

DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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March 1, 2024

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION AND ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senate Bill 2503 SD1 – Relating to Equity

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports Senate Bill 2503 SD1 - Relating to Equity.

This bill would require all places of public accommodation constructed after 12/31/24 and all state building construction projects bid after 06/30/25 to provide universal changing accommodations in public restrooms that are equally accessible regardless of gender.

A fundamental goal of the Americans with Disabilities Act is to ensure people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to participate in basic civic activities and everyday events, such as going to a restaurant or movie, shopping at a mall, or simply attending a high school sports event with friends and family. People with disabilities who cannot use a toilet should have access to universal changing accommodations that provides a safe, sanitary, and private space to be changed and cleaned by a caregiver when participating in civic activities and everyday events.

Thank you for considering our position.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director



**STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
'A'UNIKE MOKU'ĀPUNI NO KA NĀ KĀWAI KULA**

PRINCESS VICTORIA KAMĀMALU BUILDING
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
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March 01, 2024

The Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
The Thirty-Second Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Keohokalole, Senator Dela Cruz, and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: SB2503 SD1 RELATING TO EQUITY

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB2503 SD1**, which requires all places of public accommodation constructed after 12/31/24 to provide universal changing accommodations that are equally accessible regardless of gender. Requires state building construction projects that are bid after 6/30/2025 to include universal changing accommodations that are equally accessible regardless of gender, when doing so is feasible and cost effective. (SD1)

This legislation is crucial in ensuring equitable access to essential facilities for individuals with disabilities, particularly those in the Intellectual and Developmental Disability (I/DD) community. Families and caregivers of individuals with disabilities often face challenges in finding accessible spaces during outings or daily activities. They must meticulously plan their routes to include disability-friendly rest areas that offer safe and dignified toileting options along the way.

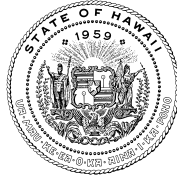
By implementing universal changing accommodations, we can alleviate the burden on families and caregivers, enabling them to participate more fully in various activities and outings. Moreover, this initiative will promote the integration of individuals with disabilities into public spaces, fostering a sense of inclusion and belonging. Accessible facilities are essential for ensuring the dignity and independence of individuals with disabilities, and SB2503 represents a significant step towards achieving equity in access to public accommodations for all members of our community. This creates a more accessible and inclusive environment for individuals with disabilities, ultimately enhancing their quality of life and promoting greater social integration.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support of SB2503 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 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 COMMITTEES ON

WAYS AND MEANS
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

MARCH 1, 2024, 9:50 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

S.B. 2503, S.D. 1

RELATING TO EQUITY

Chairs Dela Cruz and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Moriwaki and Fukunaga, and Members of the Committees, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on S.B. 2503, S.D.1.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) **supports** S.B. 2503, S.D. 1 which requires all places of public accommodation constructed after 12/31/24 to provide universal changing accommodations that are equally accessible regardless of gender and requires state building construction projects that are bid after 6/30/2025 to include universal changing accommodations that are equally accessible regardless of gender, when doing so is feasible and cost effective.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on this measure.



**TESTIMONY OF TINA YAMAKI, PRESIDENT
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII
March 1, 2024
Re: SB 2503 SD1 RELATING TO EQUITY**

Good morning, Chair Dela Cruz and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. I am Tina Yamaki, President of the Retail Merchants of Hawaii and I appreciate this opportunity to testify.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii was founded in 1901 and is a statewide, not for profit trade organization committed to supporting the growth and development of the retail industry in Hawaii. Our membership includes small mom & pop stores, large box stores, resellers, luxury retail, department stores, shopping malls, on-line sellers, local, national, and international retailers, chains, and everyone in between.

We understand the intent of SB 2503 SD1 Relating to Equity. This measure requires all places of public accommodation constructed after 12/31/24 to provide universal changing accommodations that are equally accessible regardless of gender; requires state building construction projects that are bid after 6/30/2025 to include universal changing accommodations that are equally accessible regardless of gender, when doing so is feasible and cost effective.

We would like to suggest that the construction date be moved to a later date or replace the construction date with that of the first filing of the permit. While we understand the urgent want for a measure like this, we would like to point out that building permits are taking longer than usual to process. Many plans are already waiting approval, and some are in the final stages. To have to do a change order will cost a lot of money to do especially if the architects must reconfigure the existing plan to accommodate for a larger or additional bathroom area; delayed construction to name a few.

In addition, **we also wonder why bars would have to have universal changing accommodations in their public restrooms if no one under the age of twenty-one is allowed inside the establishment.**

Mahalo again for this opportunity to testify.

SB-2503-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 10:17:25 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2024 9:50:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Golojuch Jr	Testifying for Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

The Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i; Hawai'i's oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization fully supports SB 2503 SD 1.

