electronic copies of board packets. Unless this might jeopardize passage, we request that SB 2849, SD2 amend Sec. 92-7.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to establish a deadline for timely public access to electronic copies of board packets.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii  
Testimony submitted by James Gashel, legislative chair

Senate Judiciary (JDC) Committee

Thirty-third legislature, 2026 regular session  
March 3, 2026, 10:15 am, hearing on SB2849 S.D. 1

Good morning Chair Rhoads, Vice chair Gabbard, and members. I am James Gashel, National Federation of the Blind (NFB) of Hawaii, legislative chair, requesting an amendment and supporting SB2849 S.D. 1. The purpose of this Act is to require certain information to appear at the beginning of notices for public meetings.

This bill seeks to give priority in public meeting notices to the most substantive items (core content) by requiring their listing at the beginning of the notice. The point is that these core items are better found at the beginning and less likely to be obscured by various administrative matters that may also appear within the notice.

Aside from requiring the specified order, National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii requests an amendment to require:

"Notices posted on websites or otherwise distributed by electronic means shall meet or exceed the requirements for web content and mobile applications, specified at 28 CFR Part 35, Subpart H--Web and Mobile Accessibility."

As noted in Section 1, the legislature's findings, "The legislature believes that this lengthy structural arrangement (of notices) ... disproportionately affects individuals with disabilities, including ... persons using screen reading software who must navigate excessive non-substantive text to access the core content."

This makes the point that "Readability" and better access for persons with disabilities are principal goals of SB2849, but these goals are only partially addressed by placement of agenda items at the beginning of the notice. Adherence to the regulation cited in our amendment will complement and better fulfill the goals of this bill, which, as written, is only a partial solution to the identified accessibility problem.

The 28 CFR Part 35 regulation is all about accessibility of documents available on the internet, including navigation through complex documents using screen reading software. This is the long awaited regulation, implementing title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, applicable to websites and mobile applications used by state and local government entities. Published on April 24, 2024, the compliance date of this regulation is April 24, 2026. Therefore, it's timely for the legislature to cite this regulation in a relevant bill, such as SB2849 S.D. 1.

Please include the quoted language, or a variant thereof, in an appropriate section of SB2849 S.D. 1, or, at a minimum, please note it in the committee report for future committees to consider. Mahalo for your help.



Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

**RE: Testimony in Support of S.B. 2849 S.D. 1, Relating to Public Meetings**  
Hearing: March 3, 2026 at 10:15 a.m.

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ben Creps. I am a staff attorney at the Public First Law Center, a nonprofit organization that promotes government transparency. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support** of S.B. 2849 S.D. 1.

S.B. 2849 S.D. 1 reflects best practice for preparing agendas. The most important part of an agenda is the agenda. But many boards provide lengthy “boilerplate” instructions and non-substantive meeting information at the beginning of a meeting notice. While that can be frustrating for anyone, we have heard consistent concerns that it is particularly difficult for individuals using assistive “screen reading” technology.

Clear and accessible meeting notices are critical to effective public participation. By standardizing and prioritizing the placement of substantive agenda items (as in the attached example), S.B. 2849 S.D. 1 reduces barriers to access and helps ensure that all members of the public can quickly find the information they need.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 2849 S.D. 1.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

DAWN N.S. CHANG  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE  
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES  
ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

**ENDANGERED SPECIES RECOVERY COMMITTEE (ESRC)  
PUBLIC MEETING**

**DATE:** March 6, 2026

**TIME:** 9:00 AM HST

**LOCATION:** DLNR – DLNR Boardroom at Kalanimoku Building  
1151 Punchbowl St,  
Room #132, Honolulu, Hawai'i  
Online via [this Zoom link](#), or livestream with [this YouTube link](#)  
Zoom Meeting ID: 868 5661 3256  
Zoom Passcode: 2ks4Rv

Meeting materials are available at: <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wildlife/esrc/meeting-archives/>

**AGENDA**

**ITEM 1.** Call to order

**ITEM 2:** Status of the Hōkūala (Kaua'i Lagoons) Habitat Conservation Plan, Kaua'i

- Licensee Presentation
- DOFAW HCP Presentation
- ESRC Discussion and Comments

**ITEM 3:** Status of the Kamehameha Schools Keauhou and Kīlauea Forest Lands Safe Harbor Agreement, Hawai'i Island

- Licensee Presentation
- DOFAW HCP Presentation
- ESRC Discussion and Comments

**ITEM 4:** Status of the Safe Harbor Agreement for the Introduction of Endangered Orangeblack Hawaiian Damselfly (*Megalagrion xanthomelas*) to a Conservation Area on the Island of Lānaʻi

- Licensee Presentation
- DOFAW HCP Presentation
- ESRC Discussion and Comments

**ITEM 5:** Haleakalā Safe Harbor Agreement, Maui; Puʻu O Hōkū Safe Harbor Agreement and Programmatic Nēnē Safe Harbor Agreement, Molokaʻi

- DOFAW HCP Presentation
- ESRC Discussion and Comments

**ITEM 6.** 2025 Status of Kauaʻi Seabird Habitat Conservation Plan (KSHCP) Seabird Mitigation at Kahuama`a Seabird Preserve

- Presentation by Pacific Rim Conservation
- ESRC Discussion and Comments

**ITEM 7.** Adjournment

***This public meeting will be held using interactive conference technology in accordance with section 92-3.7, Haw. Rev. Stat. (HRS). Committee members, staff, participants, and testifiers can choose to participate either in person, via ZOOM, or by telephone. Anyone attending in person is encouraged to wear a mask.***

***The public may also view the live meeting via its livestream at:***  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7wF8qRwctkxwAUwHxv9H-A>

***Meeting materials, if applicable, will be available for public review in advance of the meeting at:***  
<https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wildlife/esrc/meeting-archives/>

***The meeting will be live-streamed and recorded at:***  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7wF8qRwctkxwAUwHxv9H-A>

***To provide in-person testimony (Masks are encouraged):***  
Attend live at 1151 Punchbowl Street Rm. 132 (Kalanimoku Building), Honolulu, Hawaiʻi.

***To provide Video Testimony by ZOOM:***  
Send your request via email to [dofaw.hcp@hawaii.gov](mailto:dofaw.hcp@hawaii.gov) or call Jason D. Omick at (808) 347-6869 or Jesse W. Adams at (808) 265-3276. Please include your name, phone number, email address, and the agenda item on which you would like to provide testimony for in your email request. Requests may be made during the meeting and will be processed as soon as practicable. You will need a computer with internet access, a video camera, and a microphone to participate via video. If you require access by phone only, please indicate that in your email request.

