

2026 Legislative Session

Bills relating to civil rights (Senate Bills (SB) and House Bills (HB))

**Where possible, we have linked bills to the capitol's website for easier reference. If a link does not work, please search for the bill number on the legislature's website: capitol.hawaii.gov*

SB2727: Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission; Anti-discrimination; Statute of Limitations:

Summary: Lengthens the statute of limitations to file a complaint of discrimination with the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission to one year.

Staff Recommendation: Support. This is not companion bill to HB1522 discussed in commission meetings on 1/20/26 and 1/27/26, but appears to have the exact same language.

SB2438: Hawai'i Civil Rights Protection Act; Constitutional Rights; Civil Remedies; Relief; AG; Counties;

Summary: Establishes a civil cause of action for interference with constitutional and statutory rights through threats, intimidation, or coercion. Authorizes private rights of action. Authorizes actions to be brought by the Attorney General, County Corporation Counsel, or County Attorney. Authorizes injunctive relief, declaratory relief, and certain monetary relief. Includes protections for constitutionally protected speech.

Staff Recommendation: Support.

SB2871: Anti-discrimination; Prohibitions; Certain Characteristics; Intersectionality:

Summary: Prohibits discrimination based on: (1) The perception that a person possesses certain characteristics; (2) The perception that a person is associated with a person who possesses, or is perceived to possess, certain characteristics; or (3) The intersection or combination of two or more specified characteristics in relation to a person.

Staff Recommendation: Support. Compare with HB1878, and this is not identified as a companion to HB1526, discussed in our January 27, 2026 commission meeting in which the Commissioners voted to support.

HB1878: Anti-discrimination; Prohibitions; Certain Characteristics; Intersectionality:

Summary: Prohibits discrimination based on: (1) The perception that a person possesses certain characteristics; (2) The perception that a person is associated with a person who possesses, or is perceived to possess, certain characteristics; or (3) The intersection or combination of two or more specified characteristics in relation to a person.

Staff Recommendation: Support. Compare with SB2871, and this is not identified as a companion to HB1526, discussed in our January 27, 2026 commission meeting in which the Commissioners voted to support.

SB2852: Discrimination in Public Accommodations; Persons with Disabilities;

Summary: Discriminatory Practices; Places of Public Accommodation: Establishes it as an unlawful discriminatory practice for a place of public accommodation to deny a person with a disability full and equal enjoyment of information related to their services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations by requiring use of information and communication technology that is not accessible to the person. Establishes exceptions.

Staff Recommendation: Support with comments. Companion bill to [HB1998](#). This bill would amend HRS § 489, prohibiting discrimination in public accommodations. Increasingly, many businesses open to the public use technology to communicate, make reservations, access information such as menus, etc. and this would ensure that these websites and applications are accessibility to those with disabilities for full & equal access. This is an updated version of SB1496 (2025), is a new bill, and appears to incorporate suggestions from public testimony. HCRC received public comment on this and previously had discussed whether HCRC rulemaking would be more appropriate.

SB2998: Medical Cannabis; Discrimination; Employer; Employee; Licensing Boards;

Summary: Potentially Dangerous Occupations: 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 or lawful use of medical cannabis, under certain conditions. Authorizes an employer to use a fit-for-duty test for medical cannabis qualifying patients in potentially dangerous occupations under certain conditions. Prohibits a professional or vocational licensing board from revoking the license of medical cannabis qualifying patients, or otherwise subjecting them to discipline, for their lawful use of medical cannabis, under certain conditions.

Staff Recommendation: Support. In 2025, HCRC amended its administrative rules to explicitly identify that a reasonable accommodation for an individual with a disability who uses cannabis because of a disability may include adjustment of employer policies after a failed drug test reveals cannabis metabolites, or knowledge of the use of medical cannabis. While administrative laws have the force and effect of law, this appears to attempt to strike a balance between employers obligations and employees who may use cannabis because of a disability.

SB3024: Sex-Based Harassment; Sex Discrimination; Retaliation; Title IX; Protections:

Summary: 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.

Staff Recommendation: Support. This is the state's ancillary to Title IX protections, provides more specific clarification and seeks to reduce the inequality that occurs in

places of learning based on gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, and pregnancy/pregnancy-related conditions. No companion bill, but appears to the same/similar language as SB1010, which was a carry-over bill from 2025 that the Commission had previously supported (see below).

