

Advocacy Committee Charter

Committee Type:	Standing Committee
Authority:	SILC Bylaws, Article 1, Section 1.1(f); Article 2, Section 2.17
Effective Date:	May 7, 2026
Last Revised:	March 2026

I. Purpose

The Advocacy Committee advances the rights, independence, and full inclusion of people with disabilities in Hawaii by monitoring and influencing public policy at the local, state, and federal levels. The Committee ensures the SILC's voice is heard on matters affecting the disability community and supports the Council's mission to create more inclusive and accessible communities.

II. Scope of Authority

- Monitor and analyze local, state, and federal legislation, regulations, and policies that affect people with disabilities and the independent living movement.
- Develop and recommend legislative and policy priorities for the Council's consideration and approval.
- Coordinate the Council's legislative tracking efforts, including maintaining a list of priority bills during the Hawaii legislative session.
- Prepare testimony, public comments, and position papers on behalf of the SILC, with Council approval.
- Organize advocacy training and education for Council members and the disability community.
- Build coalitions and partnerships with disability rights organizations, community groups, and government agencies.
- Coordinate with other SILC committees on advocacy related to their areas of focus (e.g., transportation, housing, employment).

III. Composition

The Advocacy Committee shall consist of:

- A Committee Chair appointed by the SILC Chair
- At least two (2) additional Council members
- The Executive Director (non-voting, staff support)

Representatives from disability rights organizations, legal advocacy groups, and community partners may be invited to participate in an advisory capacity.

IV. Meetings

- The Advocacy Committee shall meet at least quarterly, and more frequently during the Hawaii legislative session.
- A majority of Committee members shall constitute a quorum.
- Meetings may be conducted in person, by telephone, or by video conference.

V. Responsibilities

Legislative Monitoring

- Track bills and resolutions of interest during the Hawaii legislative session.
- Analyze proposed legislation for impact on people with disabilities and the IL network.
- Maintain and distribute a legislative tracking list to Council members.

Policy Advocacy

- Draft and submit testimony, public comments, and position statements on priority issues.
- Represent the SILC at legislative hearings, public forums, and stakeholder meetings.
- Coordinate advocacy efforts with the DD Council, Hawaii Disability Rights Center, CILs, and other partners.

Community Engagement

- Organize advocacy workshops, know-your-rights trainings, and community forums.

- Support self-advocacy by people with disabilities in policy processes.
- Share advocacy updates and action alerts through the SILC newsletter and website.

VI. Reporting

- The Committee Chair shall report on legislative activities, policy developments, and advocacy efforts at each regularly scheduled Council meeting.
- Minutes of all Advocacy Committee meetings shall be recorded, approved, and made available to Council members.

VII. Review

This charter shall be reviewed annually by the Advocacy Committee and the full Council.

Committee Chair Signature / Date

SILC Chair Signature / Date