



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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March 17, 2023

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY

Senate Bill 752 SD1 – Relating to Telecommunication

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports and offers comments on Senate Bill 752 SD1 – 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 752 SD1 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



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
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March 17, 2023

The Honorable Representative Amy A. Perruso, Chair
House Committee on Higher Education & Technology
The Thirty-Second Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Perruso and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: SB752 SD1 RELATING TO TELECOMMUNICATION.

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS SB752 SD1**, 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. Requires a report to the Legislature.

Remote testimony ensures greater accessibility, benefitting those that rely on others to travel. Members of the Intellectual/Developmental Disability (I/DD) community often rely on others for mobility, such as city bus systems or caregiver support. Online testimony that does not require travel allows I/DD individuals greater independence to participate in and benefit the Hawai'i legislative process. Additionally, online testimony benefits those residing on the neighbor islands of Oahu, who may not be able to travel easily across islands.

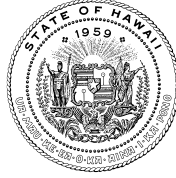
Our community deserves an equal opportunity to have their voices heard as part of the legislative process. This year, March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. Our theme is friendship and leadership, and we anticipate 350 individuals in our community to attend our Day at the Capitol event. To be a leader, we need to be connected. The independence of remote testimony allows individuals in our community to truly participate and help lead the legislative process, establishing themselves as an equal voice in Hawai'i's legislative process. SB752 will make sure their right to civic engagement is protected.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support of SB752 SD1**.

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator

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 HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWÉ 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 HIGHER EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY

MARCH 17, 2023, 3:35 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 309 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

S.B. 752, S.D. 1

RELATING TO TELECOMMUNICATION.

Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.B. 752, S.D. 1.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) offers **comments** for S.B. 752, S.D. 1, 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.

SB-752-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 11:28:19 PM

Testimony for HET on 3/17/2023 3:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cards Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Cards Pintor