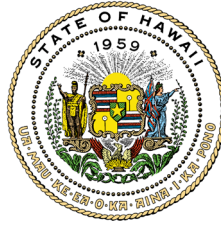


DAVID Y. IGE
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2144 SD1
Relating to Electronic Information Technology Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities**

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR
SENATOR GILBERT S.C. AGARAN, VICE CHAIR

Testimony of Caroline Cadirao
Director, Executive Office on Aging
Attached Agency to the Department of Health

Hearing Date: February 23, 2022
10:05 AM

Room Number: 211
Via Videoconference

1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department
2 of Health, supports SB2144 SD1, Relating to Electronic Information Technology Accessibility
3 for Persons with Disabilities.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** None

5 **Purpose and Justification:** This measure requires that all electronic information technology
6 develop, purchased, used, or provided by a state entity be made accessible to persons with
7 disabilities. In addition, the Office of Enterprise Technology Services, in consultation with the
8 Disability and Communication Access Board and a working group of stakeholders are required
9 to develop, publish, and update electronic information technology accessibility standards to be
10 implemented by all state entities.

11 Mr. Philip Ana is the Long-Term Care Disability Specialist in the Executive Office on Aging. He
12 is also a blind user of assistive technology and relies on several pieces of assistive technology to

1 do his work. His laptop is equipped with a Jaws for windows screen reading program allowing
2 him to read information in email. He is also able to access the internet by entering the link to the
3 Legislature and downloading the bill to be read through Jaws or embossed in braille for him to
4 read. He laughed when he thought about what would happen if the Legislative website was not
5 accessible for him to use with his technology?

6 He shares this example with you because technology is equally as important as accessibility. His
7 previous laptop did not have enough resources to support the new operating system along with
8 the assistive technology.

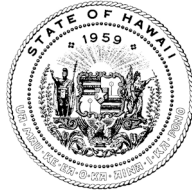
9 A few years ago, when EOA upgraded from Windows 7 to Windows 10 the Jaws screen reading
10 software needed to be upgraded as well. The embosser that he used also needed a software
11 upgrade. Island Skills, a technology business specializing in blind technology assisted him in
12 making the necessary changes. They submitted a proposal to EOA for all the equipment and
13 software upgrades needed including training on the devices. Included in this package was the
14 Kurtzweil Scanning and Reading technology and the Braille Touch note taker device.

15 Mr. Ana supports the Enterprise Technology Services, in consultation with the Disability and
16 Communication Access Board, and a working group comprising stakeholders to develop and
17 publish information technology accessibility standards to be implemented by all state entities.

18 **Recommendation:** EOA supports this measure.

19 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



DOUGLAS MURDOCK
CHIEF INFORMATION
OFFICER

OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HI 96810-0119
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Testimony of
DOUGLAS MURDOCK
Chief Information Officer
Enterprise Technology Services

Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
Tuesday, February 8, 2022

SENATE BILL 2144
RELATING TO ELECTRONIC INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ACCESSIBILITY FOR
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura and Moriwaki, Vice Chairs Ihara and Dela Cruz, and members of the committees,

The Office of the Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) **provides comments** on this bill. **ETS prefers Senate Bill 2381** and its role to provide DCAB with consultation and guidance on the appropriate technology solutions to meet accessibility standards. ETS does not have the expertise to in the subject matter to lead the effort in creating accessibility standards. However, we have the technical expertise to support the standards.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.



LATE

DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • Fax (808) 586-8129

February 23, 2022

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senate Bill 2144, Senate Draft 1 – Relating to Electronic Information Technology
Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities.

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports Senate Bill 2144,
Senate Draft 1.

Please consider the Americans with Disabilities Act definition of “a person with a
disability who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more
major life activity.”

Note that the definition of electronic information technology includes some applications
that technology has not yet achieved to be one hundred percent accessible and is
constantly evolving to meet accessibility standards.