***To provide Written Testimony by Mail or E-Mail:***  
Interested persons can submit written testimony in advance of each meeting that will be distributed to Committee Members prior to the meeting. Submit written testimony to [dofaw.hcp@hawaii.gov](mailto:dofaw.hcp@hawaii.gov) or via postal mail to Endangered Species Committee c/o HCP Section, Division of Forestry & Wildlife, 1151 Punchbowl St. #325, Honolulu, HI, 96813. We request written testimony be submitted no later than 24 hours prior to the meeting to ensure time for Committee Member review. Written testimony that is received later than 24 hours prior to the meeting will be retained as part of the record and distributed to

Committee Members as soon as practicable, but we cannot ensure that Committee Members will receive it with sufficient time for review prior to decision-making.

If you need an auxiliary aid/service or other accommodation due to a disability, contact Jason D. Omick at (808) 347-6869 or Jesse W. Adams at (808) 265-3276 or via e-mail at [dofaw.hcp@hawaii.gov](mailto:dofaw.hcp@hawaii.gov) as soon as possible. Requests made as early as possible have a greater likelihood of being fulfilled. Upon request, this notice is available in alternate/accessible formats.

The Committee may go into Executive Session pursuant to section 92-5(a)(4), HRS, to consult with its attorney on questions and issues relating to the Committee's powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities.



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

Mar 1, 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

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Valerie Yamada

##### Vice Chair

Zora Shove

##### Treasurer

Jonathan Yap

##### Member

Scott Suzuki  
Sheila Castaneda  
Jennifer Hartssock

The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
The Thirty-Third Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawaii  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**SUBJECT:** SB 2849 SD1, Relating to Public Meetings

Chair and Members of the Committees:

Aloha Independent Living Hawaii (AILH) respectfully submits testimony in **support of SB2849 SD1 with recommendations.**

SB2849 SD1 amends section 92-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to require that key information appear at the beginning of public meeting notices, including substantive agenda items, meeting details, testimony submission information, and instructions on how to request an auxiliary aid, service, or accommodation due to a disability. The Legislature appropriately recognizes that current formatting practices can create unnecessary barriers to public participation and disproportionately affect individuals with disabilities, particularly those using screen reading software or navigating lengthy documents.

Access to public meetings is a foundational element of open government. When accommodation instructions are buried at the end of multi-page notices or when procedural text obscures substantive agenda items, individuals with disabilities may face preventable obstacles in exercising their right to participate.

AILH respectfully offers the following recommendations to strengthen implementation:

First, the requirement that accommodation instructions include a response deadline that is “reasonable” should be interpreted with flexibility and clarity. Rigid or overly short deadlines may inadvertently exclude individuals who learn of meetings shortly before they occur or who require additional time to coordinate assistance. Guidance to agencies should emphasize that



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

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### Member

Scott Suzuki  
Sheila Castaneda  
Jennifer Hartssock

reasonableness must account for real-world scheduling barriers and ensure meaningful opportunity to participate.

Second, to ensure that accommodation requests can be fulfilled in practice, the State and counties should consider establishing or strengthening contractual partnerships with qualified service providers, such as sign language interpreters, captioning services, assistive technology providers, and other accessibility specialists. Clear procurement pathways and pre-established service agreements can reduce delays and increase compliance consistency across agencies.

Third, if capacity limitations exist in certain regions or service categories, the Legislature may wish to examine workforce availability through a separate study or coordinated discussion. Addressing systemic shortages proactively can prevent situations in which agencies are unable to secure requested accommodations despite good-faith efforts.

Finally, as agencies implement these changes, attention should be given to digital accessibility standards, including structured document formatting and screen reader compatibility, to ensure that the reorganization of notices achieves its intended accessibility benefits.

SB2849 SD1 strengthens transparency, promotes equitable civic participation, and aligns public meeting practices with the principles of accessibility embedded in both state and federal law. With thoughtful implementation and attention to practical service capacity, it can meaningfully improve access to government for individuals with disabilities.

AILH respectfully urges passage with the above recommendations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha,

Roxanne Bolden  
Executive Director

**SB-2849-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 6:58:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

<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

2849 SB RELATING TO PUBLIC MEETINGS.

# PETER L. FRITZ

[PLFLEGIS@FRITZHQ.COM](mailto:PLFLEGIS@FRITZHQ.COM)  
T-MOBILE RELAY: (808) 568-0077

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 2849, SD1 Relating to Public Meetings

Hearing: March 3, 2026, 10:15 AM

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Peter Fritz. I am an attorney, an individual with a disability, a former chair of the Disability and Communication Access Board, a former chair of the State Rehabilitation Council, and an advocate for individuals with disabilities. I am submitting this testimony in support of Senate Bill 2849 SD1, which seeks to address significant barriers to public participation in government meetings, particularly for people with disabilities.

The current structure of many public meeting notices creates unnecessary barriers to participation for all members of the public. A person without a disability should not have to search through pages of procedural rules to find out what topics will be discussed. This burden falls most heavily on individuals who rely on assistive technologies, but it affects every member of the public who wants to participate in government. Reducing this complexity promotes transparency and encourages broader civic participation, which is the core purpose of the public notice requirement.

## **The Problem**

Public meeting notices published by state agencies are often structured in a way that buries the most important information. Administrative and procedural rules governing board operations appear first. These include quorum requirements, rules requiring board members to be visible on screen if participating virtually, and rules governing what occurs when a board member leaves a meeting. This material has no relevance to a member of the public trying to determine whether a meeting is worth attending. The list of agenda items appears later, sometimes after several pages of these provisions.

Instructions for submitting written testimony and procedures for testifying in person or virtually logically belong after the agenda items. A member of the public should be able to read the agenda first, decide whether to attend, and then consult the participation procedures. Accommodation request instructions are different. A person with a disability needs to know how to request an accommodation while reading the agenda. A person who requires the agenda in an alternate accessible format, such as large print, must be able to find that information immediately or they may be unable to read the document. As a user of screen reading software, I often must navigate through the entire document to find the accommodation information.

The attached agenda illustrates this problem. It was published by the Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB), the state agency charged with advocating for people with disabilities. The DCAB agenda front-loads its notices with procedural instructions. Testimony procedures, parliamentary rules, and remote meeting rules all appear before the list of agenda items. A screen reader user must navigate through all of that material before reaching the topics to be discussed at the meeting.

