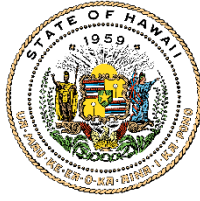


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621  
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DAWN N.S. CHANG  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
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FIRST DEPUTY

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COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
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CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES  
ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

Testimony of  
DAWN N.S. CHANG  
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on  
WATER & LAND

Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
9:30AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 411

In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 868  
RELATING TO DISABILITIES

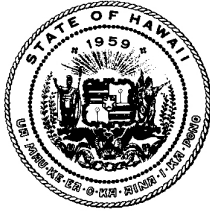
House Bill 868 proposes to require the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to evaluate its facilities for compliance with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) and compile a list of non-compliant facilities. Further, this bill requires a report to the Legislature. **The Department acknowledges the intent of this measure and provides the following comments.**

The Department has already implemented and completed an ADA self-evaluation and transition plan.

The self-evaluation included an evaluation of the Department's facilities for compliance with the ADA Standards for Accessible Design. Based on the self-evaluation, the Department developed a transition plan that detailed structural changes to Department facilities to achieve program access and specified a time frame to for their completion. Since completing its transition plan, the Department continues to submit plans and specifications for new construction and facility improvements to the Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) for review. These reviews ensure ongoing compliance with the ADA Accessibility Guidelines as adopted and amended by DCAB.

The Department appreciates the intent of this bill and is committed to ensuring Department programs, services, and activities are compliant with the ADA.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



## DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Rm. 118 • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813  
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • Fax (808) 586-8129 • (808) 204-2466 (VP)

February 13, 2025

### TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

#### House Bill 868 – Relating to Disabilities

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) provides comments on House Bill 868 – Relating to Disabilities. This bill requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources to evaluate its facilities for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and compile a list of non-compliant facilities. Requires report to the Legislature.

DCAB is aware that Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) has conducted a self-evaluation and completed its Transition Plan in compliance with the ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG). DCAB's Facility Access Unit reviews all new DLNR projects for ADAAG compliance, working alongside DLNR to ensure facilities meet accessibility requirements.

DCAB commends DLNR for its commitment to accessibility standards and appreciates the efforts of all state departments in ensuring access across all programs, services, and activities.

Any concerns with DLNR facilities should be directed to their Departmental ADA Coordinator.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW  
Executive Director

**HB-868**

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 3:30:09 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/13/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Louis Erteschik	Hawaii Disability Rights Center	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

## Comments:

We believe this is an important bill. While there are federal and state laws in place that require accessibility for individuals with disabilities, we do have questions about whether all facilities are in compliance. In particular we raised at the Legislature years ago that many parks and beaches failed to provide proper access. It is far from clear that DLNR has made sufficient efforts to address that. For that reason, the actions proposed in this measure would be a very good next step to getting this issue back on the radar and getting the department back on track.