

2025 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY IA

For February 13, 2025 Commission Meeting
(Compiled January 30, 2025)

- a. GM589 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Civil Rights Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, JO-ANN ADAMS, for a term to expire 06-30-2028

- b. [SB199](#) – Relating to Hawaiian Culture

Requires the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to establish and maintain Native Hawaiian cultural centers within the State. Requires the Office to submit reports to the Legislature regarding the Office's compliance with this Act. Appropriates moneys for the planning and design of the first Native Hawaiian cultural center

- c. [SB213](#) – Relating to Children

Requires medically appropriate and reasonable life-saving and life-sustaining medical care and treatment for all infants born alive. Establishes civil and criminal penalties.

- d. [SB396](#) – Relating to Commuting

Requires the Director of Human Resources Development, in consultation with the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, State Energy Office, and Department of Accounting and General Services, to develop and implement a comprehensive Commuting Choice Benefit Program for all state employees regardless of mode of transportation. Requires a report to the Legislature.

- e. [SB416](#) – Relating to the Residential Landlord-Tenant Code

Prohibits rental agreements from prohibiting tenants from keeping pet animals in dwelling units, subject to certain conditions.

- f. [SB571](#) – Relating to Law Enforcement

Requires state and local law enforcement agencies to notify an individual of their rights when in state or local law enforcement agency custody before any interview with the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement pertaining to certain matters regarding civil immigration violations. Designates all records relating to United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement access to detained individuals provided by a state or local law enforcement agency as public records under chapter 92F, HRS. Requires state and local law enforcement agencies that have provided the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement access to a detained individual within the previous year to hold two public forums per year.

- g. [SB614](#) – Relating to Hawaiian Independence Day

Establishes "La Ku oko a", or Hawaiian Independence Day, as a state holiday to be observed annually on November 28th.

- h. [SB799](#) – Relating to Freedom to Read

Requires the Department of Education to select materials for inclusion, circulation, and exclusion in school library collections according to certain criteria. Requires the Department of Education to

uphold the freedom to read. Prohibits the Department of Education from excluding books based on certain criteria. Requires the State Librarian to select materials for inclusion, circulation, and exclusion in school library collections according to certain criteria. Requires the State Librarian to uphold the freedom to read. Prohibits the State Librarian from excluding books based on certain criteria.

i. [SB852](#) – Relating to Paid Family Leave (COMPANION OF HB 755, SEE BELOW)

By 1/1/2028, requires the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to establish a family and medical leave insurance program and begin collecting payroll contributions to finance payment of benefits. By 1/1/2029, requires the Department to start receiving claims and paying benefits under the program. Specifies eligibility requirements and employee protections under the program.

j. [SB859](#) – Relating to Public Employment (COMPANION OF HB168)

Establishes a paid family leave program for state and county employees. Authorizes a qualifying employee to take up to 12 weeks of paid leave for the birth or placement of a child or to care for a family member who has a serious health condition. Requires the employee to agree to subsequently work for the employer for at least 12 weeks upon return to service except under certain conditions.

k. [SB1010](#) – Relating to Sex-Based Discrimination (COMPANION HB758, NOT ON THE AGENDA)

Clarifies and strengthens the State's protections against sex-based harassment, sex discrimination, and retaliation that occur in public schools, public charter schools, or at the University of Hawai'i, including discrimination based on gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, pregnancy, and pregnancy-related conditions. Establishes procedures for investigations and decision-making. Requires mandatory reporting by certain employees.

l. [SB1061](#) – Relating to Digital Equity (COMPANION OF HB935, NOT ON THE AGENDA)

Establishes and appropriates funds for a digital navigator pilot program to offer technical assistance with computers and electronic devices to residents.

m. [SB1149](#) – Relating to Hate Crimes (COMPANION OF HB614, NOT ON THE AGENDA)