The accommodation request instructions appear on page 18, the final page of the document. A deaf or hard of hearing individual seeking to request an ASL interpreter would not find that information until reaching the last page of an 18-page document. This is the agenda of the agency responsible for advocating on behalf of people with disabilities. This is not a criticism of DCAB. There is no legal requirement specifying where this information must appear. That is precisely what SB 2849 SD1 would correct.

This burden falls on every member of the public, but it falls most heavily on individuals who use screen readers or other assistive technology, individuals with mobility impairments, and individuals with conditions such as Parkinson's disease, benign tremors, or quadriplegia, who must navigate through substantial non-substantive text, using assistive technology, to locate basic information.

### **What the Bill Requires**

SB 2849 SD1 requires that the following information appear at the beginning of a meeting notice: the agenda of items to be considered; the date, time, and place of the meeting; the location of the board packet; contact information for submitting testimony; and instructions for requesting an auxiliary aid or accommodation.

The date, time, place, and contact information should appear before the agenda items. A member of the public needs that basic information first in order to evaluate whether and how to participate in the meeting. Accommodation request instructions must also appear at the beginning of the notice. A person with a disability may need to request the agenda in an alternate accessible format, such as large print or a screen-reader-compatible document, before they can read the agenda items at all. Placing accommodation instructions at the beginning ensures that this information is available when it is needed.

### **The Board Packet and Agency Contact Information**

The Office of Information Practices raised a concern about requiring agencies to include the location of the board packet in every notice. That concern is valid for agencies that do not routinely prepare board packets. However, the board packet provision addresses a broader problem. Many agendas list only a post office box. That does not tell a member of the public where to go to physically inspect agency materials or ask questions about an agenda item.

The bill already requires that accommodation contact information appear at the beginning of the notice. That information serves a specific purpose. It connects a person with a disability to the individual responsible for handling accommodation requests. It is not intended for general public inquiries and may route to an ADA Coordinator who is not in a position to answer questions about agenda items. A member of the public with a general question about an agenda item needs a direct way to reach the agency. A post office box does not provide that. An accommodation telephone number does not provide that.

The committee should amend the bill to require that every notice include a general contact telephone number and physical address at the beginning of the notice. A member of the public may have a general question about an agenda item before deciding whether to attend a meeting. If the only contact information provided is a post office box or an accommodation line, there is no direct way to reach the agency. This requirement is separate from the board packet issue and should be included regardless of how the committee resolves the board packet question.

### **Consistency with Existing Guidance**

This bill is consistent with existing guidance from the Office of Information Practices. OIP's Agenda Guidance states that one way to make an agenda easier to follow is to put related information together. **SB 2849 SD1 codifies that principle ensuring that required information is organized logically and is easy for the public to access. It does not create new substantive obligations. It establishes a clear organizational standard for information that is already required by law.**

### **Request**

I respectfully request that the committee pass SB 2849 SD1 and amend it to require that a physical address and telephone number appear at the beginning of every meeting notice.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



# 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)

## NOTICE OF MEETING

### Disability and Communication Access Board

### Legislative Committee Meeting

February 20, 2026  
12:00 p.m.

The public is welcome to participate as follows:

#### **Physical Meeting Location**

Kamamalu Building  
1010 Richards Street, Room 111A and 111B  
Honolulu, HI 96813

#### **Participate Virtually via Zoom**

Click on the link below or copy and paste it into your browser window:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88908407895> and enter Meeting ID: 889 0840 7895

#### **To join by phone**

Dial 1 669 900 6833 and enter Meeting ID: 889 0840 7895

One tap mobile: +16694449171,,88908407895# US

#### **HOW TO TESTIFY:**

**Written testimony** – There is no deadline for submission of testimony, however, to ensure the public as well as Committee members are able to review testimony prior to the meeting, we request written testimony be submitted no later than 9:00 a.m. one business day prior to the scheduled meeting date and time.

- **To Submit by Email:** Email the Legislative Committee at [dcab@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:dcab@doh.hawaii.gov). Please include TESTIMONY in the subject line.
- **To Submit by U.S. Postal Mail or Hand-Delivery:**

Attention: Legislative Committee – Testimony  
Disability and Communication Access Board  
1010 Richards Street, Room 118  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

- **To Submit via facsimile:** (808) 586-8129

**Oral testimony** will be accepted via the remote testimony link or in-person at 1010 Richards Street, Room 111A and 111B, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813.

Testimony or comments presented by members of the public during the Committee meetings shall be limited to three (3) minutes per agenda item. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a reasonable amount of additional time shall be afforded to persons with a communication disability to present testimony or comments, if needed. Any person who needs additional time to present testimony or comments is encouraged to contact the DCAB office in advance of the meeting. This rule shall be placed at the beginning of all Committee meeting agendas.

Members of the public may present comment or testimony during Committee meetings on each agenda item. Public comment or testimony, if any, shall be presented on each agenda item before the Committee deliberates on the item. After all public comment or testimony is presented, the Committee shall deliberate on the agenda item without further comment or testimony from the public unless further public comment or testimony is requested by the Committee.

## **AGENDA**

### I. Call to Order

#### Review Remote Meeting Procedures

- This meeting is being recorded.
- A quorum of Committee members is required to be visible on screen.
- If quorum is not achieved at the beginning of the meeting, the meeting will be cancelled within fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled start time and updates will be made to any posted notices or calendars accordingly.
- If a Committee member leaves the meeting permanently at any time, the Committee member shall notify the Chairperson. If this results in a lack of quorum, the meeting will adjourn at that time.
- If a Committee member leaves the meeting temporarily, the Committee member shall notify the Chairperson. If this results in a lack of quorum, the Chair shall call a recess. If the Committee member does not return within ten (10) minutes, the meeting will be adjourned.
- Raise hand to speak unless called upon.
- Identify yourself before speaking however public testifiers may use an alias to maintain anonymity.

### II. Roll Call/Introductions

### III. Statement from Public and Written Testimonies Submitted

### IV. Bills and Resolutions

#### A. Non-Discrimination

[House Bill 1522/Senate Bill 2727](#) – Relating to Discrimination. Lengthens the statute of limitations to file a complaint of discrimination with the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission to one year.

Justification: Lengthens the time to file a complaint from 6 months to one year, some people subject to discrimination miss the filing deadline.

Staff Recommendation: Support.

[House Bill 1997 House Draft 1/Senate Bill 2846](#) – Relating to Students with Disabilities. Authorizes the inclusion of language addressing individualized accommodations and supports during emergency situations and evacuations in individualized education programs for students with disabilities. Requires support and guidance from the Department of Education.

