

## 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](http://capitol.hawaii.gov)

### HB2541: RELATING TO DISCRIMINATION.

**Summary:** Prohibits discrimination based on a person's immigration status. Amends Chapter 368, 378, & 489, HRS.

**Staff Recommendation:** Support. Note: Chapter 515, HRS, which prohibits discrimination in housing is left out of the bill.

### SB2868: RELATING TO HEALTH CARE. (companion [HB1875](#))

**Summary:** Expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services. Prohibits medical malpractice insurers and health carriers from taking certain adverse actions against health care providers solely on the basis that the health care provider provides lawful reproductive health care services or gender-affirming care services.

**Staff Recommendation:** Support. Clarifies when disclosures of protected health information are permitted and establishes protections against abusive litigation.

### SB2869: RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH. (companion [HB1876](#))

**Summary:** Prohibits conversion therapy for persons of all ages and advertising of the practice; explicitly exempts pure-speech talk therapy. Effective upon AG certification that *Chiles v. Salazar* (10th Cir. 2024) is overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court

**Staff Recommendation:** Support. Amends the statute to prohibit conversion therapy not only for those under 18 years of age, but all ages. The conditional amendment re: *Chiles v. Salazar*, which involves challenging Colorado's prohibition on conversion therapy on the basis of protected free speech, this bill addresses "talk therapy in the form of pure speech" as an exemption.

### SB2870: RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER, PLUS COMMISSION. (companion [HB1877](#))

**Summary:** Expands the Commission's membership from eight voting members to eleven.

**Staff Recommendation:** Support. Adding additional members will increase the diversity of perspectives and representation.

**SB2853**: RELATING TO SERVICE ANIMALS. (companion [HB1994](#))

**Summary**: Requires sellers/providers of emotional support animals, and those issuing disability-need verifications, to provide written notice of applicable laws; requires sellers of certificates, vests, or identification tags to provide written notice; establishes penalties.

**Staff Recommendation**: Support intent with comments.

**SB2932**: RELATING TO STATE FACILITIES. (companion to [HB2389](#))

**Summary**: Requires new state building projects begun on/after 7/1/2026 to include at least one universal changing accommodation in each family/assisted-use public restroom, where feasible.

**Staff Recommendation**: Support. Improving accessibility, especially in state buildings, benefits everyone. This bill would support freedom of movement for individuals with disabilities who may require assistance in toileting and their caretakers.

**SB2876**: RELATING TO NATURAL HAIR BRAIDING. (companion to [HB1697](#))

**Summary**: Exempts natural hair braiders from licensing requirements under certain conditions.

**Staff Recommendation**: Support. Natural hair braiding is a traditional practice that is distinct from the practice of cosmetology or barbering and requiring licensing may create an undue burden for those who engage in this cultural practice.

**SB3200**: RELATING TO CULTURE.

**Summary**: Establishes Immigrants Day (October 28) as a state holiday; changes Statehood Day from a state holiday to a day of recognition.

**Staff Recommendation**: Support.

**SB3238**: RELATING TO LANGUAGE ACCESS.

**Summary**: Establishes a language access education and workforce development program at the University of Hawai'i and appropriates funds.

**Staff Recommendation**: Support. A large percentage of Hawaii's population is multilingual and nearly twenty-five percent of the population speaks a language other than English at home. This bill aims to establish a program that enables eligible high school graduates who have earned the seal of biliteracy and community members with demonstrated biliteracy competency to be recognized as qualified translators and interpreters to fill the need of translators and interpreters.

**SB3239**: RELATING TO LANGAUGE ACCESS. (companion [HB2622](#))

**Summary**: Appropriates funds for the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency

to increase access to bilingual resources and services for residents with limited English proficiency (LEP).

**Staff Recommendation:** Support. LEP individuals are still greatly underserved and language access needs remain largely unmet, especially in the event of an emergency where communication is critical. This bill aims to provide the Hawai'i emergency management agency with additional resources to fill these critical needs.

**HB2443:** RELATING TO DISASTER SERVICES.

**Summary:** Appropriates funds for the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency to increase access to bilingual resources and services for residents with limited English proficiency. (Not (yet) a companion to but compare with [SB2385](#) discussed in 1.27.26 meeting, where Commissioners voted to support.)

**Staff Recommendation:** Support.

**SB2958:** RELATING TO THE RESIDENTIAL LANDLORD-TENANT CODE (companion [HB2221](#)) (different than [SB2959](#), discussed 2.3.26)

**Summary:** RELATING TO THE RESIDENTIAL LANDLORD-TENANT CODE. Prohibits charging application fees for criminal background checks or credit reports if certified copies are provided or if a comprehensive reusable tenant screening report is available; requires providing certified copies upon request.