Defines "reported hate crime". Requires reporting of all possible reported hate crimes to appropriate authorities, including consistent documentation and analysis of such incidents. Requires law enforcement officers to receive annual training to identify, investigate, and document hate crimes and possible hate crimes. Requires the Attorney General to establish or update guidelines, protocols, and training materials for the reporting and investigation of hate crimes and possible hate crimes.

n. [SB1209](#) – Relating to Transportation (COMPANION OF HB468 BELOW)

Requires the Civil Rights Commission to receive and investigate complaints related to acts of discrimination committed by transportation network company drivers against riders with service animals and report the results of its investigation to the Department of Transportation, which shall issue penalties to transportation network companies.

o. [SB1493](#) – Relating to Service Animals

Requires sellers or providers of emotional support animals to provide written notice to the buyers or recipients that the animal does not have the special training required to qualify as a service animal; the animal is not entitled to the rights and privileges accorded by law to a service animal; and knowingly misrepresenting as a service animal any animal that does not meet the statutory

requirements of a service animal is a violation of law. Requires sellers or providers of certificates or identification tags for emotional support animals to provide written notice to the buyers or recipients that the item does not entitle an emotional support animal to the rights and privileges accorded by law to a service animal and knowingly misrepresenting as a service animal any animal that does not meet the statutory requirements of a service animal is a violation of law. Establishes penalties.

p. [HB22](#) – Relating to Collaboration with the Federal Government

Allows state and county law enforcement agencies to collaborate with the federal government for immigration purposes in only limited, specific circumstances.

q. [HB103](#) – Relating to Sentencing (COMPANION OF SB778, NOT ON THE AGENDA)

Changes the age for which individuals are eligible for life without parole sentences from eighteen years of age or older to twenty-one years of age or older.

r. [HB168](#) – Relating to Public Employment (SEE SB859 ABOVE)

s. [HB219](#) – Relating to Paid Family Leave

Provides state and county employees with five days of paid family leave each calendar year.

t. [HB304](#) – Relating to the Hawaiian Language (COMPANION OF SB109 NOT ON THE AGENDA)

Requires that the Hawaiian version of a law be held binding if the law in question was originally drafted in Hawaiian and then translated into English.

u. [HB425](#) – Relating to Public Employment

Establishes a paid family leave program for state and county employees. Authorizes a qualifying employee to take up to 12 weeks of paid leave for the birth or placement of a child or to care for a family member who has a serious health condition. Requires the employee to agree to subsequently work for the employer for at least 12 weeks upon return to service except under certain conditions. Effective 1/1/2026.

v. [HB325](#) – Relating to Medical Cannabis

Prohibits an employer from discriminating against a person in hiring, termination, or any term or condition of employment based on the person's status as a medical cannabis registry card holder, under certain conditions. Authorizes an employer to use a fit-for-duty test for medical cannabis qualifying patients in potentially dangerous occupations. Exempts certain occupations.

w. [HB440](#) – Relating to Immigration (COMPANION OF SB818 NOT ON THE AGENDA)

Prohibits certain covered educational entities and Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation facilities from collecting information regarding citizenship or immigration status or allowing officers of Immigration and Customs Enforcement to enter certain facilities, except under specific circumstances.

x. [HB457](#) – Relating to Civil Rights Protections

Requires state and local law enforcement agencies to notify an individual of their rights when in law enforcement agency custody before any interview with United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement on certain matters regarding immigration violations.

y. [HB466](#) – Relating to Evictions (COMPANION TO SB155 NOT ON THE AGENDA)

Prohibits landlords from terminating certain tenancies without cause. Establishes criteria under which landlords can undertake a no-fault eviction. Requires landlords, when proceeding with a no-fault eviction, to offer relocation assistance to the tenant or waiver of the final month's rent. Effective 1/1/2026.

