
SENATE 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
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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
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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
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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
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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
30 purpose of the NFB is the complete integration of the blind into
31 society on a basis of equality; and
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1 WHEREAS, the State's Office of Enterprise Technology
2 Services, headed by the Chief Information Officer, is charged
3 with organizing, managing, and overseeing statewide information
4 technology governance, including establishing, coordinating, and
5 managing a program to provide a means for public access to
6 public information and developing and operating an information
7 network; and
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9 WHEREAS, and the State's Disability and Communication
10 Access Board serves as the public advocate of persons with
11 disabilities by providing advice and recommendations on matters
12 relating to access, with an emphasis on state and county
13 legislative matters and administrative rules, policies, and
14 procedures, and also provides technical assistance and guidance
15 to state and county entities to meet state, federal, and county
16 requirements for access for persons with disabilities; now,
17 therefore,
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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
20 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,
21 that the Office of Enterprise Technology Services, in
22 collaboration with the National Federation of the Blind of
23 Hawaii, is requested to convene a working group on accessible
24 government documents; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
27 to:
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- 29 (1) Research other states' laws and use of technologies to
30 provide, in accessible formats, government documents,
31 including documents provided by private entities under
32 contract with the State;
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- 34 (2) Evaluate and recommend strategies to improve the
35 provisions of government documents, including
36 documents provided by private entities under contract
37 with the State, in accessible formats, including
38 identifying means for effective and efficient
39 oversight; and
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1 (3) Make recommendations to the Legislature about how to
2 further the policy of providing accessible government
3 documents; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a representative of the Office
6 of Enterprise Technology Services and a representative of the
7 National Federation of the Blind are requested to serve as co-
8 chairs of the working group and to invite one representative
9 from each of the following entities to serve as working group
10 members:
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- 12 (1) The Center on Disability Studies at the University of
13 Hawai'i at Manoa;
- 14 (2) The Office of the Lieutenant Governor;
- 15 (3) The Department of Accounting and General Services;
- 16 (4) The Information Technology and Systems Department at
17 the Judiciary;
- 18 (5) The Department of the Attorney General;
- 19 (6) The Office of the Chief Clerk of the House of
20 Representatives;
- 21 (7) The Office of the Chief Clerk of the Senate;
- 22 (8) The Office of Information Practices;
- 23 (9) The Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission;
- 24 (10) The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation of the
25 Department of Human Services;
- 26 (11) The Disability and Communication Access Board;
- 27 (12) An advocacy group for blind persons;
- 28 (13) An advocacy group for deaf persons; and
29 (14) Other interested individuals; and
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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Enterprise
3 Technology Services is requested to submit a report on behalf of
4 the working group of its findings and recommendations, including
5 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than forty
6 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2022; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the working
9 group serve without compensation; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group dissolve on
12 July 1, 2022; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
15 Resolution be transmitted to the Lieutenant Governor, Attorney
16 General, Comptroller, Chief Information Officer, Administrative
17 Director of the Courts, Director of the Center on Disability
18 Studies, Director of the Office of Information Practices,
19 Executive Director of the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission,
20 President of the National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii,
21 Administrator of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation,
22 Director of the Disability and Communication Access Board, and
23 President of the Aloha State Association of the Deaf.

