



**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

February 11, 2026

The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair  
Senate Committee on Transportation  
The Thirty-Third Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawai'i  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura and Inouye, and Committee Members:

**SUBJECT:** Testimony in Support of SB2936, Relating to Parking for Disabled Persons

The Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities is in **SUPPORT of SB2936**, which, beginning July 1, 2027, 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.

Accessible parking is a foundational access issue for people with disabilities and older adults. When accessible and van accessible parking spaces are insufficient, people with mobility disabilities are effectively excluded from participating in community life, accessing services, and engaging in employment, commerce, and civic activities. Inadequate parking availability increases safety risks, including falls and injuries, and creates barriers that are often invisible until access fails.

SB2936 addresses this gap by updating parking requirements to better reflect real-world demand while remaining narrowly tailored. The measure applies only to parking lots of a certain size and covered by existing federal accessibility requirements, and it phases in changes beginning in 2027. By doing so, the measure balances access needs with implementation considerations and avoids imposing undue burdens on smaller facilities. By strengthening accessible parking standards, SB2936 promotes community integration, safety, and equal access for people with disabilities.

For these reasons, the Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities **supports SB2936**. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,  
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) 204-2460

**LATE**

February 11, 2026

### TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND ON TRANSPORTATION

#### Senate Bill 2936 – Relating to Parking for Disabled Persons

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports Senate Bill 2936 – Relating to Parking for Disabled Persons. This bill, 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.

In DCAB's 2020 survey of Parking Permittees, respondents indicated that they often cannot find an available accessible parking space or an available van accessible parking space, and that the larger a parking lot is, the less likely it is there will be an available accessible space. This is logical as the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines scoping requirement trends downward as parking lots size increases. For example, a parking lot with forty spaces are required to have two accessible spaces (5%), while a parking lot with one thousand total spaces is only required to have twenty accessible spaces (2%).

About 109,703 (8%) of Hawaii residents have a valid disability parking permit. Senate Bill 2936 would ensure that a parking lot always has at least 4% of its spaces designed as accessible.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kristine Pagano*

KRISTINE PAGANO  
Acting Executive Director



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

### Legislative Testimony

#### Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
and  
Senate Committee on Transportation  
February 11, 2026 at 1:15 p.m.

By  
Jan Gouveia  
Vice President for Administration  
University of Hawai'i System

#### SB 2936 – RELATING TO PARKING FOR DISABLED PERSONS.

Chairs San Buenaventura and Inouye, Vice Chairs McKelvey and Elefante, and Members of the Committees:

The University of Hawai'i ("University") appreciates the opportunity to provide informational testimony on SB 2936, which seeks to improve parking access for persons with disabilities and recognizes the importance of ensuring safe and equitable access to campus facilities.

Many University campuses are large and complex, with a diverse parking system that includes multiple parking structures, surface lots, and roadway parking distributed across a challenging topography. Currently, accessible parking is managed using an aggregated, zone-based approach that aligns with campus access patterns and operational needs. It is also in compliance with the Design Standards and Regulations of the Americans with Disability Act for parking.

As drafted, the bill does not provide a definition of a "parking lot." As such, it could be interpreted to apply accessible and van-accessible parking requirements at the level of individual parking areas rather than acknowledging a more campus-wide or zone-based aggregation. Additionally, many University campuses, like the Mānoa campus, are subject to individualized zoning and development requirements under its Plan Review Use Permit - which incorporate the parking requirements of the applicable county and the Americans with Disability Act. To be consistent with county and federal law, it is recommended that SB 2936 be amended to reflect an exception for public entities (like the University of Hawai'i) that manage large inventories of parking stalls who are otherwise in compliance with the Design Standards and Requirements of the Americans with Disability Act.

Without this exception, the University may be expected to significantly and materially alter the way it manages its parking inventory. This may result in reduced overall parking capacity and increased operational complexity related to enforcement, permitting, and

customer service. In addition, implementation would require physical reconfiguration of existing facilities, including restriping, signage updates, and compliance with slope and access aisle requirements. Given the age and terrain of some campus facilities, compliance may require more extensive construction or grading work rather than simple restriping. The bill applies to existing parking facilities and does not include a funding mechanism or implementation flexibility to address these physical constraints.

