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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the lack of  
2       disability-compatible equipment in state parks and playgrounds  
3       and department of education playgrounds is having a negative  
4       impact on physically disabled youth in the State. This causes  
5       disparate utilization of recreational facilities and prevents  
6       opportunities for socialization. It is important to comply with  
7       the Americans with Disabilities Act. Disabled community members  
8       have rights and it is important that these rights be recognized.

9       The purpose of this Act is to enhance the inclusion of  
10      physically disabled youth in important socialization activities  
11      by:

12      (1) Beginning on June 30, 2030, requiring all new  
13           playgrounds constructed in state parks and on public  
14           school grounds to have a minimal set of accessible  
15           recreational playground equipment; and

16      (2) Appropriating funds to the department of land and  
17           natural resources and department of education to



1 purchase and install accessible recreational  
2 playground equipment.

3 SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by  
4 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read  
5 as follows:

6 **"CHAPTER**

7 **RIGHT TO PLAYGROUNDS ACCESSIBLE TO ALL YOUTH.**

8 § -1 **Short title.** This chapter may be cited as the  
9 Right to PLAY Act.

10 § -2 **Definitions.** As used in this chapter:

11 "Accessible recreational playground equipment" means  
12 recreational playground equipment that can be used by physically  
13 disabled youth.

14 "Department" means department of land and natural  
15 resources.

16 "Physically disabled" means having a physical impairment  
17 that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

18 "Playground" means any public outdoor facility with  
19 apparatuses that are intended for the recreation of children,  
20 including but not limited to sliding boards, swing sets, and  
21 teeterboards.



1 "Public school" has the same meaning as in section  
2 302A-101.

3 "Youth" means individuals under the age of eighteen.

4 **§ -3 Accessible recreational playground equipment**  
5 **installation; minimum requirements.** (a) Beginning on June 30,  
6 2030, every new playground constructed in a state park or on  
7 public school grounds shall include accessible recreational  
8 playground equipment as part of the playground apparatuses.

9 (b) All accessible recreational playground equipment  
10 installed pursuant to this section shall comply with the  
11 standards set forth in the 2010 Americans with Disabilities Act  
12 Standards for Accessible Design, or any successor or similar  
13 guidelines or standards governing accessibility standards for  
14 public facilities.

15 **§ -4 Accessible recreational playground equipment**  
16 **special fund.** (a) There is established an accessible  
17 recreational playground equipment special fund to be  
18 administered by the department, which shall consist of moneys  
19 appropriated to the fund by the legislature.

20 (b) Moneys from the accessible recreational playground  
21 equipment special fund shall be expended by the department for



1 the acquisition, installation, and maintenance of accessible  
2 recreational playground equipment.

3 (c) All unobligated, unencumbered, or unexpended funds  
4 remaining in the fund in excess of \$ at the close of  
5 each fiscal year shall lapse to the general fund.

6 **§ -5 Compliance with federal law.** All accessible  
7 recreational playground equipment shall comply with all  
8 applicable federal and state laws."

9 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
11 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and  
12 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
13 year 2026-2027 to be deposited into the accessible recreational  
14 playground equipment special fund established pursuant to  
15 section -4, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

16 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the accessible  
17 recreational playground equipment special fund the sum of  
18 \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
19 year 2025-2026 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be  
20 necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 to purchase and install  
21 accessible recreational playground equipment in state parks.



1       The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
2 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

3       SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the accessible  
4 recreational playground equipment special fund the sum of  
5 \$           or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
6 year 2025-2026 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be  
7 necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 to be transferred to the  
8 department of education to purchase and install accessible  
9 recreational playground equipment on department of education  
10 public school grounds.

11       The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
12 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

13       SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



**Report Title:**

Accessible Recreational Playground Equipment; State Parks;  
Public School Playgrounds; Special Fund; Appropriation

**Description:**

Beginning on 6/30/2030, requires all new playgrounds constructed in state parks and on public school grounds to include accessible recreational playground equipment as part of the recreational apparatuses. Establishes the Accessible Recreational Playground Equipment Special Fund. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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