



# 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  
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## NOTICE OF MEETING

### Disability and Communication Access Board

#### Legislative Committee Meeting

January 26, 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/84956073277> and enter Meeting ID: 849 5607 3277

#### To join by phone

Dial 1 669 900 6833 and enter Meeting ID: 849 5607 3277

One tap mobile: +17193594580,,84956073277# 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. Review of 2026 Legislative calendar and legislative process.

V. Bills and Resolutions

A. Non-Discrimination

[Senate Bill 2209](#) – Relating to Rental Discrimination. Allows the court to award attorneys' fees to a prevailing party in an action relating to discriminatory practices in a rental transaction based on source of income.

[Senate Bill 2210](#) – Relating to Housing Discrimination. Allows the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission to prosecute discrimination based on source of income in housing cases.

[Senate Bill 2213](#) – Relating to Environmental Protection. Requires the Department of Education to establish a statewide Environmental Stewardship Curricula Plan for public schools for certain students. Beginning with the 2027-2028 school year, requires public schools to offer an environmental stewardship course for certain students. Requires the Department of Education to establish and administer sustainability programs, including recycling and composting programs, to be implemented at public schools. Beginning 7/1/27, prohibits the use or distribution of single-use plastic utensils, trays, straws, and other disposable plastic food service products in public school cafeterias. Beginning 7/1/28, requires each public school to have at least one operational refillable water bottle filling station accessible to students and staff. Requires reports to the Board of Education and the Legislature. Appropriates funds.

[Senate Bill 2222](#) – Relating to Mental Health. Requires the Department of Education to identify as an excused absence any absence due to the student's mental or behavioral health. Limits the number of excused absences due to mental or behavioral health that a student may take per academic year. Exempts an absence due to the student's mental or behavioral health from the enforcement of penalties relating to compulsory school attendance.

[Senate Bill 2347](#) – Relating to the Residential Landlord-Tenant Code. Requires the Office of Consumer Protection to periodically publish an accessible, multilingual notice of tenant rights. Requires a landlord to provide a tenant with a copy of the notice of tenant rights.

[Senate Bill 2348](#) – Relating to Cardiovascular Screening. Requires cardiovascular screening for students, including student athletes. Requires the Department of Education, in collaboration with the Department of Health, to distribute educational and informational materials regarding sudden cardiac arrest. Requires the Department of Education to implement policies, programs, training, and continuing education that increase health care provider knowledge of cardiovascular screening guidelines

[Senate Bill 2364](#) – Relating to Home Care Agencies. Prohibits a home care agency or person with a financial interest in the home care agency from providing

home care services to a client if the home care agency or person owns or leases the client's residence

[Senate Bill 2365](#) – Relating to Community-Based Care. Requires the Department of Health to adopt rules mandating that each primary caregiver and substitute caregiver in a Community Care Foster Family Home be a licensed nurse or certified nurse aide. Makes the requirements for primary and substitute caregivers applicable to all Community Care Foster Family Homes, regardless of the number of clients in the home

- B. Communication Access - NONE
- C. Service and Other Animals - NONE
- 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.

[Senate Bill 2268](#) – Relating to Equity. Requires all places of public accommodation and public entity construction projects constructed after 7/31/2027 to provide universal changing accommodations that are equally accessible regardless of gender.

- E. Community Based Services and Employment

[Senate Bill 2073](#) – Relating to Water Fluoridation. Requires certain suppliers of water in the State to adjust the fluoride levels in the supplier's public water system to meet the optimal fluoride level for community water fluoridation, as established by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. Requires suppliers to test water systems for fluoride levels, at intervals established by the state Department of Health. Requires the Department of Health to provide training to suppliers on the implementation of water fluoridation. Requires the Department of Health to submit annual reports to the Legislature.

[Senate Bill 2080](#) - Relating to the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact. Adopts the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact to regulate the practice of telepsychology and temporary in-person, face-to-face practice of psychology by psychologists across state boundaries in the performance of their psychological practice. Requires the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs to adopt rules to implement and administer the Compact. Effective 1/1/2027. (Note, also see Senate Bill 2225 and Senate Bill 2242).

[Senate Bill 2087](#) – Relating to Health Insurance. Establishes a three-year Health Coverage Continuity Pilot Program within the Department of Human Services, in consultation with the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, to assist individuals who have lost Medicaid health insurance coverage and lack access to other health insurance options. Authorizes the Department of Human Services to contract with a nonprofit health insurer or community-based organization to operate the Pilot Program; provided that the Department shall allow the operator to access state-backed reinsurance or risk stabilization support for the operator of the Pilot Program. Authorizes the Department of Human Services to: (1) Issue premium subsidies or vouchers; and (2) Accept employer contributions; provided that the benefit shall be portable and follow the individual without imposing compliance or administrative obligations on the State or an employer. Requires reports to the Legislature. Repeals 6/30/2029.

