



## DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
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January 30, 2024

### TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

#### Senate Bill 2482 – Relating to Telecommunication

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports and offers comments on Senate Bill 2482 – Relating to Telecommunication. This bill would require the Comptroller to identify state office buildings that can provide equitable telecommunication access to allow certain residents, including residents with disabilities, to participate remotely in legislative hearings. Also, this bill would require a report to the Legislature.

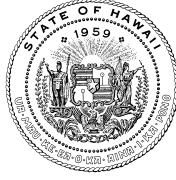
DCAB offers comments to ensure the report of findings and recommendations address compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which requires state and local governments to ensure equal access for individuals who are disabled when providing programs, services, or activities, especially persons with communication access needs, that is, persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind. As it concerns Senate Bill 2482 and determining appropriate state office buildings where residents can remotely participate in legislative hearings, it is important to ensure that the identified buildings and programs are equally accessible to the full spectrum of persons with disabilities. These comments are offered to ensure that all individuals have equal opportunity to participate in processes of their government.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW  
Executive Director

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



KEITH A. REGAN  
COMPTROLLER  
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

MEOH-LENG SILLIMAN  
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

**STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII'**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWE LAULĀ**  
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY  
OF  
KEITH A. REGAN, COMPTROLLER  
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES  
TO THE  
**COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

S. B. 2482

JANUARY 30, 2024, 3:00 PM  
CONFERENCE ROOM 225 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

RELATING TO TELECOMMUNICATION

Dear Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.B. 2482.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) offers **comments** for S.B. 2482, which requires the Comptroller to identify state office buildings that can provide equitable telecommunication access to allow certain residents, including with disabilities, to participate remotely in legislative hearings and requires a report to the legislature.

We appreciate the intent of this measure and, based on our research and discussion with the Hawaii State Library System, we believe the infrastructure and resources may already be in place. The Hawaii State Library System currently has 51 libraries that have been outfitted with internet access (wifi), laptops, are environmentally controlled (air conditioning), and have a staff capable of providing the necessary support to potential users wanting to access legislative

hearings. The State's libraries are designed to support residents with disabilities to ensure access to the services available there. We will continue to work closely with the Hawaii State Library System to provide support and to help share information about the existing access.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this matter.



**LATE**

STATE OF HAWAII  
HAWAII STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM  
'OIHANA HALE WAIHONA PUKE AUPUNI O KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII  
OFFICE OF THE STATE LIBRARIAN  
44 MERCHANT STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**  
**Tuesday, January 30, 2024**  
**3:00 p.m.**  
**Conference Room 225**

**By Stacey A. Aldrich**  
**State Librarian**

**S.B. 2482 RELATING TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

To: Sen. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair  
Sen. Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Government Operations

The Hawaii State Public Library System (HSPLS) **supports** the intent of S.B. 2482 and provides comments on this measure, which requires the Comptroller to identify state office buildings that can provide equitable telecommunication access to allow certain residents, including residents with disabilities, to participate remotely in legislative hearings. This measure also requires the Comptroller to submit a report to the Legislature.

The HSPLS has been providing the public resources to participate in the legislative process for many years. In 2020, while most businesses and government offices were still closed to the public, the HSPLS deployed 16 Chromebooks and charging stations to each of our 51 public libraries statewide to supplement the technology already available at our public libraries.

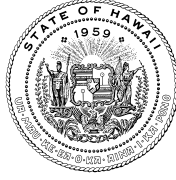
Working in coordination with both the Senate and House Clerk's Offices, we also updated our website and trained HSPLS staff in order to effectively assist any member of the public who wanted to participate in the 2021 Legislative Session. The equipment and processes remain in place for any member of the public to participate in the legislative process each year. We look forward to working with the Comptroller to achieve the intent of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on S.B.2482.

The Hawaii State Public Library System (HSPLS) is in the process of deploying donated menstrual products at our public libraries but recognize that a consistent source of funding will be needed to make the products available throughout the year. We note that the language of the measure may need to be clarified as public libraries are public buildings, but are not under the jurisdiction of the Department of Accounting and General Services.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on H.B. 2003.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



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