



# 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

February 9, 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/84537476082> and enter Meeting ID: 845 3747 6082

#### To join by phone

Dial 1 669 900 6833 and enter Meeting ID: 845 3747 6082

One tap mobile: +12532050468,,84537476082# 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 1787/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.

[House Bill 1997/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 2010/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.

[House Bill 2166](#) – Relating to Immunizations. Requires, rather than authorizes, schools to provide an exemption from required immunizations. Specifies that for purposes of the Department of Health's rulemaking authority and authority regarding infectious and communicable diseases, no child shall be subjected to medical examination, vaccination, revaccination, or immunization if a parent or legal guardian objects based on bona fide religious tenets and practices. (see Senate Bill 2472).

Justification: Too many exemptions for non-medical reasons could negatively 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.

[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 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 2967](#) – Relating to Artificial Intelligence. Establishes consumer protection requirements for the use of artificial intelligence systems in consumer interactions and consequential decisions, including disclosures, documentation, and a right to correction, appeal, and human review. Makes certain violations an unfair or deceptive act or practice. Requires risk management and impact assessments for high-risk artificial intelligence systems. Requires incident reports to the Executive Director of the Office of Consumer Protection and the Attorney General.

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

Staff Recommendation: Support.

[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.

## 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.

[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](#) – 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](#) – 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 1536](#) – Relating to Health Insurance. Requires insurers, mutual benefit societies, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for the cost of prosthetic devices, including activity-specific prostheses, and orthotic devices for policies, contracts, plans, and agreements issued or renewed on or after 1/1/2027. Establishes an unspecified minimum yearly benefit for prosthetic devices and orthotic devices.

Justification: Increases access to mobility aid devices.

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](#) – 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 two 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 1669/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.

[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/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.

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 1704/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, Senate Bill 2242, and Senate Bill 2508.)

Justification: Increase access for people with disabilities.  
Staff Recommendation: Support.

[\*\*House Bill 1754\*\*](#) – Relating to General Excise Tax. Exempts food and groceries from the general excise tax. Expands the general excise tax exemption implemented in 2024 for certain medical and dental services to include all medical and dental services.

Justification: Improve access to medical and dental services.  
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/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.

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 2143](#) – Relating Health Care. Establishes a universal, single payer health care system to be known as "Hawaii Care", to provide comprehensive health care benefits to all state residents and eventually replace all existing health care plans in the State. Designates the Hawaii Health Authority as the responsible agency for the comprehensive planning, implementation, and administration of Hawaii Care. Requires the Hawaii Health Authority to develop and submit a comprehensive implementation and administration plan to the legislature by a certain date. Establishes the Hawaii Care special fund. Requires the Hawaii Health Authority to adopt rules and submit reports to the Legislature. Requires the Governor to appoint members to the Hawaii Health Authority by 12/31/2026. Requires the Department of Human Services to apply for necessary federal waivers. Takes effect 180 days after the approval of the Hawaii Medicaid State Plan and necessary federal waivers. Appropriates funds.

Justification: Increase access to healthcare 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 2285/Senate Bill 3104](#) – Relating to the Nurse Licensure Compact.  
Allows the Governor to enter the State into the multistate Nurse Licensure Compact, which will allow a nurse who is licensed by a home state to practice under a multistate licensure privilege in each party state, effective 1/1/2027. Beginning 1/1/2027, allows the State Board of Nursing to charge different fees for registered nurses and licensed practical nurses who hold a multistate license issued by the State. Appropriates general revenues.

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

[House Bill 2286/Senate Bill 3105](#) - Relating to the Physical 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](#) – 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.

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 389](#) – Relating to the General Excise Tax. Expands the general excise tax exemption established by Act 47, Session Laws of Hawai‘i 2024, to include amounts received by optometrists, audiologists, and chiropractors, for healthcare-related goods or services purchased under the Medicare, Medicaid, and TRICARE programs.

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 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.

Justification: Increase access for people with disabilities.

Staff Recommendation: Support.

[Senate Bill 2242](#) - Relating to the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact.

Enacts, and authorizes the Governor to enter into, the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact.

Justification: Increase access for people with disabilities.

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 2508](#) – Relating to the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact. Enacts, and authorizes the Governor to enter into, the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact.

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 1773/Senate Bill 2559](#) – Relating to Parking for Disabled Persons. Requires the Disability and Communication Access Board to issue a disability travel placard to an applicant who has a valid removable windshield placard and provides proof of travel. (Note SB 2559 defines disability parking travel placard.)

Justification: Increase ability to travel for those with parking permits.

Staff Recommendation: Support.

[House Bill 1995/Senate Bill 2850](#) – 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](#) – 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](#) – Relating to Towing Practices. Establishes uniform standards for parking enforcement and towing practices on state and state-leased lands, including notice requirements, disability protections, consumer payment safeguards, and public reporting.

Justification: Would not allow a car to be towed that was in an access aisle.  
Staff Recommendation: Oppose.

[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 /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.

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

Staff Recommendation: Support.

[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 on Oahu.

Staff Recommendation: Support.

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 on Oahu.

Staff Recommendation: Support.

#### H. Administration

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.

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.

#### 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.

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