The University offers this testimony to respectfully request an exception for its campuses, who manage a large inventory of parking across multiple facilities in accordance with county and federal requirements. We appreciate the Legislature's attention to accessibility and respectfully encourage continued dialogue to ensure that the bill's objectives can be implemented in a clear, consistent, and operationally feasible manner.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

**SB-2936**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 7:35:40 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2026 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Louis Erteschik	Testifying for Hawaii Disability Rights Center	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

This is an excellent idea. The ADA sets out a minimum in terms of what is required but the states are permitted to be more protective. There are many such examples throughout Hawaii law. There is a greater need and we applaud this bill.



TESTIMONY OF DAVE ERDMAN, PRESIDENT & CEO  
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII  
FEBRUARY 10, 2026  
**IN OPPOSITION WITH COMMENTS FOR SB 2936 – RELATING TO PARKING FOR  
DISABLED PERSONS**

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

My name is Dave Erdman, Interim President and CEO of Retail Merchants of Hawai'i, a statewide trade association representing retailers, shopping centers, and allied businesses across the islands.

Retail Merchants of Hawai'i opposes SB 2936, while offering the following comments.

Our members support accessible parking and are committed to maintaining safe, compliant, and welcoming environments for customers, including individuals with disabilities and our kūpuna. Many shopping centers already meet or exceed current ADA requirements and regularly coordinate with city and county officials to ensure compliance.

Parking requirements are already highly regulated at the county level. City and our counties require landowners to provide a specific number of standard and ADA parking stalls based on established land use ordinances. These requirements are not discretionary. Parking stall counts are determined through formula-based calculations tied to leasable area and site characteristics and are reviewed and enforced through the permitting and land-use approval process.

SB 2936 would impose additional statewide requirements on top of this existing regulatory framework, without regard to site-specific conditions or demonstrated need.

The bill's one-size-fits-all approach does not reflect actual usage patterns. Several members report that existing ADA stalls are often underutilized, while non-ADA stalls experience higher demand. Requiring additional conversions without demonstrated need would reduce overall parking availability without necessarily improving access.

There are also practical impacts. Adding even one or two new ADA or van-accessible stalls can require removal of multiple standard stalls, reconfiguration of drive aisles, restriping, signage, and in some cases concrete work. Depending on site conditions, these changes can result in significant and unnecessary costs.

In addition, accessibility challenges are not limited to stall counts. Members continue to experience misuse of ADA stalls by vehicles without proper placards. Increasing the number of required stalls does not address enforcement or compliance issues.

For these reasons, we respectfully oppose SB 2936 as drafted and encourage the Legislature to consider the effectiveness of existing county regulations and the practical impacts of layering additional mandates onto an already regulated system.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Erdman  
Interim President & CEO  
Retail Merchants of Hawai'i

February 11, 2026

Testimony of Eleanor Macdonald  
Senate Committee on Health & Human Services &  
Senate Committee on Transportation

Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Honorable Senator Lorraine R. Inouye Chair

Re: SB 2936 Relating to Parking for Disabled Persons

Dear Chairs Sen. San Buenaventura, Sen. Inouye and Members,

I would like to strongly support SB 2936, related to increasing the number of accessible car and van accessible parking stalls in parking lots with more than 25 parking spaces which is covered by Title II or III of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

For the last 2 years, my husband has been using a wheel chair to maintain his independence in the home, but finds it very difficult to go to a pharmacy, medical appointments or to get something to eat when a handicap parking stall very often is not available. Although he doesn't drive, his balance issues require us to park where there is enough space for him to safely exit the car and go directly into a wheel chair. The limited number of handicap stalls is a constant, recurring problem.

Please pass this important legislation .

Mahalo for your consideration,

Eleanor Macdonald, M.Ed., CRC (ret.)

**SB-2936**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 6:42:15 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2026 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lynn Murakami Akatsuka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong support of SB 2936. The lack of adequate number of accessible parking spaces in shopping malls, strip malls and government parking lots needs to be addressed. Our aging population has increased in Hawaii along with increased disabilities as we age.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 2936.

**SB-2936**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 8:38:50 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2026 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
ANNETTE TASHIRO	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an unpaid family care provider who provides transportation for elderly and disabled individuals, I find that the accessible parking everywhere is so limited. We live in a State where the population is aging and still wants to maintain their independence. We need more accessible parking spaces so that individuals are able to get to their destination.

**SB-2936**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 1:13:54 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2026 1:15:00 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

2936 SB RELATING TO PARKING FOR DISABLED PERSONS.