
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES, IN
COLLABORATION WITH THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF
HAWAII, TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP ON ACCESSIBLE GOVERNMENT
DOCUMENTS.

1 WHEREAS, an accessible document is a document created to be
2 as easily readable by a sighted reader as a low-vision or non-
3 sighted reader; and

4
5 WHEREAS, accessible documents allow individuals who use
6 screen readers to navigate through the document, utilize the
7 properties to move from one part of a document to another, hear
8 descriptions of photographs and images from image tags, and have
9 equal access to the information; and

10
11 WHEREAS, public agencies that are required to provide
12 accessible documents do not always have staff who understand how
13 to make the information accessible; and

14
15 WHEREAS, the increasing use of technology to communicate
16 can also present complications and challenges, such as the
17 various state agency websites that post public meeting notices,
18 agendas, and attached resource documents that may not
19 necessarily all be in accessible formats, especially when
20 attachments are scanned copies; and

21
22 WHEREAS, the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) is the
23 largest organization of blind people in the United States. The
24 federation was founded in 1940 on the guiding principles that
25 blind people have an inalienable right to independence, that
26 blind people have equal capacity, and that only blind people
27 themselves can legitimately speak for the blind community.
28 These principles have continually permeated the membership and
29 structure of the ever-growing organization. The ultimate



1 purpose of the NFB is the complete integration of the blind into
2 society on a basis of equality; and

3
4 WHEREAS, the State's Office of Enterprise Technology
5 Services, headed by the Chief Information Officer, is charged
6 with organizing, managing, and overseeing statewide information
7 technology governance, including establishing, coordinating, and
8 managing a program to provide a means for public access to
9 public information and developing and operating an information
10 network; and

11
12 WHEREAS, and the State's Disability and Communication
13 Access Board serves as the public advocate of persons with
14 disabilities by providing advice and recommendations on matters
15 relating to access, with an emphasis on state and county
16 legislative matters and administrative rules, policies, and
17 procedures, and also provides technical assistance and guidance
18 to state and county entities to meet state, federal, and county
19 requirements for access for persons with disabilities; now,
20 therefore,

21
22 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
23 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the
24 House of Representatives concurring, that the Office of
25 Enterprise Technology Services, in collaboration with the
26 National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii, is requested to
27 convene a working group on accessible government documents; and

28
29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
30 to:

31
32 (1) Research other states' laws and use of technologies to
33 provide, in accessible formats, government documents,
34 including documents provided by private entities under
35 contract with the State;

36
37 (2) Evaluate and recommend strategies to improve the
38 provisions of government documents, including
39 documents provided by private entities under contract
40 with the State, in accessible formats, including
41 identifying means for effective and efficient
42 oversight; and



1
2 (3) Make recommendations to the Legislature about how to
3 further the policy of providing accessible government
4 documents; and
5

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a representative of the Office
7 of Enterprise Technology Services and a representative of the
8 National Federation of the Blind are requested to serve as co-
9 chairs of the working group and to invite one representative
10 from each of the following entities to serve as working group
11 members:
12

- 13 (1) The Center on Disability Studies at the University of
14 Hawai'i at Manoa;
- 15 (2) The Office of the Lieutenant Governor;
- 16 (3) The Department of Accounting and General Services;
- 17 (4) The Information Technology and Systems Department at
18 the Judiciary;
- 19 (5) The Department of the Attorney General;
- 20 (6) The Office of the Chief Clerk of the House of
21 Representatives;
- 22 (7) The Office of the Chief Clerk of the Senate;
- 23 (8) The Office of Information Practices;
- 24 (9) The Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission;
- 25 (10) The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation of the
26 Department of Human Services;
- 27 (11) The Disability and Communication Access Board;
- 28 (12) An advocacy group for blind persons;
- 29 (13) An advocacy group for deaf persons; and
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42



1 (14) Other interested individuals; and

2
3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Enterprise
4 Technology Services is requested to submit a report on behalf of
5 the working group of its findings and recommendations, including
6 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than forty
7 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2022; and

8
9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the working
10 group serve without compensation; and

11
12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group dissolve on
13 July 1, 2022; and

14
15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
16 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Lieutenant Governor,
17 Attorney General, Comptroller, Chief Information Officer,
18 Administrative Director of the Courts, Director of the Center on
19 Disability Studies, Director of the Office of Information
20 Practices, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Civil Rights
21 Commission, President of the National Federation of the Blind of
22 Hawaii, Administrator of the Division of Vocational
23 Rehabilitation, Director of the Disability and Communication
24 Access Board, and President of the Aloha State Association of
25 the Deaf.

