



## DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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April 17, 2025

### TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

Senate Concurrent Resolution 58 SD1 – Urging the Counties of the State to Install a Minimum Set of Accessible Recreational Playground Equipment in Each Playground Located in a County Park and to Establish Comprehensive Maintenance Plans that Ensure the Long Term Safety, Cleanliness, and Functionality of Each Playground

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports Senate Concurrent Resolution 58 SD1 – Urging the Counties of the State to Install a Minimum Set of Accessible Recreational Playground Equipment in Each Playground Located in a County Park and to Establish Comprehensive Maintenance Plans that Ensure the Long Term Safety, Cleanliness, and Functionality of Each Playground.

Use of accessible playgrounds promotes community inclusion for individuals with disabilities.

It became apparent during this session there was no publicly available list of State and County playgrounds and what equipment is installed at each one. Senate Concurrent Resolution 58 SD1 requests the Department of Education and the Department of Accounting and General Services to convene a working group that includes the counties to create such an inventory and to analyze where future playgrounds are likely to be installed. This inventory will be an important tool to help the State and Counties go beyond the minimum requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

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**  
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April 17, 2025

The Honorable Representative Greggor Ilagan, Chair  
House Committee on Economic Development & Technology  
The Thirty-Third Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawai'i  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Ilagan and Committee Members:

**SUBJECT: SCR58 SD1/SSCR1582 URGING THE COUNTIES OF THE STATE TO INSTALL A MINIMUM SET OF ACCESSIBLE RECREATIONAL PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT IN EACH PLAYGROUND LOCATED IN A COUNTY PARK AND TO ESTABLISH COMPREHENSIVE MAINTENANCE PLANS THAT ENSURE THE LONG-TERM SAFETY, CLEANLINESS, AND FUNCTIONALITY OF EACH PLAYGROUND.**

The Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities **supports SCR58 SD1** which is urging the counties of the state to install a minimum set of accessible recreational playground equipment in each playground located in a county park and to establish comprehensive maintenance plans that ensure the long-term safety, cleanliness, and functionality of each playground.

We want to thank the Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs and the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services for amending the resolution to:

1. Expand the scope of the measure to apply to youths with physical, developmental, or intellectual disabilities, instead of only youth with physical disabilities; and
2. Replace the phrase "special needs recreational playground equipment" with "accessible recreational playground equipment."

This resolution asks Hawaii's counties to install accessible recreational playground equipment in public parks to ensure that playgrounds are inclusive of all children, including those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It calls for a minimal set of accessible equipment, such as wheelchair-accessible swings, and mandates compliance with the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design to meet the necessary accessibility requirements. This initiative would benefit the (I/DD) community by providing inclusive spaces for children with I/DD to engage in physical activity, socialize with peers, and gain motor/cognitive skills.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of SCR58 SD1**.

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus  
Executive Administrator



The Honorable Greggor Ilagan, Chair  
House Committee on Economic Development and Technology  
Thirty third Legislature  
State Capitol, State of Hawaii  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Greggor Ilagan, Chair, Representative Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: SCR58 SD1

The Hawaii Self-Advocacy Advisory Council (SAAC) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS SCR58 SD1**, urging the counties of the state to install a minimum set of accessible recreational playground equipment in each playground located in a county park and to establish comprehensive maintenance plans that ensure the long-term safety, cleanliness, and functionality of each playground.

The Hawaii Self-Advocacy Advisory Council supports accessible and functional playgrounds for people with disabilities. Accessible playgrounds for young people promote physical activity, encourage their imagination, boost their self-confidence and energy, and offer opportunities for formative social interactions and there is a segment of the State's youth with disabilities that are unable to use some playgrounds located on county property. We also support the minimal set of accessible recreational playground equipment is requested to include a wheelchair accessible swing set.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support of SCR58 SD1**.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Renken".

