



## DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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

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April 23, 2026

### TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Senate Concurrent Resolution 90 House Draft 1 – Requesting the Planning and Permitting Department of Each County to Establish Kupuna-Friendly Building Permit Requirements for Parking Accessibility and Private Businesses Operating Hours.

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports the intent of Senate Concurrent Resolution 90 House Draft 1 – Requesting the Planning and Permitting Department of Each County to Establish Kupuna-Friendly Building Permit Requirements for Parking Accessibility and Private Businesses Operating Hours.

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. Respondents also noted that the larger a parking lot is, the less likely there will be an available accessible parking space. The survey responses are 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 parking lots with one thousand total spaces are only required to have twenty accessible spaces (2%).

About 109,700 Hawaii residents have a valid disability parking permit, 83 percent are 61 years of age or older. DCAB recommends the resolutions be amended on Page 2 line 4 to read as follows:

“(2) Increase the minimum number of accessible parking spaces designated for non-disabled and disabled kupuna; and...”

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

KRISTINE PAGANO  
Acting Executive Director



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

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

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April 21, 2026

**TO:** HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND  
Representative Mark J. Hashem, Chair  
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair  
Honorable Members

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

**RE:** **SCR 90-HD 1 -- Relating Kupuna-Friendly Parking Accessibility**

**HEARING:** Thursday, April 23, 2026 @ 10:00 am; Conference Room 430

**POSITION:** SUPPORT with COMMENTS

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Testimony:

SCR 90-HD1 requests each county planning department to establish kupuna-friendly building permit requirements focused on parking accessibility and business operating hours. SCR 90-HD1 could make it easier for kupuna to access healthcare, stores, and services by improving parking availability and encouraging special business hours for older adults. Implementing the intent of SCR 90-HD1 could also help reduce safety risks, and support greater independence and community participation for kupuna with mobility needs.

Thank you for hearing this measure.

■ -- Jack Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPDA



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

Apr 23, 2026

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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.

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The Honorable Mark J. Hashem, Chair  
House Committee on Water & Land  
The Thirty-Third Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawaii  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**SUBJECT:** SCR90 HD1 – Requesting the Planning or Planning and Permitting Department of Each County to Establish Kupuna-Friendly Building Permit Requirements for Parking Accessibility and Private Businesses Operating Hours.

Chair and Members of the Committee:

Aloha Independent Living Hawaii (AILH) is a cross-disability, statewide, non-profit Center for Independent Living that supports people with disabilities of all ages to live independently in their own homes and communities. AILH **supports the intent of SCR90 HD1 and offers comments** and suggested clarifications..

The resolution recognizes that parking is a foundational access issue for people with disabilities and older adults, and that inadequate accessible and van-accessible parking increases safety risks and effectively excludes kupuna with mobility disabilities from community participation. It also notes the positive impact of designated “kupuna hours” during the COVID-19 pandemic, which expanded access to goods and services for older adults and people with vulnerable immune systems. We appreciate this focus on access and participation, which is central to independent living.

At the same time, we have concerns about how the resolution is framed and implemented, and we respectfully request that counties and this Committee consider the following:



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### 1. Ensure cross-disability inclusion, not only age-based framing.

While SCR90 HD1 uses “kupuna-friendly” language, the findings acknowledge that disability and age are both key factors in parking access. Many disabled people who most need accessible parking and calmer shopping hours are younger adults, including disabled parents, immunocompromised people, and people with sensory, psychiatric, or chronic health conditions. We ask that any “kupuna-friendly” permit requirements and local ordinances be explicitly cross-disability and not restricted by age.

### 2. Align with and go beyond ADA and DCAB guidance.

The resolution cites the Disability and Communication Access Board’s finding that people who qualify for accessible parking often cannot find spaces that meet their needs. We support increasing the minimum number of accessible and van-accessible stalls, but this must:

- Comply with ADA, Fair Housing Act, and state accessibility standards.
- Consider real-world usage patterns (e.g., peak times at clinics, malls, and grocery stores).
- Provide safe routes from stalls to entrances, shade/shelter, and space for mobility devices to deploy.

### 3. Be careful about using building permits to regulate business operations.

SCR90 HD1 requests that county planning or planning and permitting departments establish permit requirements that “require private businesses and malls to accommodate special hours for kupuna to enter” and “increase the minimum number of parking spaces



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designated for non-disabled and disabled kupuna.” From a Water and Land/land use perspective, it is important to distinguish:

- Physical/site-plan elements (number and location of accessible stalls, signage, curb cuts, loading zones) that are appropriately addressed in the permitting process.
- Operating hours and admission policies, which may be better handled through education, incentives, or separate ordinances to avoid overcomplicating the permit process or creating unintended barriers for small businesses.

#### 4. **Avoid separate or stigmatizing treatment.**

Designated “kupuna hours” can be helpful when they are voluntary, well-communicated, and truly responsive to community needs. However, they should not become a substitute for making all hours accessible and safe. We urge counties to:

- Emphasize universal improvements (e.g., better lighting, safe pedestrian routes, benches, and shade near entrances) that benefit everyone.
- Ensure that any special “kupuna” provisions do not unintentionally exclude younger disabled people or others with legitimate access needs.

From an independent living perspective, the most important outcome is that all disabled people and kupuna can reliably get to and into the places where they shop, work, and participate in community life. Parking design, site accessibility, and the way land is used around private businesses and malls directly shape that reality, making this measure relevant to the Committee on Water and Land.

AILH respectfully urges the Committee to move SCR90 HD1 forward, with guidance that counties implement it in a way that is explicitly



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cross-disability, consistent with civil rights laws, and focused on real-world accessibility rather than just age labels.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Roxanne Bolden

Executive Director