



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
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MINUTES

Legislative Committee Meeting

Location: 1010 Richards Street, Room 118 and via Zoom
Date: February 23, 2024
Time: 10:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Violet Horvath, Chairperson; Anthony Akamine, Summer Kozai, Committee Members; Bryan Mick, Staff

ABSENT: Rosanna Daniel-Kanetake, Charlotte Townsend, Committee Members

GUESTS: Peter Fritz, Ricky Hyunh, Alberto Perez, Donald Sakamoto, Brandon Yahiro

- I. Chairperson Violet Horvath called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.
- II. The attendees introduced themselves with Committee members Violet Horvath, Anthony Akamine, and Summer Kozai present.

III. Statement from Public and Written Testimonies Submitted

Bryan Mick reported that staff received one testimony which was circulated prior to the meeting.

IV. Approval of Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes of December 19, 2023 and January 31, 2024.

The December 19, 2023 Legislative Committee meeting minutes were approved as circulated (M/S/P Kozai/Akamine).

The January 31, 2024 Legislative Committee meeting minutes were approved as circulated (M/S/P Akamine/Kozai).

V. Bills and Resolutions

- A. [SB 2781 SD1](#) – Related to Disaster Services. Appropriates funds to establish the position of Limited English Proficiency Language Coordinator within the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency.

MOTION: SUPPORT (M/S/P Horvath/Kozai)

- B. [HB 2728 HD1](#)- Relating to Healthcare. Establishes the Hui Hoomana task force to identify actionable priorities and financial resources to offer the State's residents universal access to affordable, high-quality healthcare and health insurance.

MOTION: SUPPORT (M/S/P Horvath/Kozai)

- C. [HB 2539 HD1](#) – Relating to Human Services. Appropriates funds to increase the funding for medicaid in-home services, conditioned on the Department of Human Services obtaining the maximum federal matching funds and pursuing all other funding sources.

MOTION: SUPPORT (M/S/P Horvath/Kozai)

- D. [SB 2091 SD1](#) – Relating to Public Utilities. Requires all telecommunications service providers to communicate relevant information relating to the deenergization of electrical lines to public safety or emergency response offices for the affected areas. Requires all electric utility companies to operate electrical lines and equipment in a manner that shall minimize the risk of catastrophic wildfire posed by the electrical lines and equipment. Requires each electric utility company to prepare a wildfire mitigation plan and protocols for deenergizing electrical lines.

Bryan Mick explained that DCAB should comment that notification of the public must be in accessible formats to ensure those with medical devices can secure alternate power sources for the devices.

MOTION: COMMENT (M/S/P Horvath/Akamine)

- E. [SB 2137](#) – Relating to Driving Under the Influence. Requires defendants convicted of causing the death or disability of a parent or legal guardian of a minor child by the operation of a vehicle while under the influence of an intoxicant to make restitution in the form of financial support to each child of the victim.

MOTION: MONITOR (M/S/P Horvath/Akamine)

- F. [SB 3296](#) - Relating to Remote Work. Requires the Department of Human Resources Development to: (1) conduct a remote work study; (2) review any recent remote work studies done by the counties; (3) develop and administer a remote work program; and (4) submit the study to the Legislature prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2025

It was clarified that the bill defines a state of emergency as one being declared by the Governor or by a Mayor as authorized by HRS 127A.

MOTION: MONITOR (M/S/P Horvath/Kozai)

- G. [HB 2224 HD1](#) – Relating to Long-Term Care. Requires the Executive Office on Aging to create a comprehensive long-term care master plan to accomplish long-term care policy goals that, when implemented, ensure the availability of a full continuum of institutional and community-based services.

MOTION: SUPPORT (M/S/P Horvath/Akamine)

- H. [SB 2463](#) – Relating to Mental Health. Authorizes examination of defendants via telehealth. Amends conditions for a defendant's release or examination of fitness to proceed. Authorizes the Department of Health to implement behavioral health crisis centers.

MOTION: SUPPORT (M/S/P Horvath/Akamine)

- I. [HB 2223 HD1](#) – Relating to Insurance. Beginning 1/1/2025, requires health insurers, mutual benefit societies, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for biomarker testing.

MOTION: SUPPORT (M/S/P Horvath/Kozai)

- J. [SB 2722](#) – Relating to Cancer. Appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center to conduct a multiethnic cohort study focusing on the social determinants of health, lifestyles, environmental exposures, and resilience factors of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos.

MOTION: SUPPORT (M/S/P Horvath/Kozai)

- K. [SB 2992 / HB 2800](#) – Relating to Mental Health. Beginning 7/1/2025, and occurring every ten years thereafter, requires the Department of Health to convene an Advisory Committee on Mental Health Code Review.

The Committee discussed how ten years maybe a somewhat arbitrary time interval, and the Department of Health should have the ability to convene a review sooner should it be warranted.