Technology can be a valuable tool that provides easy and independent access to
information, programs and services to persons with disabilities. However, it also can
pose a barrier when it is not designed to be accessible. Dedicated staff resources are
needed for it to be implemented for each state entity and reviewed periodically to
address the changes in advanced technology for people with disabilities.

There is great variability in the levels of accessibility within each department.

This bill would help to provide a consistent minimum level of accessibility for a state
entity.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristine Pagano

for KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LATE

ELIZABETH A. CHAR, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
PRINCESS VICTORIA KAMĀMALU BUILDING
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
February 23, 2022

The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
The Thirty-First Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Dela Cruz and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: SB2144 SD1 Relating to Broadband Service Infrastructure

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS SB2144 SD1**, which requires that all electronic information technology developed, purchased, used, or provided by a state entity be made accessible to persons with disabilities. Requires the Office of Enterprise Technology Services, in consultation with the Disability and Communication Access Board and a working group comprising stakeholders, to develop and publish electronic information technology accessibility standards to be implemented by all state entities. Requires review and amendment of the standards every 3 years after the date of publication, or as needed, to reflect advances or changes in information technology.

The intellectual/developmental disability community uses a wide range of accessible technologies to access electronic information. The Council appreciates this measure as it seeks to include our disability community's need to access technology and participate in state programs and services.

The Council defers to the Disability and Communication Access Board as the State ADA Coordinator for any substantive recommendation to this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of SB2144 SD1**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daintry Bartoldus".

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator

LATE

National FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF HAWAII

Testimony before the Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Hawaii State Senate

Thirty-First Legislature, Regular Session of 2022
February 23, 2022, 10:05 AM, hearing on SB2144

Good morning chair, vice chair, and members. I am James Gashel, representing the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) of Hawaii, fully supporting SB2144.

Before I get to the meat of this testimony, NFB of Hawaii wants to give special thanks to chairman Dela Cruz, vice chair Keith-Agaran, Senator Moriwaki, and fifteen senators in all who have put their names on this bill and another for the same purpose. We thank you for your support and understanding.

SB2144 is all about making the state's electronic information technology work better for people with disabilities. Disability access is already the law, but at present our state has no standards to comply. This rather haphazard approach is inefficient and more expensive than a rational approach based on standards will be when SB2144 becomes law.

SB2144 emphasizes including disability access in the specifications at the point of project design and procurement of information technology. Decades of experience in other states and the federal government show that planning for disability access at the beginning basically eliminates the cost as compared to access solutions attempted after implementation, responding to complaints.

Also, when you are thinking about cost, please consider the cost of lost jobs and lost productivity for people with disabilities when the state's information technology is not accessible. It's clear that initial development of accessibility standards may have some short-term cost, mainly staff time, but even that cost will be minimized by looking at federal and state accessibility standards already in use. We don't have to bear the expense of re-inventing anything. Following standards and a planned approach to accessibility will save the state money now spent in personnel time and technology purchases when the existing products are not accessible and have to be replaced.

Please note especially the requirement in section 3 of SB2144 that the standards must be consistent with the accessibility standards issued pursuant to section 508 of the federal Rehabilitation Act as amended in 1998 and web access standards issued by the World Wide Web Consortium Web Accessibility Initiative. Section 508 requires information technology purchased by federal agencies to meet accessible use standards at the time the technology is purchased. We need SB2144 because section 508 does not have technical applicability to state entities. More law is needed.

By adopting a proactive approach with specific disability access standards applicable to state entities, Hawaii will join the mainstream of states now looking to the federal section 508 standards as an achievable accessibility blueprint. The section 508 federal standards are well known in the information technology industry. They first took effect in 2001 and were last revised in January 2017. With this history we can be confident that our agencies will have the support they need.

Aside from making disability access more efficient when SB2144 is in effect, the legislature will be making a powerful statement on behalf of equal rights and equal opportunity. SB2144 is a technology bill for sure, but for blind people, this is an essential twenty-first century civil rights bill. It will also become an important key to independence and equality for people with disabilities in our state. Mahalo for hearing this bill and understanding why we need it passed into law.