[Senate Bill 2088](#) – Relating to Health Care Plans for Workers. Requires the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, in consultation with the Insurance Commissioner, to establish and implement a five-year voluntary Nontraditional Workforce Portable Health Care Benefit Plan Pilot Program that offers high deductible health plans or catastrophic health plans to nontraditional workers who are ineligible for health benefits provided by the Hawai'i Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund or prepaid health care plans under the Prepaid Health Care Act. Requires reports to the Legislature. Appropriates funds.

[Senate Bill 2104](#) – Relating to the General Excise Tax. Implements a phased repeal of the state general excise tax on the sale of groceries and nonprescription drugs in the State. Prohibits counties from establishing county surcharges on the state general excise tax on gross income or gross proceeds from the sale of groceries and nonprescription drugs in the State. Prohibition on county surcharges to be repealed on 12/31/2030.

[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.

[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.

[Senate Bill 2165](#) – Relating to Medical Debt. Prohibits a health care provider or medical creditor from filing a civil lawsuit to collect medical debt from a patient whose household income is less than or equal to five hundred percent of the Federal Poverty Level. Prohibits a health care provider or medical creditor from engaging in certain debt collection practices. Prohibits a health care provider or

medical creditor from selling medical debt. Prohibits a health care provider whose income exceeds a certain threshold from denying non-emergency medically necessary care to patients

[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.

[Senate Bill 2173](#) – Relating to Insurance. Requires health insurers, mutual benefit societies, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for full-arch dental implants that are medically necessary.

[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.

[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.

[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.

[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.

[Senate Bill 2225](#) – Relating to the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact. Adopts the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact to regulate the practice of telepsychology and the temporary in-person, face-to-face practice of psychologists when patients are located in compact states other than the state

where the psychologist is licensed. Requires the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs to adopt rules to implement and administer the compact.

[Senate Bill 2227](#) – Relating to Rental Assistance. Requires the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to award monthly rent supplement payments on behalf of qualified tenants under the State Rent Supplement Program prioritizing certain tenants, including kupuna. Authorizes the HPHA to enter into memoranda of agreement for rental supplement payments with the counties or specialized nonprofit organizations. Amends provisions relating to the State Rent Supplement Program. Establishes the State Rent Supplement Program Special Fund. Requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources to assess a transaction fee for each applicable recording in the office of the Assistant Registrar of the Land Court or the Bureau of Conveyances to be deposited into the State Rent Supplement Program Special Fund. Repeals the existing separate State Rent Supplement Program for kupuna. Appropriates funds.

[Senate Bill 2242](#) - Relating to the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact. Enacts, and authorizes the Governor to enter into, the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact.

[Senate Bill 2259](#) – Relating to Department of Business, Economic, Development, and Tourism. Establishes the Hawaii Dementia Initiative Business Recognition Program within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism. Appropriates moneys.

[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.

[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. Effective 7/2/2026. Repeals on 6/30/2031.

[Senate Bill 2273](#) – Relating to Workers' Compensation. Requires that employers pay all workers' compensation claims for compensable injuries and not deny claims without reasonable cause or during a pending investigation. Creates a presumption of compensability for claims submitted by employees excluded from coverage under the Hawaii prepaid health care act. Requires that employers notify medical services providers of any billing disagreements and allows providers to charge an additional rate to employers for outstanding balances owed for undisputed charges. Establishes dispute resolution procedures for employers and providers who have a reasonable disagreement over charges. Requires employers to deny a treatment plan within 3 days of receipt of a treatment plan or the treatment plan is deemed accepted.

[Senate Bill 2275](#) – Relating to Persons with Disabilities. Requires the Department of Human Services to establish a Medicaid buy-in program for workers with disabilities. Requires the Department to adopt rules.

[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.

[Senate Bill 2282](#) – Relating to Insurer Prior Authorization. Establishes the Prior Authorization Committee to specify medical conditions for which prior authorization by the insurer for treatment is not required for health insurance coverage. Requires health plan insurers to align their prior authorization processes for other conditions with Medicare policies.

[Senate Bill 2283](#) – Relating to Prescription Drugs. Repeals certain prohibitions on the imposition of fees, conditions, or requirements on community retail pharmacies that are not imposed on mail order pharmacies.

[Senate Bill 2285](#) – Relating to Complex Patient Treatment. Appropriates funds to the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division of the Department of Health to contract with community-based organizations for a behavioral health complex patient model. Requires a report to the Legislature.