**Staff Recommendation:** Support.

**HB2370:** RELATING TO WAGE EQUITY.

**Summary:** Proposes a constitutional amendment guaranteeing payment at least equal to the state minimum wage rate regardless of job type/nature, unless justified by a compelling state interest achieved by the least restrictive means.

**Staff Recommendation:** Support. Wage protections in the U.S. historically were rooted in racial discrimination. Still today, there are wage disparities that are inconsistent with the State's commitment to equity and fairness, and there are undervalued, but still essential, workers that are paid subminimum wages simply because of the nature/type of employment. This proposed constitutional amendment aims to reaffirm the State's commitment to wage equity for all individuals in the state.

**HB2588:** RELATING TO AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETING.

**Summary:** Establishes an American Sign Language interpreter training program at the University of Hawai'i and appropriates funds. (compare with, not companions to [SB2412](#)/[HB2489](#))

**Staff Recommendation:** Support. There is a critical shortage of ASL interpreters in Hawai'i and Hawai'i is one of only eight states without an ASL

interpreter training program.

**HB2611:** RELATING TO ANTITRUST.

**Summary:** Prohibits algorithmic price-setting in Hawai'i's rental market; directs the Department of the Attorney General to conduct public education; establishes fines and penalties.

**Staff Recommendation:** Support. Concerns that reliance on algorithmic property management software will exacerbate discriminatory housing practices, as learning models use existing information (that may already be discriminatory) in its recommendations.

**SB2776:** RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

**Summary:** Limits and sets conditions for requests to federal law-enforcement agencies and for agreements with those agencies, with specified exceptions.

**Staff Recommendation:** Support.

**HB2607:** RELATING TO PUBLICITY RIGHTS. (Companion bill [SB2076](#))

**Summary:** Protects a person's right to publicity from artificial intelligence deepfakes. Chapter 482P protects individuals' rights to the use of name, voice, signature, likeness, etc. and this bill adds the terms "artificial intelligence" and "artificial intelligence deepfake" to the definition of "likeness".

**Staff Recommendation:** Support. The exponential use of AI generated images, often using a real person's likeness, has increased in recent years. There is a gender disparity in the use of these AI generated images being used in nonconsensual ways, often targeting women.

## Bills Staff Recommend Opposing

**HB2512:** RELATING TO MEDICAL FREEDOM.

**Summary:** Asserts a right to autonomous medical decisions without discrimination, coercion, or exclusion; requires DOH rule amendments and a report.

**Staff Recommendation:** Oppose. Prohibits businesses, schools, daycares, and others from requiring the public or their employees the use of "medical intervention" unless required by law and other certain terms are met. "Medical intervention" is defined to include masks, vaccines, swabs, tests, etc.

**HB2513:** RELATING TO HEALTH CARE FOR MINORS.

**Summary:** Prohibits medical procedures or distribution of hormones/puberty blockers for minors seeking gender transition; creates private and state rights of action; authorizes licensing sanctions.

**Staff Recommendation:** Oppose. Allows for the AG to recover a civil penalty of \$25,000.00 per violation, along with court costs, and expenses, and risks the healthcare provider's licensing.

## Bills Staff Recommend Monitoring

**SB2936:** RELATING TO PARKING FOR DISABLED PERSONS. (companion [HB2442](#))

**Summary:** Beginning 7/1/2027, increases required accessible and van-accessible parking spaces in parking lots with more than twenty-five spaces covered by ADA Title II or III. (Companion bill [HB2442](#))

**Staff Recommendation:** Monitor

**HB2360:** RELATING TO PAID FAMILY LEAVE.

**Summary:** Requires DLIR to establish a paid family and medical leave insurance program (contributions by 1/1/2029; benefits by 1/1/2030) with specified eligibility and employee protections.

**Staff Recommendation:** Monitor.

**HB2510:** RELATING TO TAXATION.

**Summary:** Establishes an income tax credit for employers who provide paid family and medical leave for their employees.

**Staff Recommendation:** Monitor.

## Identified Companion Bills

(Bills previously discussed at past commission meetings, no need for Commission action)

**HB2217:** RELATING TO IDENTIFICATION. (companion [SB2305](#))\*

**HB2367:** RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT EARNING (companion bill [SB2150](#))\*

**HB2433:** RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE. (companion [SB2314](#))\*