Sincerely,

Timothy Renken

President of the Hawaii Self Advocacy Council

e-mail: [zosimo.arista@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:zosimo.arista@doh.hawaii.gov) SCDD website: <http://hiddcouncil.org/> HISAAC website: <http://hisaac.org/>

**SCR-58-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/14/2025 2:36:16 PM

Testimony for ECD on 4/17/2025 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

This is a really important issue. Sometimes the first step in the life of a child with a disability towards community inclusion is simply playing. To be excluded at such a young age can be traumatizing. While the ADA requires all construction after a certain date to comply with specific guidelines (and even for some older facilities in some contexts) we suspect that many playgrounds are not accessible for children with disabilities. HB 867 was previously passed in the House and would have gone a long way toward improving equal access to playgrounds for children with disabilities and providing funding for necessary upgrades.

Since many questions were raised at prior hearings regarding overlapping state and county jurisdictions and the potential cost of compliance, we believe that this Concurrent Resolution offers an opportunity to convene an Interim Work Group to more closely and comprehensively examine these issues. It would also be useful to know how many such playgrounds are not currently accessible with ADA standards, and where they are located in order to prioritize where resources should first be allocated.

For that reason we concur with the amendments made by the Senate , both in terms of the suggested terminology as well as the idea of including the Department of Education and the Department of Accounting and General Services to convene a working group that includes the counties to create an inventory of all existing and planned State and county playgrounds, identify different types of accessible playground equipment and the cost to purchase, install, and maintain such equipment, and provide recommendations for how the State and counties should add accessible playground equipment into their existing or future playgrounds.

Mahalo for your consideration.

**SCR-58-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/14/2025 10:32:38 AM

Testimony for ECD on 4/17/2025 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael EKM Olderr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

**SCR-58-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/14/2025 12:47:33 PM

Testimony for ECD on 4/17/2025 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Katrina Fenner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, Members of the committee,**

**I am Katrina Fenner an undergraduate student at UH Manoa and I am writing in support of bill SCR58 which would urge counties to implement special needs equipment in recreational parks. Playgrounds are an important component in a child’s upbringing and development. They play a key role in socialization, physical activity, and fun. All children should have the opportunity to participate in these kinds of activities in public parks. This bill would help to support all children enjoying the playground.**

**Mahalo for listening to my testimony!**

**Testimony in Support of SCR58 SD1 — Urging Counties to Install Accessible Playground Equipment and Establish Maintenance Plans**

**To:** Senate and House Members of the Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawai‘i

**From:** Tanya Pimienta, MSW Student

**Re:** *In Strong Support of SCR58 SD1*

Aloha Chairpersons, Vice Chairpersons, and Esteemed Members of the Legislature,

My name is Tanya Pimienta, and I am writing in strong support of this concurrent resolution that urges counties across Hawai‘i to install accessible recreational playground equipment and establish comprehensive maintenance plans for playgrounds in county parks.

As a Master of Social Work student and a soon-to-be mother, this issue resonates deeply with me—both professionally and personally. In my fieldwork, I’ve seen how access—or lack of access—to inclusive environments can impact a child’s development, social connections, and sense of belonging. Playgrounds should be joyful, safe, and accessible spaces for all children, regardless of ability. And as I prepare to welcome my own child into this world, I want to help create a future where every child feels included, seen, and empowered in the places where they learn and grow.

Playgrounds do more than provide entertainment—they serve as vital spaces for social development, physical activity, and early learning. But many of our current public playgrounds fall short of being accessible to children with disabilities. By ensuring that each county park includes at least a basic set of accessible equipment, such as a wheelchair-accessible swing set, we take a meaningful step toward inclusion and equity.

I also strongly support the resolution's call for comprehensive maintenance plans. As a social worker in training, I recognize how safety, cleanliness, and long-term functionality are not only about infrastructure—they're about dignity, public trust, and mental well-being for both children and families.

This resolution reflects the kind of thoughtful, community-centered planning that makes Hawai'i a better place to raise children. I urge you to pass it, for the benefit of all our children—those here today and those still on the way.

Warmly,

**Tanya Pimienta**

MSW Student

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Thompson School of Social Work and Public Health