

BILL032(24)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 271

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

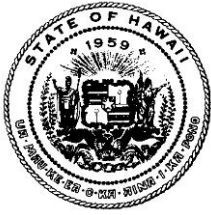
Meeting Date: Jun 5, 2024 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 1

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Kirby Shaw	Email: bryan.mick@doh.hawaii.gov	Zip: 96813
Representing: Disability and Communication Access Board	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 4, 2024 @ 04:34 PM



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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June 5, 2024

The Honorable Tommy Waters
Chair
and Members of Honolulu City Council
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street
Room 202
Honolulu, HI 96813

Regarding: Bill 32 (2024) – Relating to Nondiscrimination Policy

Dear Chair Waters and Members:

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports Bill 32 (2024), which updates the City's policy prohibiting discrimination in the City's employment practices and the provision of City services to align with current federal and state nondiscrimination statutes and terminology.

The equal treatment of persons with disabilities should be an essential element of the City's non-discrimination policy. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that persons with disabilities shall not be subject to discrimination on the basis of disability. Bill 32 ensures protections for women from discrimination and sexual violence. This legislation should additionally recognize the population of persons with disabilities due to their high vulnerability to sexual victimization.¹

Therefore, DCAB suggests two amendments to § 1-11.3 Local adoption of the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) to read as follows:

* * * * *

(2) Violence against women and girls.

(A) The city shall take and diligently pursue all appropriate measures to prevent and redress sexual and domestic violence against women and girls, including but not limited to:

- (i) Police enforcement of criminal penalties and civil remedies, when appropriate;
- (ii) Providing appropriate protective and support services for survivors, including counseling and rehabilitation programs;

- (iii) Providing gender-sensitive training of city employees regarding violence against women and girls, where appropriate; and
- (iv) Providing rehabilitation programs for perpetrators of violence against women or girls, where appropriate.

The city shall not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, culture, language, disability, or sexual orientation, when providing the above supportive services.

* * * * *

(3) Health care.

- (A) It shall be the goal of the city to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women and girls in the field of health care to ensure, on a basis of equity, information about and access to adequate health care facilities and services, according to the needs of all communities, regardless of race, ethnicity, culture, language, disability, and sexual orientation, including information, counseling, and services in family planning.

* * * * *

A national survey suggests that persons with disabilities are at greater risk of sexual victimization than nondisabled individuals.² This measure aligns with DCAB's mission to advocate for nondiscrimination standards for persons with disabilities in legislation. The implementation of these suggestions would ensure the protection and support of women and girls with disabilities.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,



KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director

¹ Mailhot Amborski, A., Bussi res, E. L., Vaillancourt-Morel, M. P., & Joyal, C. C. (2022). Sexual Violence Against Persons With Disabilities: A Meta-Analysis. Trauma, violence & abuse, 23(4), 1330–1343. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1524838021995975>

² Dammeyer, J., & Chapman, M. (2018). A national survey on violence and discrimination among people with disabilities. BMC public health, 18(1), 355. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-018-5277-0>