



*Special Message from
Governor David Y. Ige
In Recognition of*

**Hawai'i Association of the Blind
55th Annual Convention**

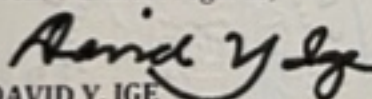
March 5, 2022

On behalf of the State of Hawai'i, I extend my warmest aloha to all attendees who have virtually gathered today for the 55th year of the Hawai'i Association of the Blind (HAB) Annual Convention.

This year's convention theme, "Traveling Through Barriers," aligns with the HAB's unwavering determination and commitment to helping blind individuals achieve greater independence while overcoming challenges and discrimination. The HAB's continued work in collaborating with governmental agencies on various legislative matters each year helps pave the way for blind individuals to better integrate into the general population and access opportunities to help them pursue their personal goals and productive pursuits of contributing to our community.

While the COVID pandemic has continued to present challenges of varying degrees for the people of Hawai'i and across the globe, the HAB perseveres in its efforts to provide for the well-being of blind individuals and advocate for their independence and equality. Aloha and mahalo to everyone who helped organize this virtual convention. Best wishes to all participants for the many wonderful opportunities that await you.

With warmest regards,


DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i



Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Association of the Blind is a non-profit organization composed of blind, visually impaired and sighted individuals advocating for independence, equality and opportunity for all blind persons; and

WHEREAS, the association, which is an affiliate of the American Council of the Blind, was organized in 1967 to empower those with vision limitations to be equal participants with their sighted peers in the productive pursuits of society; and

WHEREAS, Hawai'i Association of the Blind actively promotes self-development for blind individuals and helps them achieve more integration into society by providing scholarships for higher education; and

WHEREAS, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the association will conduct its annual convention online with technical assistance provided by the American Council of the Blind; and

WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Association of the Blind 55th Annual Convention will be held on March 5, 2022 to provide updates about issues and resources under the theme - Traveling Through Barriers,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICK BLANGIARDI, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, do hereby proclaim March 5, 2022, to be

HAWAI'I ASSOCIATION OF THE BLIND DAY

for providing invaluable service to the blind and visually impaired, advocating for their rights under the law, working to ensure that they have maximum opportunity to become active and productive members of our society, and to extend best wishes for a productive and enjoyable convention.

Done this 5th day of March, 2022,
in Honolulu, Hawai'i.



Rick Blangiardi

RICK BLANGIARDI



The Senate

RECOGNIZES AND CONGRATULATES THE HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF THE BLIND

On its 55th Annual Convention "Traveling Through Barriers"

The Senate of the Thirty-First Legislature of the State of Hawai'i is pleased to recognize and congratulate **THE HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF THE BLIND (HAB)** on its 55th annual convention.

First organized in 1967, **HAB** advocates for the equal treatment of those with sight limitations. Expanding upon its mission statement, "Advocating Independence, Equality, and Opportunity for the Blind," **HAB** has created and funded classes and organizations that provide its members with skills and confidence to achieve their independence. Through collegiate scholarships and partnering with vocational programs, **HAB** helps blind students further their educational aspirations to excel in a professional environment.

HAB works to address the discrimination the blind face and dismantle misconceptions on vision impairment through active engagement in the legislative process, educating the general public on social etiquette, and empowering its members to become avid contributors and integrated members of society.

This year's annual convention will be held virtually, which serves as a testament to the technological advancements, innovative devices, and resources available to aid vision impairment.

The Senate of the Thirty-First Legislature of the State of Hawaii recognizes and congratulates **THE HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF THE BLIND** on its 55th annual convention, "Traveling Through Barriers," and extends its warmest Aloha and best wishes in its future endeavors.



*The 31st Legislature
Certificate No. 38*

Done this 5th day of March, 2022
State Capitol, Honolulu, Hawai'i

Ronald D. Koussis, President of the Senate

Carol Taniguchi, Clerk of the Senate

**MESSAGE FROM
U.S. SENATOR MAZIE K. HIRONO**

**In honor of the Hawaii Association of the Blind's
55th Annual Convention**

March 5, 2022

Aloha and welcome to everyone virtually attending the 55th Annual Convention for the Hawaii Association of the Blind.

Since 1967, the Hawaii Association of the Blind (HAB) has been a vital advocate and resource, providing support to the blind and visually impaired community. Their work has ranged from awarding blind and low-vision students with scholarships and working with parents of blind youth, to working on legislation to address community need and connecting individuals to available resources. I will continue to be a partner in the fight for change, and remain committed to HAB's philosophy and mission of ensuring equality and opportunity.

The theme of this year's convention is "Traveling Through Barriers," a principle that you have demonstrated right now as you participate in this conference virtually through the aid of technology. As we continue to face the challenges of the pandemic, I applaud you for finding a way to gather safely. The technology used for this conference is just one example of the resources available to make our society more accessible for blind and visually impaired individuals, and an important reminder of what we must continue to work towards.

Mahalo to President Art Cabanilla, staff and supporters of the Hawaii Association of the Blind for your hard work and dedication to enhancing the quality of life for Hawaii's blind community. My best wishes for a productive conference and continued success.

Aloha,



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator