HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE, 2018  
STATE OF HAWAII

H.R. NO. 186

HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO CREATE INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUNDS.

WHEREAS, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, including jobs, schools, transportation, and all public and private places that are open to the general public; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the ADA is to ensure that people with disabilities have the same rights and opportunities as everyone else by granting them civil rights protections similar to those protections provided to individuals on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, and religion, and to guarantee equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities in public accommodations, employment, transportation, state and local government services, and telecommunications; and

WHEREAS, play is crucial for human development, the growth of social skills, and self-confidence; and

WHEREAS, an accessible playground is one that offers a range of play experiences to children of varying abilities and generally complies with the ADA, but does not mean that each and every feature or event must be usable by every child; and

WHEREAS, an inclusive playground provides more for people with disabilities than accessible playgrounds by taking away the barriers to inclusion, both physical and social, and providing a "sensory rich" experience for all; and

WHEREAS, children without disabilities may also benefit from inclusive playgrounds by connecting with children from different backgrounds and abilities, and gain empathy, social, and emotional skills; and
WHEREAS, inclusive playgrounds provide benefits to more individuals than just children since there are far more parents and grandparents with disabilities than children and cross-generational play is beneficial for families; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that play experiences at parks should be accessible for all children and their families, without regard to physical ability; and

WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu currently lacks inclusive playgrounds; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, that the City and County of Honolulu is urged to create, at minimum, one inclusive playground accessible to children and caregivers of all physical abilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City and County of Honolulu is urged to obtain and consider community input before any design or construction takes place; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that inclusive playgrounds should be designed and constructed in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, P.L. 101-336, the 2010 Americans with Disabilities Act Standards for Accessible Design, and any relevant guidelines issued by the United States Department of Justice, including but not limited to accessibility guidelines on play areas, play surfaces, play components, and access routes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that inclusive playgrounds should be designed and constructed with sufficient and accessible amenities, including parking spaces and bathrooms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu.
Honolulu and the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation of the City and County of Honolulu.

OFFERED BY:

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