Justification: DCAB is aware of instances where students with disabilities are left to self-evacuate, this should prevent that from occurring.

Staff Recommendation: Support.

[House Bill 1999/Senate Bill 2849](#) – Relating to Public Meetings. Requires certain information to appear at the beginning of notices for public meetings.

Justification: Placing all the instructions at the beginning of the notice can serve as a barrier for those with disabilities who want to know what the agenda topics are.

Staff Recommendation: Support.

[House Bill 2000/Senate Bill 2847](#) – Relating to the Right to Repair. Establishes a right to repair for wheelchairs.

Justification: Secures an important right for people with mobility disabilities.

Staff Recommendation: Support.

[House Bill 2537 / Senate Bill 3027](#) – Relating to Patient Bill of Rights. Establishes patient rights with respect to timely access to specialists and referrals and prior authorization determination timelines. Establishes certain requirements for health carriers for prior authorization determinations. Establishes certain requirements for the use of automated decision support tools for claims determinations and utilization review. Requires health carriers to establish certain safeguards for protected health information. Establishes certain reporting requirements for network adequacy. Establishes certain provider protections. Expands the Insurance Commissioner's enforcement authority.

Justification: Delayed medical treatment leads to negative outcomes.

Staff Recommendation: Support.

[House Concurrent Resolution 9 / House Resolution 10](#) - 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.

Justification: Inclusive language should be used.

Staff Recommendation: Support.

[Senate Bill 2167](#) – Relating to the Hawaii Patients' Bill of Rights and Responsibilities Act. Revises the Hawai'i Patients' Bill of Rights and Responsibilities Act by: (1) Establishing new provisions on telehealth parity, prior authorization timelines, and automated decision systems; (2) Enhancing medical data protection and privacy standards; (3) Expanding the insurance commissioner's enforcement authority; and (4) Improving network adequacy, internal and external appeals procedures, and reporting requirements.

Justification: Will improve healthcare access.

Staff Recommendation: Support.

[Senate Bill 2465](#) – Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of the State of Hawaii to Establish Access to Health Care as a Fundamental Right. Proposes an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Hawaii to establish access to affordable health care as a fundamental right, subject to limitations balancing other essential public services.

Justification: Increase access to healthcare access.

Staff Recommendation: Support.

[Senate Bill 2468](#) – Relating to Taxation. Establishes a surcharge on taxable income exceeding \$1,000,000 to provide funding, if approved by the Legislature, for the State Medicaid Program.

Justification: Increases access to healthcare services and proactively prepares for federal cuts.

Staff Recommendation: Support.

[Senate Bill 2472](#) - Relating to Health. Expands statutory provisions that provide for religious exemptions from medical examinations, immunizations, vaccinations, and revaccinations to protect parents and other persons with bona fide religious tenets and practices.

Justification: Could impact people who are unable to be immunized for medical reasons.

Staff Recommendation: Comment that those who cannot be immunized due to medical reasons must rely on others for herd immunity.

[Senate Bill 2768](#) – Relating to Health Care. Establishes restrictions on the use of artificial intelligence, algorithms, or other software tools for purposes of decision-making in health insurance utilization reviews. Requires a licensed health care provider to review all adverse actions by the health carrier.

Justification: Concern that artificial intelligence will discriminate against people with disabilities.

Staff Recommendation: Support.

## B. Communication Access

[House Bill 1974/Senate Bill 2865](#) – Relating to Health. Requires and appropriates funds for the State Health Planning and Development Agency to develop and publish a state plan on hearing loss. SB2865 requires the Department of Health to develop and publish a state plan on hearing loss and requires reports to the Legislature prior to 2027 and 2028 regular sessions.

Justification: Will lead to better programs and services for deaf and hard of hearing residents.

Staff Recommendation: Support.

[House Bill 1993/Senate Bill 2851](#) – Relating to Deaf Individuals. Authorizes deaf motor vehicle owners to register their vehicle as being owned by a deaf individual so that a deafness designation appears when a law enforcement officer accesses the motor vehicle's information.

Justification: Improved interactions between law enforcement and deaf and hard of hearing drivers.

Staff Recommendation: Support.

[House Bill 2488/Senate Bill 2414](#) – Relating to the Disability and Communication Access Board. Requires the Disability and Communication Access Board to study the health care communication needs of patients who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, or deaf-blind. Requires a report to the Legislature 20 days prior to the 2027 Regular Session.

Justification: Will lead to better healthcare access for deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind residents.

Staff submitted testimony in Support

[House Bill 2489/Senate Bill 2412](#) – Relating to the University of Hawaii. Appropriates moneys to establish a bachelor's degree program in American Sign Language interpretation at the University of Hawai'i Manoa campus with a multi-year plan to include a master's degree program for interpreter training.

Justification: Will increase the pool of American Sign Language interpreters.

Staff Recommendation: Support

[Senate Bill 2739](#) – Relating to Licensure. Authorizes the Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs to issue a temporary license to engage in the practice of dealing and fitting of hearing aids to high school students enrolled in a structured training program.

Justification: High school students will receive better access to hearings aids  
Staff Recommendation: Support.

#### C. Service and Other Animals

[House Bill 1593](#) – Relating to Affordable Housing. Requires, for any affordable rental housing development project that receives financing or any financial assistance from the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation, that the Corporation require the housing development lease or occupancy agreement to allow residents to own or otherwise maintain one or more common household pets.

Justification: Will make it easier for some residents to have assistance animals.  
Staff Recommendation: Support.

[Senate Bill 3011](#) – Relating to Public Housing. Requires the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to allow any resident of a public housing project or state low-income housing project to keep one or more pet animals in the resident's unit, subject to applicable state laws, county ordinances, and any reasonable conditions. Provides that the Hawaii Public Housing Authority may charge a refundable deposit for each pet animal but shall not impose a monthly pet fee or pet rent. Allows the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to remove a vicious animal to protect persons or property.

Justification: Will make it easier for some residents to have assistance animals  
Staff Recommendation: Support.

#### D. Building Code, Design, and Facility Access

[Senate Bill 2219](#) – Relating to Public Access. Establishes a Capitol Visitor Center within the State Capitol to be maintained and operated by the Legislative Reference Bureau. Requires the Joint Legislative Access Committee to review the operations of the Capitol Visitor Center and recommend policies to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Appropriates funds.