HB1894: DOE; Braille Instruction

Summary: Requires the Department of Education to include the instruction of braille and provision of braille instructional materials under certain circumstances; provide braille literacy support services; cooperate with the Department of Human Services when requested to submit information necessary to maintain a register of the blind in the State; provide comprehensive information about braille literacy services, assistive technology devices, and assistive technology services, including educational programming options; and participate in the development of section 504 plans and individualized education programs.

Staff Recommendation: Support and/or monitor. The HCRC has supported bills in the past relating to promoting Braille literacy.

HB2046: RELATING TO THE 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I COMMISSION.

Summary: Establishes and appropriates funds for the 'Ōlelo Hawai'i Commission to coordinate and promote initiatives that support the use of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i.

Staff Recommendation: Support.

SB2412: University of Hawai'i; ASL Interpreter Training Program; Appropriation

Summary: Appropriates moneys to establish a bachelor's degree program in American Sign Language interpretation at the University of Hawaii Manoa campus with a multi-year plan to include a master's degree program for interpreter training.

Staff Recommendation: Support. Hawai'i has a large deaf community and a devastatingly low number of ASL interpreters. Appropriating funds to establish an ASL interpreter program at UH would fill this need.

SB2846: HDOE; IDEA; IEP; Students with Disabilities; Emergency Situations; Evacuation Plans:

Summary: Authorizes the inclusion of language addressing individualized accommodations and supports during emergency situations and evacuations in individualized education programs for students with disabilities. Requires support and guidance from the Department of Education.

Staff Recommendation: Support.

SB2849: Public Agencies; Meetings; Notices; Disabilities; Readability:

Summary: Requires certain information to appear at the beginning of notices for public meetings.

Staff Recommendation: Support. Under HRS § 368-1.5, no individual, by reason of the individual's disability, shall be excluded from, denied benefits of, or subjected to

discrimination by any state agency or state-funded activity/program. Delayed access to information for individuals with disabilities may realistically be a denial of access to information if they cannot get relevant information in a timely, easily accessible manner because of the use of assistive devices. Reducing the unnecessary information in board meeting agendas at the beginning would help remove a barrier..

SB2414: Relating to the Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB):

Summary: Requires the Disability and Communication Access Board to study the health care communication needs of patients who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, or deaf-blind. Requires a report to the Legislature 20 days prior to the 2027 Regular Session.

Staff Recommendation: Support and/or monitor. We generally defer to DCAB on issues impacting their agency.

SB2443: Disaster Services; Appropriation:

Summary: Integrates the needs of individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs into emergency planning, preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation activities. Establishes a Disability Integration Specialist position, to be located in the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, who shall provide programming support for disability community projects that promote accessibility, inclusion, and equity in disaster management. Appropriates funds.

Staff Recommendation: Support. Compare with [SB2385](#), discussed and supported in the January 27, 2026 Commission meeting.

HB1531: Emergency; Official Announcements; Broadcast Media; American Sign Language; Sign Language Interpreter

Summary: : Requires the Governor or mayor of a county to provide an American Sign Language interpreter during each official announcement broadcast via television or the Internet during a state of emergency. Requires the Governor or mayor of a county to ensure, to the fullest extent possible, that the American Sign Language interpreter's face, body, arms, and hands are visible during the broadcast. Requires a news media outlet to display the American Sign Language interpreter in a picture-in-picture window during broadcasts of official emergency announcements.

Staff Recommendation: Support. ASL is its own distinct language and closed captions and/or transcription programs may not accurately reflect information being relayed, and often contain fundamental errors. During emergency situations, access to information is critical for all individuals, regardless of ability.

HB2405: DLIR; Hotelkeepers; Hospitality Workers; Safety; Panic Buttons; Rules:

Summary: Requires hotelkeepers to supply and provide annual training on the proper use and limitations of a panic button to certain workers no later than 1/1/2027.

Staff Recommendation: Support and/or monitor. While this is a new bill, the Commission supported a similar bill in 2025 that involved harassment and sexual

harassment issues. Hospitality workers are largely immigrant, POCs, and women, who are disproportionately impacted by these issues. Compare with [SB2968](#).

SB2968: DLIR; Hotelkeepers; Hospitality Workers; Safety; Panic Buttons; Rules:

Summary: Requires hotelkeepers to supply and provide annual training on the proper use and limitations of a panic button to certain workers no later than 1/1/2027.

Staff Recommendation: Support and/or monitor. While this is a new bill, the Commission supported a similar bill in 2025 that involved harassment and sexual harassment issues. Hospitality workers are largely immigrant, POCs, and women, who are disproportionately impacted by these issues. Compare with [HB2405](#).