[Senate Bill 2287](#) – Relating to Mental Health. Appropriates funds to the Department of Health to contract with community-based organizations to provide preventive and early intervention mental health services to adolescents within the community. Requires a report to the Legislature.

[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.

[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.

[Senate Bill 2292](#) – Relating to Workers' Compensation Medical Treatment. Requires the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to establish a medical treatment utilization schedule to standardize treatment for injured employees involved in workers' compensation claims.

[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.

[Senate Bill 2340](#) – Relating to Community Care Foster Family Homes. Clarifies that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who meet an intermediate care facility or nursing facility level of care shall not be denied residency in a licensed community care foster family home solely because of their disability or enrollment in a specific medicaid waiver program

#### F. Transportation and Mobility

[Senate Bill 2009](#) - Relating to Motor Vehicles. Requires new number plates and tags or emblems for used motor vehicles transferred between private individuals.

[Senate Bill 2136](#) – Relating to Transportation. Establishes safe riding behaviors for electric bicycles. Prohibits the operation of high-speed electric devices in certain locations. Establishes labeling and signage requirements for electric bicycles. Prohibits the operation of a moped or electric motorcycle in certain locations. Amends the definition of "bicycle" for purposes of county vehicular taxes. Defines "electric bicycle" in place of "low-speed electric bicycle". Defines "electric micro-mobility device" and requires the same regulations as electric foot scooters to apply to electric micro-mobility devices. Prohibits a person under the age of sixteen from operating a class 3 electric bicycle. Authorizes a person under the age of fourteen to operate class 2 electric bicycles under supervision. Prohibits a person from riding a class 3 electric bicycle on a sidewalk. Authorizes a person to ride a class 1 or class 2 electric bicycle on a sidewalk under certain circumstances. Prohibits a person from operating a bicycle or electric foot scooter under the age of eighteen without a helmet. Repeals the requirement that moped drivers use bicycle lanes. Substitutes the word "motor-driven cycle" with the word "motor scooter."

[Senate Bill 2146](#) – Relating to Traffic Infractions. Establishes a Traffic Fines Task Force that will examine the Finnish tiered traffic fines system, determine whether

a similar system could be implemented in the State, and provide recommendations as to how a system could best be implemented. Appropriates funds.

[Senate Bill 2226](#) – Relating to Motorcycles. Requires all persons operating or riding a motorcycle to wear a safety helmet.

[Senate Bill 2305](#) – Relating to Identification. Allows applicants for driver's permit, driver's license, or civil identification cards to request a nonapparent disability notation on their permit, license, or identification card.

[Senate Bill 2366](#) – Relating to Parking for Persons with Disabilities. Amends the fee exemption period for individuals possessing a disabled paid parking exemption permit from the first 2.5 hours or the maximum amount of time the meter allows, whichever is longer, to the first 4.5 hours.

## G. Emergency Management

[House Bill 1531 / Senate Bill 2121](#) – Relating to Emergency Announcements. Requires the Governor or mayor of a county to provide an American Sign Language interpreter during each official announcement broadcast via television or the Internet during a state of emergency. Requires the Governor or mayor of a county to ensure, to the fullest extent possible, that the American Sign Language interpreter's face, body, arms, and hands are visible during the broadcast. Requires a news media outlet to display the American Sign Language interpreter in a picture-in-picture window during broadcasts of official emergency announcements.

[Senate Bill 2029](#) – Relating to Emergency Management. Establishes the eighth day of August of each year as "Hawai'i Disaster Drill Day". Requires the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency, in coordination with all state departments and agencies, to conduct drills and perform other activities for that day.

[Senate Bill 2109](#) – Relating to Emergency Preparedness Communications. Requires the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency to develop and implement a statewide public education and communications program to promote household emergency preparedness consistent with the Agency's fourteen-day essential supplies recommendation. Requires annual reports to the Legislature. Appropriates funds.

[Senate Bill 2237](#) – Relating to Fire Prevention. Requires each state agency to create and regularly update a wildfire hazard map. Requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources to adopt rules. Specifies that the Department of Land and Natural Resources shall clear brush present on state lands for more than sixty days through the Community Fuels Reduction Project. Requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources to remove certain brush from high- and medium-risk wildfire areas on state lands. Requires reports to the Legislature.

Senate Bill 2267 – Relating to 911 Services. Requires the 911 Board to establish, implement, and maintain a statewide emergency safety profile system that allows residents to voluntarily create and manage secure personal profiles containing information relevant to emergency responses.

Senate Bill 2385 – Relating to Disaster Services. Amends the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency's functions to include ensuring compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and related federal and state disability access laws by integrating the needs of individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs into emergency planning, preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation activities. Appropriates funds to establish a Disability Integration Specialist and for programming support for disability community projects.

H. Administration - NONE

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 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.