Z. [HB468](#) – Relating to Transportation (COMPANION OF SB1209, SEE ABOVE)

aa. [HB469](#) – Relating to Parking for Disabled Persons

Requires the Disability and Communication Access Board to issue a disability travel placard to an applicant who has a valid removeable windshield placard and provides proof of travel. Effective 7/1/2027.

bb. [HB471](#) – Relating to Education

Requires the Board of Education to establish a Korean language program. Appropriates funds.

cc. [HB615](#) – Relating to Health Care (COMPANION OF SB1150, NOT ON THE AGENDA)

Expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services. Clarifies jurisdiction under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act for cases involving children who obtain gender-affirming health care services.

dd. [HB620](#) – Relating to Education

Establishes state policy to promote braille literacy for eligible blind students. Requires the individualized education programs and section 504 plans of eligible blind students to include the assessment and evaluation of eligible blind students' reading and writing abilities, instruction of braille, and provision of braille instructional materials under certain circumstances. Requires the Department of Education to establish a Braille Literacy Resource Center. Appropriates funds.

ee. [HB671](#) – Relating to Native Hawaiians (COMPANION OF SB1538, NOT ON THE AGENDA)

Requires the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to identify all legislative districts in the State in which a majority of the population consists of Native Hawaiians. Designates these districts as Native Hawaiian majority districts.

ff. [HB728](#) – Proposing a Constitutional Amendment to the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i to Protect the Right to Reproductive Freedom (COMPANION OF SB297, NOT ON THE AGENDA)

Amends the Hawai'i State Constitution to prohibit the State from denying or interfering with an individual's reproductive freedom, including the right to choose to obtain an abortion and to obtain or use contraceptives.

gg. [HB731](#) – Relating to Minors (COMPANION OF SB296, NOT ON THE AGENDA)

Authorizes a physician, upon consultation with a minor patient who indicates that the minor was the victim of a sexual offense, with the consent of the minor patient, to perform customary and necessary examinations to obtain evidence of the sexual offense and may prescribe for and treat the patient for any immediate condition caused by the sexual offense. Provides that the consent of

the parent, parents, or legal guardian of a minor offender who has been committed to the Hawai'i youth correctional facilities is not necessary in order to authorize hospital, medical, mental health, dental, emergency health, or emergency surgical care.

hh. [HB755](#) – Relating to Paid Family Leave (COMPANION OF SB852, SEE ABOVE)

ii. [HB819](#) – Relating to Disability Health Disparity (COMPANION OF SB850, NOT ON AGENDA)

Requires the State Council on Developmental Disabilities to collect data and submit to the Legislature a report focused on the health disparities experienced by individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities in the State prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2027. Appropriates funds.

jj. [HB822](#) – Relating to Employment

Requires certain employers in the State to offer reproductive loss leave for employees.

kk. [HB831](#) – Relating to Antitrust (COMPANION OF SB157 NOT ON THE AGENDA)

Prohibits the use of algorithmic price-setting in Hawai'i's rental market. Requires the Department of the Attorney General to develop and undertake a public education program regarding the prohibition.

ll. [HB1096](#) – Relating to Tenant Selection

Repeals the tenant selection preferences for disabled veterans and the spouses of deceased veterans in the State Low-Income Housing Program.

mm. [HB1227](#) – Relating to Family Leave

Establishes a paid family leave program for state and county employees. Authorizes a qualifying employee to take up to twelve weeks of paid leave for the birth or placement of a child or to care for a family member who has a serious health condition.

nn. [HB1270](#) – Relating to Accessibility

Beginning 7/1/26, requires any public or private entity that operates a public lot, including a business lot, that provides more than 25 parking spaces to increase the number of federally mandated parking spaces reserved for persons with disabilities by a minimum of one or fifty per cent, whichever is greater.

oo. [HB1496](#) – Relating to Civil Rights* NOTES, RELATING TO EDUCATION

Establishes the position of Ka Papahana Kaiapuni Program Complex Area Superintendent. Requires that at least one at-large member of the Board of Education be a Hawaiian educator, practitioner, or scholar of Hawaiian studies or the Hawaiian language, to be selected from a list of three nominees submitted by the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Office of Hawaiian Affairs. Clarifies the purpose and objective of the Hawaiian Language Medium Education Program. Appropriates funds.