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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE NUMBER OF BLIND, DEAF, AND DEAF-BLIND PERSONS IN  
THE STATE OF HAWAII.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there are no  
2 current, accurate statistics on the number of blind, deaf, and  
3 deaf-blind persons in the State of Hawaii. Additionally, more  
4 information is required regarding the needs of this population.

5 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of  
6 human services to conduct a needs assessment for the blind,  
7 deaf, and deaf-blind residents of Hawaii.

8 SECTION 2. (a) The department of human services shall  
9 conduct a needs assessment for the blind, deaf, and deaf-blind  
10 community in Hawaii. The department of human services may  
11 contract with a third party to conduct the survey.

12 (b) The needs assessment shall include:

13 (1) The total number of blind, deaf, and deaf-blind  
14 persons residing in the State and residing on each  
15 island;

16 (2) Data on the blind, deaf, and deaf-blind community in  
17 Hawaii and nationwide; and



1 (3) Services required or desired by the blind, deaf, and  
2 deaf-blind community.

3 For purposes of the needs assessment, "deaf" and "blind" shall  
4 have the same meaning as defined under section 235-1, Hawaii  
5 Revised Statutes.

6 (c) The department of human services shall submit the  
7 results of the needs assessment to the legislature no later than  
8 twenty days prior to the convening of the 2009 regular session.

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 2008-2009 for a  
12 survey to determine the total number of blind, deaf, and deaf-  
13 blind persons residing in the State and residing on each island  
14 of the state.

15 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
16 human services for the purposes of this Act.

17 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008.



**Report Title:**

Blind, Deaf, and Deaf-Blind Persons; Needs Assessment;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for a needs assessment for the blind, deaf,  
and deaf-blind community in Hawaii. (HB1998 HD1)