Justification: The Center and the Committee's review may be able to address some of the accessibility issues at the Capitol that DCAB identified.  
Staff Recommendation: Support.

[Senate Bill 2543](#) – Relating to State Construction Projects. Establishes the Office of the State Construction Manager within the Department of Accounting and General Services, overseen by the State Construction Manager, to organize, manage, and oversee design review of, and issue design approvals for, state construction projects. Exempts state construction projects from county building permit, inspection, and certificate of occupancy requirements under certain

circumstances, as determined by the State Construction Manager. Establishes the Design Review Special Fund and appropriates funds into and out of the fund.

Justification: May conflict with Facility Access Unit statutory functions.  
Staff Recommendation: Comment.

[Senate Bill 2722](#) – Relating to Voter Service Centers. Requires clerks at a voter service center to maintain separate lines for voters with accessibility needs, voters who are newly registering or conducting a change of name or residence, and all other voters unless a line is unoccupied.

Justification: Will make it easier for people with disabilities to participate and vote.  
Staff Recommendation: Support.

[Senate Bill 2811](#) – Relating to State Building Projects. Establishes the State Building Process Task Force to evaluate the challenges, opportunities, and legislative actions necessary to establish a state building permit review office for state projects located on state-owned lands. Appropriates funds.

Justification: May conflict with Facility Access Unit statutory functions.  
Staff Recommendation: Comment.

[House Resolution 7/House Concurrent Resolution 8/Senate Concurrent Resolution 8/Senate Resolution 10](#) - 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.

Justification: Enables a person with a disability to age in place by modifying their home.  
Staff Recommendation: Support.

## E. Community Based Services and Employment

[House Bill 112/Senate Bill 787 Senate Draft 1](#) – Relating to the Department of Health. Appropriates funds to the Department of Health to establish and operate a free statewide mental health warm line to provide mental health support in non-emergency situations.

Justification: Increase access to mental healthcare services.  
Staff Recommendation: Support.

[House Bill 870/Senate Bill 1139 Senate Draft 1](#) – Relating to Medicaid. Directs the Department of Human Services to adopt rules to expand Medicaid eligibility to all children in the State from birth to age 5 years without regard to household income. Appropriates moneys.

Justification: Increase access to healthcare services.  
Staff Recommendation: Support.

[House Bill 1575](#) – Relating to Access to Movement Disorder Care. Establishes a temporary Parkinson's Patient Air Transport Feasibility Committee to examine recommendations for improving access to movement disorder care for neighbor island residents, including the feasibility of a state-administered air transport assistance fund. Requires a report to the Legislature. Appropriates funds.

Justification: Increases access to Oahu based care for neighbor island residents.  
Staff Recommendation: Support.

[House Bill 1597 House Draft 1](#) – Relating to Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Research. Establishes and appropriates funds for an Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Research Center at the University of Hawai'i, including the establishment of full-time positions.

Justification: Will lead to better research and treatment for Alzheimer's.  
Staff Recommendation: Support.

[House Bill 1668](#) – Relating to Medicaid. Requires the Department of Human Services to allow a full earned income disregard for individuals with disabilities who are between the ages of sixteen and sixty-four years when determining eligibility for Medicaid. Takes effect upon approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Justification: Enables those receiving Medicaid to earn income without risking loss of benefits.  
Staff Recommendation: Support.

[House Bill 1670/Senate Bill 2204](#) – Relating to Insurance. Beginning 1/1/2027, repeals the fourteen years and under age limit for health insurance coverage requirements for the diagnosis and treatment of autism. Repeals the maximum coverage benefit limit of \$25,000 for applied behavioral analysis services.

Justification: Increases access to healthcare services.  
Staff Recommendation: Support.

[House Bill 1674/Senate Bill 2291](#) – Relating to Family Caregiver Support. Extends child care subsidies to disabled parents or guardians, regardless of their employment status. Requires the Department of Human Services to evaluate caregiver capacity and dependent-care responsibilities when determining eligibility for medicaid home- and community-based services. Requires the Department of Human Services to update its evaluation form and functional assessment protocols related to level of care and at-risk needs determinations. Appropriates funds.

Justification: Increases access to healthcare services.  
Staff Recommendation: Support.

[House Bill 1700 House Draft 1/Senate Bill 2270](#) – Relating to Housing. Includes housing projects for individuals with disabilities and individuals with access and functional needs as eligible projects to apply for expedited permits. Senate Bill 2270 is effective 7/2/2026, repeals on 6/30/2031 and House Bill 1700 HD1 is effective 7/1/2026, repeals on 7/1/3000.

Justification: Increases accessible housing for people with disabilities.  
Staff Recommendation: Support.

[House Bill 1702/Senate Bill 2428](#) – Relating to Insurance. Beginning 1/1/2027, requires health insurers, mutual benefit societies, health maintenance organizations, and health plans under the State's Medicaid managed care program to provide coverage for brief cognitive assessments for individuals fifty years of age and older.

Justification: Increases early intervention for people over the age of 50 with cognitive disabilities.  
Staff Recommendation: Support.

[House Bill 1760](#) - Relating to Mental Illness. Amends the definition of "dangerous to self". Defines the terms "gravely disabled" and "psychiatric deterioration". Broadens the term of "imminently dangerous to self and others". Increases the maximum period of emergency hospitalization.

Justification: Will increase treatment for people who need additional treatment.  
Staff Recommendation: Support Intent.

[House Bill 1784/Senate Bill 2430](#) – Relating to Education. Beginning no later than the 2028-2029 school year, requires the Department of Education to administer a dyslexia-sensitive universal screening to all students in kindergarten through grade three. Beginning with the 2028-2029 school year, requires certain employees of public schools to have an opportunity to participate in training on literacy instruction. Requires a report to the Legislature and Board of Education before the 2031-2032 school year. Appropriates funds.

Justification: Will lead to early intervention for children with dyslexia.  
Staff Recommendation: Support.

[House Bill 1853/Senate Bill 2269](#) – Relating to Dementia. Establishes the Hanai Memory Network Program within the Executive Office on Aging to create a network of dementia care specialists and support systems to assist individuals with dementia and their caregivers. Appropriates funds.

Justification: Increase access to healthcare services.  
Staff Recommendation: Support.

[House Bill 1871](#) – Relating to Health. Establishes the Maternal Health Monitoring Pilot Program within the Department of Health to offer eligible participants improved maternal health care through remote patient monitoring for maternal hypertension and maternal diabetes. Appropriates funds for the pilot program.

Justification: Increase diagnosis and treatment of maternal diabetes.  
Staff Recommendation: Support.