MOTION: SUPPORT (M/S/P Horvath/Kozai)

- L. [HB 2082 HD1](#) – Relating to School Bus Services. Establishes comprehensive standards for the department of education related to school bus services to ensure reasonable accommodation, equitable access, timely communication, and accountability. The standards shall include providing reasonable accommodation for students who may be disproportionately affected by bus service changes due to disabilities, special needs, or other unique circumstances; provided that such accommodation may include alternative transportation arrangements and support services.

MOTION: SUPPORT (M/S/P Horvath/Kozai)

- M. [HB 2171](#) – Relating to Sidewalks. Establishes the petty misdemeanor offense of sitting or lying on a public sidewalk. Contains exceptions, including for expressive activities that are protected by the First Amendment, and for medical emergencies.

MOTION: COMMENT (M/S/P Horvath/Akamine)

- N. [SB 2738](#) – Relating to Transportation. Establishes a three-year pilot program within the Department of Transportation, in collaboration with the counties, to examine signalized intersections that are programmed to all crosswalk and pedestrian movement signs to commence four seconds before the green light is given to motor vehicle traffic when the walk button has been presses. Staff note - this can be a disadvantage to pedestrians who are blind or visually impaired who rely on the surge of traffic to recognize when the signal is green. If these pedestrians begin crossing with the surge of parallel traffic where a leading pedestrian interval is used, they will have less time to cross than was designed. Also, when pedestrians do not initiate their crossing at the onset of the WALK interval, drivers may interpret this to mean that the pedestrians are not intending to cross.

Pedestrians who are blind or visually impaired do not know about the leading pedestrian interval at unfamiliar intersections unless there is an APS installed.

Committee member Anthony Akamine commented there are not enough APS installed around town and the ones that are often are broken.

MOTION: COMMENT (M/S/P Horvath/Kozai)

- O. [HB 1837 HD1](#) – Relating to School Safety. Requires the Department of Education to grant public access to emergency action plans that do not pose a security risk to students, staff, or guests of school campuses. Requires each Department school to have a comprehensive school evacuation communication plan for use during emergencies. Requires the Department of Education to collaborate with the Department of Transportation to assess all Department school campuses to determine if there are sufficient emergency evacuation routes for each campus and report to the Legislature.

MOTION: COMMENT (M/S/P Horvath/Kozai)

- P. [HB 1598 / HB 1858](#) – Relating to the Sunshine Law. Requires board meeting packets to be available 2 business days before the meeting instead of 48 hours before. Note, HB 1858 and SB 2198, bill title different relating to Public Agency Meetings.

Bryan Mick commented from a staff perspective this made sense as other deadlines are calculated on a day basis and not an hourly one. Guest Peter Fritz commented that his concern that the deadline often falls on a weekend or holiday is a major reason this bill was proposed.

MOTION: SUPPORT (M/S/P Horvath/Kozai)

- Q. [HB 1599 / SB 2636](#) - Relating to the Sunshine Law. Requires public meeting notices to inform members of the public how to provide remote oral testimony in a manner that allows the testifier, upon request, to be visible to board members and other meeting participants. Affirms the right of a board to remove or block someone who willfully disrupts or compromises the conduct of a meeting. (SB 2636 bill title different relating to Remote Meetings.)

Bryan Mick commented that for some people with disabilities, being seen is an integral part of their testimony.

MOTION: SUPPORT (M/S/P Horvath/Akamine)

- R. [SB 2116](#) – Relating to Board Meetings. Requires all meetings utilize interactive conference technology.

MOTION: SUPPORT (M/S/P Horvath/Kozai)

- S. [SB 2172](#) – Relating to Boards and Commissions. Establishes the priority of who may assume the authority and duties of a chairperson of a board or commission in the chairperson's and all co-chairperson's absence at a hearing or meeting of a

board or commission. Prohibits staff members from assuming the authority and duties of the chairperson of a board or commission.

MOTION: MONITOR (M/S/P Horvath/Kozai)

- T. [SB 2180](#) – Relating to Chore Services. Requires the Department of Human Services' program requirements for chore services to include an assessment of whether the applicant has a family member who is available and capable of providing necessary chore services for the applicant. Requires income eligibility standards for chore services to include an assessment of whether the individual has the ability to pay a portion of the cost of the chore services they receive. Requires the Department of Human Services to improve access for disabled persons seeking chore services by taking certain actions and submitting a report to the Legislature.

MOTION: SUPPORT (M/S/P Horvath/Kozai)

- U. [HB 1858](#) – Relating to Public Agency Meetings. Provides that supplemental information received within 48 hours of a meeting of a board subject to state opening meetings law may be added to the board packet; provided that the public is promptly provided access to the supplemental information.

MOTION: SUPPORT (M/S/P Horvath/Kozai)

- VI. Open Forum: Public comment on issues not on the agenda for consideration for the Board's agenda at the next meeting.

There were no comments.

- VII. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.

- VIII. Chairperson Violet Horvath adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

NOTE: All votes were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

BRYAN K. MICK