We hope you all will support this important piece of legislation.

Mahalo nui loa,

Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him)
Chair and SCC Representative



HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 904

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 489-9549

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

Vonnell Ramos, President
Cyd Hoffeld, Vice President
Sione Ford Naeata, Treasurer
Greg Tjapkes, Secretary

Judith F. Clark, Executive
Director

Network Membership

*Big Brothers Big Sisters Hawaii
Big Island Substance Abuse
Council*

*Bobby Benson Center
Child and Family Service
Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii
Collins Consulting, LLC
Domestic Violence Action Center
EPIC 'Ohana, Inc.*

*Family Programs Hawaii
Family Support Hawaii
Friends of the Children's Justice
Center of Maui*

*Get Ready Hawaii
Hale Kipa, Inc.*

*Hale 'Opio Kaua'i, Inc.
Hawaii Children's Action
Network*

*Hawaii Health & Harm
Reduction Center
Hawaii Island Community
Health Center*

*Ho'ola Na Pua
Ho'okele Coalition of Kaua'i
Ka Hale Pomaika'i
Kahi Mohala*

*Kokua Kalih Valley
Kaua'i Planning and Action
Alliance*

*Maui Youth and Family Services
Na Pu'uwai Molokai Native
Hawaiian Health Care
Systems*

*P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.
Parents and Children Together
PHOCUSED*

*PFLAG - Kona, Big Island
Planned Parenthood of the
Great Northwest, Hawaii
Alaska, Kentucky, Indiana
Residential Youth Services
& Empowerment (RYSE)*

*Salvation Army Family
Intervention Services
Sex Abuse Treatment Center
Susannah Wesley Community
Center
The Catalyst Group*

February 27, 2024

Senator Donovan Dela Crus, Chair
And members of the Committee on Ways and Means

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2503 RELATING TO EQUITY

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN) supports SB 2053 Relating to Equity.

In 2018, one of our youth speakers and one of our event volunteers brought their babies to the Hawaii Children and Youth Summit at the State Capitol building. That was when I realized that the State Capitol had no baby changing tables in any of the restrooms.

We took this photo of one of the parents kneeling on the floor of the restroom to change her baby's diaper and shared it with our legislators.



They took action, and today, every floor of the Capitol building has a men's and a women's bathroom with changing accommodations.

Parents and caregivers who do business with the state in any state building need baby changing facilities.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Judith F. Clark
Executive Director

SB-2503-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 5:09:08 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2024 9:50:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB2503 SD1.

SB-2503-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 9:18:02 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2024 9:50:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jari S.K. Sugano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs Dela Cruz and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and Moriwaki and Senate Ways and Means and Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee members,

My name is Jari Sugano and I am writing in strong support of Senate bill 2503.

My daughter is 15 and has severe developmental delays. Her ability to go out in public is limited as there are no public facilities in our community that have an accessible bathroom for her to change her incontinent supplies.

Arizona, California, New Hampshire, Michigan and Pennsylvania have enacted laws creating Universal Changing Stations in public buildings granting access to individuals with disabilities.

Universal changing stations are height adjustable and support weights up to 300+ pounds. Adults and older children with disabilities, need a safe, sanitary and dignified place to change their incontinent supplies so they can actively engage in civic and community based activities. Infant tables can not support her weight. We are often forced to change her on bathroom floors or in the back of our vehicle.

According to the Center on Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), approximately 19% of Hawaii adults have a disability. Per the CDC, one in 5 adults in Hawaii are caregivers for adults who provide personal care to a friend or a family member with a health problem or disability.

Moreover, the Hawaii State Plan on Aging, estimates by 2030 nearly 28% of adults in Hawaii will be over the age of 60. There will be a 32% increase in adults over the age of 85 during the same period. These accommodations can help a broader and growing community

Airports across the USA, including the Honolulu International Airport are creating Universal Changing Stations to allow those with disabilities access to travel. We hope senate bill SB2503 will be the start of increasing access to destinations within our community, across the county, and beyond.

A change in law would heighten inclusiveness and ultimately could improve the quality of life for those with a disability in Hawaii. These accommodations will also benefit caregivers, seniors or kupuna, as well.

We do not intend to hold up construction of buildings already in the design and construction phase. However, it would be nice to see these accommodation one day at the capitol and other state facilities.

Appreciate your consideration of our family's request,
Jari Sugano and Austen Kaneshiro

SB-2503-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 9:59:34 AM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2024 9:50:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Abby Simmons	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and esteemed Committee,

I support this bill. Mahalo for considering my testimony in support of SB2503.

Abby Simmons

Hawai'i Island

SB-2503-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 8:59:06 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2024 9:50:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Supprt this measure as a means to assure accommodation of all genders and the disabled.