

Supplemental Testimony of Peter L. Fritz

Before the Access Hawaii Committee
Meeting of October 1, 2026, Agenda Item IV
Submitted in a Personal Capacity as a Citizen

Chair and Members of the Committee:

I submitted written testimony for the Committee's August 6, 2026 meeting. That testimony attached findings on two versions of that meeting's agenda: the agenda pasted on the calendar page and the agenda in the board packet. The pasted version had no headings at all. The PDF had one heading, the committee name, and the agenda items below it were plain paragraphs. This supplement restates the purpose of my request to assist the Committee in considering Item IV.

Purpose of the Request

The problem begins when an agenda is created. An agenda built without structure stays without structure. Pasting it into the calendar page removes whatever structure it had. A screen reader user then cannot move through the agenda by heading and must read it from the beginning.

I ask that the Committee establish a permitted interaction group to study and report on accessible Word and HTML templates for agendas posted to the state calendar. The templates should be developed together with Enterprise Technology Services. HTML templates should be included because many blind and vision disabled screen reader users, including users of JAWS, prefer HTML documents.

A template built for a calendar agenda carries its heading structure into any document created from it. That structure carries into the PDF saved from the document. Any agency can use the same template for its own documents. This reduces the accessibility work required of each author.

Order of the Requests

The permitted interaction group is the first step. The posting practice described in Item IV.b is the second. The group's work will inform how that practice should change.

The Tyler Accessibility Report

The Tyler Hawaii accessibility report in this packet lists the State Calendar System as a completed High Priority service. That work covers the calendar page itself. It does not reach the content an agency pastes into the page or the files an agency attaches. Whether a posted agenda is accessible depends on how the agency created it. Nothing in the report addresses templates for the documents agencies create and post to the calendar.

The Posting Practice

Agendas should be posted as Word or PDF documents. The practice of pasting agenda content from a Word document into the calendar page should end.

The Sunshine Law requires that an agenda be posted. It does not address accessibility. The accessibility of material posted on the portal arises under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, including the effective communication requirement of its regulations. The Committee oversees the portal, and the calendar is part of the portal.

Requested Action

My immediate request is that the Committee establish the permitted interaction group so that this work can begin.