[House Bill 1889](#) – Relating to School Psychologists. Creates a School Psychologists Working Group within the Department of Education to recommend actionable steps or propose legislation for an immediate pathway to licensure for school psychologists that can be acted upon in 2027. Requires a report to the Legislature.

Justification: Increase access for students with mental health needs.  
Staff Recommendation: Support.

[House Bill 1891](#) – Relating to Education. Requires the Department of Education to implement dyslexia sensitive linguistically appropriate universal screenings and evidence-based interventions, offer professional development on structured literacy and evidenced-based interventions, and support pre-teacher programs in training candidates in structured literacy instruction. Appropriates funds.

Justification: Increase early intervention for children with dyslexia.  
Staff Recommendation: Support.

[House Bill 1969 House Draft 1/Senate Bill 2859](#) – Relating to Colorectal Cancer. Requires and appropriates funds for the Department of Human Services to develop and implement a public assistance program offering state-funded colorectal screenings for certain persons. Requires coverage for all colorectal cancer screenings in the State to be consistent with the Affordable Care Act Implementation Frequently Asked Questions published by the United States Department of Labor, United States Department of Health and Human Services, and United States Department of the Treasury. House Bill 1969 HD1 effective 7/1/3000 and Senate Bill 2859 is effective 7/1/2026.

Justification: Increase early detection and treatment for colorectal cancer.  
Staff Recommendation: Support.

[House Bill 1971/Senate Bill 2390](#) – Relating to Insurance. Beginning 1/1/2027, requires health insurers, mutual benefit societies, health maintenance organizations, and health plans under the State's Medicaid managed care program to provide coverage for biomarker testing.

Justification: Will facilitate early intervention for a variety of conditions.  
Staff Recommendation: Support.

[House Bill 1973/Senate Bill 2864](#) – Relating to Health. Establishes within the Department of Health the KupunAloha program to provide in-home health care and support services to eligible participants who do not otherwise qualify for government assistance for these services. Appropriates moneys for the program.

Justification: Increase access for people with disabilities who require home care services.

Staff Recommendation: Support.

[House Bill 2145](#) - Relating to Insurance Coverage of Proton Beam Therapy. Beginning, 1/1/2027, requires health insurers, mutual benefit societies, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for medically necessary proton beam therapy for cancer treatment and prohibits imposing stricter clinical evidence standards on proton beam therapy than on other radiation treatments.

Justification: Increase access to cancer treatment.

Staff Recommendation: Support.

[House Bill 2258/Senate Bill 3078](#) – Relating to Mental Health Intervention. Requires the Director of Law Enforcement to adopt rules establishing training and certification standards and procedures for crisis intervention officers. Clarifies the scope of treatment allowable under orders for assisted community treatment. Requires the Department of the Attorney general to assist with the preparation, filing, and presentation of any request for a court or administrative order authorizing treatment over the objection of certain patients.

Justification: Improved interactions with law enforcement officers and individuals experiencing a mental health crisis.

Staff Recommendation: Support.

[House Bill 2286/Senate Bill 3105](#) - Relating to the Physician Assistant Licensure Compact. Authorizes the Governor to enter the PA Licensure Compact to create a comprehensive process that complements the existing licensing authority of the state medical board and provides a streamlined process that allows a PA to become licensed in multiple states, thereby enhancing the portability of a PA license and ensuring the safety of patients.

Justification: Increase access to healthcare services.

Staff Recommendation: Support.

[House Bill 2360 House Draft 1](#) – Relating to Paid Family Leave. By 1/1/2029, requires the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to establish a family and medical leave insurance program and begin collecting payroll contributions to finance payment of benefits. By 1/1/2030, requires the Department to begin receiving claims and paying benefits under the program. Specifies eligibility requirements and employee protections under the program. Excludes paid family and medical leave benefits from income tax. Effective 7/1/3000 (HD1).

Justification: Increase ability to afford family caregiving.  
Staff Recommendation: Support.

[House Bill 2366](#) – Relating to Health. Prohibits the imposition of cost-sharing requirements for certain diagnostic and supplemental breast examinations.

Justification: Increase access to healthcare services.  
Staff Recommendation: Support.

[Senate Bill 2162](#) – Relating to Housing. Authorizes large landowners to petition the Land Use Commission to allow the development of elderly housing on portions of agricultural lands.

Justification: Increases the number of assisted living facilities.  
Staff Recommendation: Support.

[Senate Bill 2184/Senate Bill 2206](#) – Relating to Student Access to Telehealth Services. Requires the Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Health, to develop and distribute to each public middle and high school in the State guidelines for the establishment and operation of safe spaces for students to access telehealth services on school property during normal school hours. Requires each public middle and high school to establish and maintain a safe space for students according to the guidelines.

Justification: Increase access to healthcare for students.  
Staff Recommendation: Support.

[Senate Bill 2221](#) – Relating to Terminal Illness. Authorizes manufacturers of investigational drugs or biological products that are pending approval by the United States Food and Drug Administration to make the drugs or products available to terminally ill patients under certain conditions.

Justification: Increase access to healthcare.  
Staff Recommendation: Support.

[Senate Bill 2224](#) – Relating to Education. Beginning with the 2028-2029 school year, requires each public school in the State, including charter schools, to employ, or retain under contract, at least one mental health professional for every 250 students enrolled, subject to certain conditions. Requires the Department of Education to submit a progress report to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2027. Appropriates moneys for the Department of Education to contract for mental health professionals and to establish an unspecified number of full-time equivalent mental health professional positions within the Department of Education.

Justification: Increase access to mental healthcare for students.  
Staff Recommendation: Support.

[Senate Bill 2230](#) / [Senate Bill 2107](#) – Relating to Lung Cancer Screening. Requires the Department of Health to develop by 12/31/2026, standardized educational materials relating to lung cancer screening and language on lung cancer screening information to be included in signage and written notices to be used by retailers of tobacco products. Beginning 1/1/2027, requires retailers engaged in the retail sale of tobacco products to display signage on lung cancer screening at each point of sale and provide written notice on lung cancer screening to each buyer of a tobacco product.

Justification: Reduces lung cancer incidence.

Staff Recommendation: Support.

