
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING ALL BRANCHES OF STATE GOVERNMENT AND ALL AGENCIES OF COUNTY GOVERNMENTS TO MAKE GOVERNMENT RECORDS AVAILABLE IN DIGITIZED FORM READABLE BY SOFTWARE AND HARDWARE FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED AND TO PROVIDE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES AND THE PUBLIC WITH THE SOFTWARE AND HARDWARE NECESSARY TO DIGITIZE AND READ PUBLIC RECORDS.

1 WHEREAS, the Legislature declared in section 92F-2, Hawaii
2 Revised Statutes, that "In a democracy, the people are vested
3 with the ultimate decision-making power. Government agencies
4 exist to aid the people in the formation and conduct of public
5 policy. Opening up the government processes to public scrutiny
6 and participation is the only viable and reasonable method of
7 protecting the public's interest."; and

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9 WHEREAS, the Legislature also declared in section 92F-2,
10 Hawaii Revised Statutes, that "it is the policy of this State
11 that the formation and conduct of public policy--the
12 discussions, deliberations, decisions, and action of government
13 agencies--shall be conducted as openly as possible."; and

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15 WHEREAS, the use of interactive display terminals by state
16 and county agencies is becoming a widespread means of access for
17 employees and the public to obtain information available
18 electronically, but that presentation of electronic data solely
19 in a visual format is a barrier to access by individuals who are
20 blind or visually impaired; and

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22 WHEREAS, individuals who are blind or visually impaired
23 have the right to full participation in the life of the state,
24 including the use of advanced technology which is purchased by
25 the state for use by employees, program participants and members
26 of the general public; and

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1 WHEREAS, technological advances allow interactive control
2 of computers and use of the information by visually impaired
3 persons, but that nonvisual access is dependent on the purchase
4 of hardware and software that is compatible with technology used
5 for nonvisual access; and
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7 WHEREAS, there currently exists a wide range of computer
8 software and hardware that permits persons who are blind or
9 visually impaired, for example, to view documents with very
10 large print, by listening to document text converted to speech,
11 or reading them with Braille; and
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13 WHEREAS, use of computer software and hardware by the blind
14 and visually impaired to access requires that government records
15 be uploaded in a format that can be converted to display text in
16 very large print, to audible speech, or to Braille and that,
17 where computer software and hardware is made available for
18 public use, some of that technology be equipped to provide
19 access to government records through this technology; and
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21 WHEREAS, when government records are uploaded only in an
22 image format such as "JPEG," "TIFF," or "PDF," without first
23 having been scanned into a word processing format by the use of
24 optical character reading software, blind and visually impaired
25 persons cannot access the records because they cannot be
26 converted to display text in very large print, to audible
27 speech, or to Braille; now, therefore,
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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
30 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
31 of 2010, the Senate concurring, that all branches of state
32 government and all agencies of county governments are requested
33 to make government records available in digitized form readable
34 by software and hardware for the blind and visually impaired and
35 to provide public employees and the public with the software and
36 hardware necessary to digitize and read government records; and
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chief procurement officer
39 of each branch of state government and each agency of the county
40 governments are requested to develop nonvisual access standards
41 for information technology systems used by government agencies
42 that:
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- 1 (1) Provide blind or visually impaired individuals with
- 2 access to information stored electronically by
- 3 government agencies by ensuring compatibility with
- 4 adaptive technology systems so that blind and visually
- 5 impaired individuals have full and equal access when
- 6 needed; and
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- 8 (2) Are designed to present information, including prompts
- 9 used for interactive communications, in formats
- 10 intended for both visual and nonvisual use, such as
- 11 the use of text-only options; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chief procurement officer
 14 of each branch of state government and each agency of the county
 15 governments are requested to:

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- 17 (1) Consult with agencies and representatives of
- 18 individuals who are blind or visually impaired in
- 19 developing the nonvisual access standards and the
- 20 procurement criteria;
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- 22 (2) Establish a written plan and develop any proposed
- 23 budget requests for implementing the nonvisual access
- 24 standards for each agency at facilities accessible by
- 25 the public; and
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- 27 (3) Permit the installation and effective use of the
- 28 applications, programs and underlying operating
- 29 systems, including the format of the data, used for
- 30 the manipulation and presentation of information that
- 31 are compatible with nonvisual access software and
- 32 peripheral devices; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 35 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Chief
 36 Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court, the President of the
 37 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chair
 38 of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the
 39 Chair of the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, the
 40 Chair of the Board of Education, and the Mayor of the
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H.C.R. NO. 312

1 counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui and the city and county of
2 Honolulu.

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OFFERED BY:



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