HB2045: State Holidays; La Hoihoi Ea; Statehood Day:

Summary: Designates La Hoihoi Ea, Sovereignty Restoration Day, as a state holiday in place of Statehood Day.

Staff Recommendation: Support. This serves as a symbol of Hawaiian ea and self-determination, and this bill recognizes the importance of this history.

SB2959: Residential Landlord-Tenant Code; Application Screening; Comprehensive Reusable Tenant Screening Report; OCP; DCCA:

Summary: Beginning 11/1/2026, requires landlords to accept comprehensive reusable tenant screening reports, if made available by an applicant, and prohibits application fees in such case.

Staff Recommendation: Support and/or monitor.

HB1864: Insurance; Mandatory Coverage; Standard Fertility Preservation Services; Iatrogenic Infertility; Medically Necessary Treatment:

Summary: For policies, contracts, plans, and agreements issued or renewed after 12/31/2026, requires insurers, mutual benefit societies, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for standard fertility preservation services for persons undergoing medically necessary treatment that may cause iatrogenic infertility.

Staff Recommendation: Support and/or Monitor.

Bills carried over from 2025 for which the Commission previously supported

SB1209: Transportation Network Companies; Civil Rights Commission; Discrimination; Service Animals; Violations; Penalties; Fines:

Summary: 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. (Companion bill [HB468](#))

Staff Recommendation: Support.

SB1010: RELATING TO SEX-BASED DISCRIMINATION.

Summary: 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. 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. (Companion bill [HB758](#))

Staff Recommendation: Support. Compare with SB 3024

Bills Staff Recommends to Monitor

SB2776: Federal Law Enforcement; Generalized Policing; State Law Enforcement;

Summary: Requests for Assistance: Prohibits a law enforcement officer and law enforcement agency from making certain requests for assistance from federal law enforcement agencies with exceptions. Establishes requirements and limitations for law enforcement agencies to enter into agreements with federal law enforcement agencies.

Staff Recommendation: Monitor

SB2874: Immigration; Law Enforcement Agencies; Access to Detained Individuals; Civil Immigration Interviews; Due Process; Public Forums:

Summary: Requires state and county law enforcement agencies to notify an individual in the custody of a state or county law enforcement agency of their rights before any interview with the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement pertaining to certain matters regarding civil immigration violations can commence. 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. Requires state and county 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.

Staff Recommendation: Monitor.

SB2850: Disability Parking Pass; People with Disabilities; Eligibility; Deaf; Blind:

Summary: Provides that people who are blind or deaf are eligible to apply for and receive a disabled paid parking permit.

Staff Recommendation: Monitor. Not a companion to [HB1995](#), below, but appears to have same language.

HB1995: Disability Parking Pass; People with Disabilities; Eligibility; Deaf; Blind

Summary: Provides that people who are blind or deaf are eligible to apply for and receive a disabled paid parking permit.

Staff Recommendation: Monitor. Not a companion to [SB2850](#), but appears to have same language.

SB2851: Deaf; Hearing Impaired; Disability; Motor Vehicle Registration; Law Enforcement:

Summary: Authorizes deaf motor vehicle owners to register their vehicle as being owned by a deaf individual so that a deafness designation appears when a law enforcement officer accesses the motor vehicle's information.

Staff Recommendation: Monitor.

SB3013: Pet Animals; Commercial General Liability Insurance Policies;

Summary: Homeowners Insurance Policies; Renters Insurance Policies; Dwelling Fire Policies; Breed Restrictions: Prohibits insurers from refusing to issue or renew, canceling, restricting, otherwise terminating, or charging higher rates for a commercial general liability insurance policy, homeowners insurance policy, renters insurance policy, or dwelling fire policy based on the breed of any dog that is kept on the insured premises.

Staff Recommendation: Monitor.

SB3011: HPHA; Pet Animals; Allowed:

Summary: Requires the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority to allow any resident of a public housing project or state low-income housing project to keep one or more pet animals in the resident's unit, subject to applicable state laws, county ordinances, and any reasonable conditions. Provides that the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority may charge a refundable deposit for each pet animal but shall not impose a monthly pet fee or pet rent. Allows the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority to remove a vicious animal to protect persons or property.

Staff Recommendation: Monitor.

SB2449: Public Meetings; Business Days; Board Packets; Public Inspection

Summary: Regular Business Hours: Defines "business day" as used in Part I of Chapter 92, HRS, governing public meetings. Clarifies that board packets, if created, shall be made available for public inspection in the board's office during regular business hours, no later than three full business days before the public meeting. Defines "regular business hours".

Staff Recommendation: Monitor.