[Senate Bill 2281](#) – Relating to the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Health Care. Requires health care providers using artificial intelligence (AI) in patient interactions to disclose to the patient that the patient is interacting with artificial intelligence. Requires health care providers using AI in making consequential decisions relating to the patient to provide certain notice and statements to the patient; maintain a qualified AI oversight personnel who shall be a natural person that reviews, evaluates, and validates or overrides AI outputs; monitor and conduct regular performance evaluations of their AI systems; implement procedures to address identified deficiencies; and maintain certain records. Requires certain health care providers using AI to submit annual reports to the Department of Health. Requires the Department to adopt rules.

Justification: Concern that AI will discriminate against people with disabilities.

Staff Recommendation: Support.

[Senate Bill 2288](#) – Relating to Mental Illness. Clarifies the procedures for assisted community treatment, examination, and hospitalization for individuals who may be mentally ill or suffering from substance abuse who are imminently dangerous to self, others, or property. Amends the procedures for involuntary hospitalizations and assisted community treatment petitions. Amends the Hawaii Penal Code to streamline the determination process for penal responsibility and fitness to proceed, including requiring courts to issue orders for treatment to defendants excluded from penal responsibility due to a mental disease, disorder, or defect.

Justification: Increase access to treatment.

Staff Recommendation: Support Intent.

[Senate Bill 2307](#) – Relating to Health Care. Authorizes the Hawaii Medical Board to issue an active retired clinician license to retired physicians, osteopathic physicians, and surgeons with inactive Hawaii medical licenses to provide volunteer clinical work through community-based health care or public health organizations.

Justification: Increase access to healthcare services.

Staff Recommendation: Support.

[Senate Bill 2589](#) – Relating to Alzheimer’s Disease. Establishes within the Executive Office on Aging the Hawaii Assistance for the Navigation of Alzheimer’s Intervention (HANAI) program to support individuals in the State who have Alzheimer’s disease. Appropriates moneys for the establishment of 4 full-time equivalent state dementia care specialist positions, one in each county and other expenses.

Justification: Increase access to healthcare services for Alzheimer’s.  
Staff Recommendation: Support.

[Senate Bill 2610](#) – Relating to Emergency Medication in Schools. Establishes provisions regarding the volunteered administration of certain medications by authorized persons at public schools, including requirements for parent authorization, administration instruction, and liability protections. Expands permitted emergency treatments to include epinephrine, inhalers, seizure rescue medication, glucagon, insulin, and blood-glucose monitoring.

Justification: Increase access to emergency medication for students.  
Staff Recommendation: Support.

[Senate Bill 2612](#) – Relating to Medication Administration in Schools. Clarifies that the Department of Education and its employees and agents shall be immune from any civil or criminal liability arising from assisting students with the administration of medication under certain circumstances.

Justification: Increase access to emergency healthcare and medication for students.  
Staff Recommendation: Support.

[Senate Bill 2657](#) – Relating to Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementia Research. Establishes the Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias Research Center of Hawaii within the University of Hawaii. Requires the Research Center to be administratively affiliated with the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine. Requires JABSOM, the Research Center, University of Hawaii Center on Aging, and University of Hawaii at Manoa to identify opportunities to capitalize on collaboration between the parties and maximize operational efficiencies. Requires the Research Center to submit annual reports to the Legislature. Appropriates funds.

Justification: Increase research and treatment for Alzheimer’s.  
Staff Recommendation: Support.

[Senate Bill 2733](#) – Relating to Liquor. Requires an advertisement for liquor or alcohol to include a cancer-risk warning. Establishes guidelines for cancer-risk warnings included in advertisements for liquor or alcohol. Establishes penalties for an advertiser that fails to include a compliant cancer-risk warning in an advertisement for liquor or alcohol. Effective 1/1/2027.

Justification: Reduces cancer incidence.  
Staff Recommendation: Support.

[Senate Bill 2933](#) – Relating to Health Care Costs. Establishes the Prescription Drug Affordability Board within the Department of Health to conduct affordability reviews on high-cost prescription drugs and establish upper payment limits under certain circumstances. Establishes out-of-pocket maximums for prescribed insulin, asthma inhalers, and epinephrine auto-injectors. Prohibits copayment adjustment programs. Requires health insurers, mutual benefit societies, and health maintenance organizations to comply with certain affordability measures. Requires annual reports to the Legislature. Requires adoption of rules by the Affordability Board and Insurance Commissioner. Appropriates funds.

Justification: Increase access to healthcare services.  
Staff Recommendation: Support.

[Senate Bill 3045](#) – Relating to Health Insurance. Requires all health insurers in the State, including Medicaid managed care programs, to cover the cost of continuous glucose monitors and related supplies under certain conditions. Applies to insurance policies, contracts, plans, or agreements issued or renewed in the State after 12/31/2026.

Justification: Increase access to healthcare services.  
Staff Recommendation: Support.

[Senate Bill 3199](#) – Relating to Mental Health. Establishes the Mental Health Emerging Therapies Task Force to prepare the State for the integration of breakthrough therapies, expansion of pathways for clinical trials and clinical research, and development of policy recommendations for safe, ethical, and culturally informed implementation of emerging therapies. Requires reports to the Legislature. Sunsets 6/30/2028.

Justification: Increase access to treatment options.  
Staff Recommendation: Support.

[Senate Bill 3210](#) – Relating to Medicine. Appropriates funds for the University of Hawaii at Manoa John A. Burns School of Medicine to purchase, or to contract with a third party or third parties in the private sector to purchase and operate, a single-room proton therapy system; provided that the system shall be available to all residents of the State.

Justification: Increase access to treatment options.  
Staff Recommendation: Support.

[Senate Concurrent Resolution 4](#) - Requesting the Auditor to Assess Both the Social and Financial Effects of Proposed Mandated Health Insurance Coverage for Annual Mental Health Wellness Examinations.

Justification: Increase access to mental healthcare services.  
Staff Recommendation: Support.

#### F. Transportation and Mobility

[House Bill 1995](#) – Relating to Parking for Persons with Disabilities. Provides that people who are blind or deaf are eligible to apply for and receive a disabled paid parking permit.

Justification: Will exacerbate the difficulty current permittees have in finding an available accessible space.  
Staff Recommendation: Oppose.

[House Bill 2186 /Senate Bill 2695 Senate Draft 1](#) – Relating to Pedestrian Safety. Clarifies driver's obligations at crosswalks. Requires drivers to stop and remain stopped for pedestrians in crosswalks. Strengthens penalties for traffic violations, particularly in school zones. Creates additional criminal penalties when pedestrians suffer bodily injury. Provides heightened protections for blind and visually impaired pedestrians.

Justification: Increase safety for blind and visually impaired pedestrians.  
Staff Recommendation: Support.

[House Bill 2375 House Draft 1](#) – Relating to Towing Practices. Establishes a Uniform Towing Practices for Public Parking Facilities Working Group within the Department of Transportation to examine existing state and county laws, ordinances, rules, and administrative practices relating to towing from public parking facilities and develop recommendations for uniform standards applicable to towing from state and county parking facilities. Requires a report to the Legislature. (HD1)

Justification: DCAB often receives inquiries about accessible parking at State at County facilities and may want to be a member of this group. The original version would have prohibited towing vehicles at State parks displaying a valid disability parking permits even when parked in an access aisle.  
Staff Recommendation: Support intent.

[House Bill 2442 /Senate Bill 2936](#) – Relating to Parking for Disabled Persons. Beginning 7/1/27, increases the number of required accessible and van accessible parking spaces in parking lots with more than twenty-five parking spaces that are covered by title II or III of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Justification: Increase number of accessible and van accessible spaces at ADA Titles II and III entities.  
Staff Recommendation: Support.

[Senate Bill 2746](#) – Relating to Taxation. Establishes an income tax credit for medically related travel expenses not covered by insurance. Sunsets 1/1/2031.

Justification: Increase access to healthcare services.

Staff Recommendation: Support.

## G. Emergency Management

[House Bill 1976 House Draft 1 /Senate Bill 2867](#) – Relating to Dementia.

Requires the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, fire chiefs, Law Enforcement Standards Board, and Department of Health to provide or require the provision of at least 1 hour of dementia-specific training for first responders, including law enforcement officers, fire first responders, and emergency medical services personnel. Requires the Executive Office on Aging to review and recommend dementia-specific training curricula that address the recognition and signs of Alzheimer's disease and related types of dementia. Effective 7/1/3000 (HD1).

Justification: Improve interaction between various first responders and those with dementia.

Staff Recommendation: Support.

[House Bill 2173/Senate Bill 2934](#) – Relating to Ambulances. Appropriates funds to the Department of Health to purchase of one advanced life support ambulance and related equipment to be based in central Maui, fund pay-related personnel costs for state-certified emergency medical services personnel, and increase the predictability and stability of available air ambulance services for all islands in the State.

Justification: Increase access to healthcare services based on Oahu.

Staff Recommendation: Support.

[House Bill 2508/Senate Bill 3203](#) – Relating to Air Medical Services. Establishes the Statewide Air Medical Services Program within the Department of Health, Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention Systems Branch to coordinate and strengthen air medical services. Provides for an air medical director, an air medical program manager, and an air medical coordinator. Provides for annual licensure and accreditation fees to be deposited into the Emergency Medical Services Special Fund for costs of the program.

Justification: Increase access to healthcare services based on Oahu.

Staff Recommendation: Support.

## H. Administration

[House Bill 2469/Senate Bill 3216](#) - Relating to a Regular Session Review Working Group. Establishes a Regular Session Review Working Group to determine the essential timing and effective framework for a lengthened

legislative calendar for election and non-election years. Requires a report to the Legislature. Requires report finalization and drafting assistance from the Legislative Reference Bureau. Appropriates moneys.

Justification: Increase ability for people with disabilities to participate in the legislative process.

Staff Recommendation: Support

[Senate Bill 2921](#) – Relating to State Funds. Transfers to the general fund the excess balances of various non-general funds and programs.

Justification: Reduces DCAB special funds.

Staff Recommendation: Oppose.

I. Other - NONE

VI. Open Forum:

Public comment on issues not on the agenda for consideration for the Board's agenda at the next meeting.

VII. Adjournment

#### **HOW TO REQUEST ACCOMMODATION:**

If you need an auxiliary aid/service or other accommodation due to disability, contact Cindy Omura or Scott Castor at (808) 586-8121 or [dcab@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:dcab@doh.hawaii.gov). Requests made as early as possible will allow more time to fulfill your request if possible.

Upon request, this notice is available in alternate/accessible formats.

#### **MEETING MATERIALS AND OTHER INFORMATION:**

The agenda and meeting materials for this meeting are available for inspection at DCAB's office located at 1010 Richards Street, Room 118, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 and on DCAB's website at: <https://health.hawaii.gov/dcab/dcab-agendas-and-minutes/>.

If the remote connection (via Zoom) is lost, the meeting will be recessed for up to thirty (30) minutes to restore communication. If the connection is lost, we will attempt to restart the meeting again with the same link. If the Committee is unable to reconvene the meeting because neither audiovisual communication nor audio communication can be reestablished within thirty (30) minutes, the meeting will be automatically terminated.

If you have trouble entering the meeting, please contact Cindy Omura or Scott Castor at (808) 586-8121.

**SB-2849-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 1:22:26 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jackie Keefe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Jackie Keefe, and I am **in strong support of SB2849**, requiring certain information to appear at the beginning of public meetings. This bill will benefit people who rely on text to speech programs, as the necessary information of the meeting is placed at the beginning of the agenda followed by a list of topics for the meeting.

This inclusive approach to public meetings is critical to Blind people who use braille to access information about public meetings and individuals who struggle with understanding the English language in general.

Please vote to support this important bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Jackie Keefe, Lahaina

**SB-2849-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 6:18:42 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Leilani Kailiawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members.

I am a parent and community leader.

I am in strong support of this bill

Mahalo nui loa for allowing me to share in support of this bill

With gratitude

Leilani Kailiawa

Council Chair  
Alice L. Lee

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February 27, 2026

TO: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Alice L. Lee  
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 3, 2026; TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 2849, SD1, RELATING TO PUBLIC MEETINGS**

I **oppose** this measure to require certain information to appear at the beginning of notices for public meetings.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I **oppose** this measure for the following reasons:

1. Hawai'i Revised Statutes Section 92-7.5 contemplates a board packet only if a board chooses to compile one and expressly states that nothing in the statute requires a board packet's creation. Requiring language in the notice that treats board packets as mandatory would be inconsistent with existing law and guidance from the Office of Information Practices.
2. The County of Maui and many other public bodies no longer rely on a single pre-assembled board packet and instead use real-time online posting to provide timely public access to meeting materials. The measure's prescriptive language would disadvantage these more transparent practices. Further, the measure could create unnecessary administrative burdens to assemble static packets solely to satisfy notice.
3. Requiring notice of where a physical packet may be viewed in person assumes an in-office inspection location and does not reflect the practices of boards that operate remotely or rely primarily on electronic distribution. The measure should be clarified to recognize alternative methods of providing public access to meeting materials.

Thank you for your consideration.