

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 333 -08

Honolulu, Hawaii

Feb 12, 2008

RE: H.B. No. 1998
H.D. 1

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2008
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Human Services & Housing, to which was referred H.B. No. 1998 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE NUMBER OF BLIND, DEAF, AND DEAF-BLIND PERSONS IN THE STATE OF HAWAII,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this bill is to require the Department of Human Services (DHS) to conduct a survey to determine the number of blind, deaf, and deaf-blind persons in Hawaii.

Hui O Na Makamaka and a concerned individual testified in support of this bill. DHS, the Disability and Communication Access Board, and a concerned individual supported the intent of this measure.

Your Committee received testimony that a needs assessment would be useful in determining the services needed and desired by the blind, deaf, and deaf-blind community.

Accordingly, your Committee has amended this bill by:

- (1) Expanding the scope to require a needs assessment that includes collecting data and determining the requirements and desires of the specified population;
- (2) Defining "deaf" and "blind"; and



- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for clarity, consistency, and style.

Your Committee respectfully requests that as the needs assessment is conducted, it also includes contact information of the blind, deaf, and deaf-blind community for emergency purposes.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Human Services & Housing that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1998, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1998, H.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Human Services &
Housing,



MAILE SHIMABUKURO, Chair



Record of Votes of the Committee on Human Services & Housing

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 1998	Committee Referral: HSH, FIN	Date: January 24, 2008		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
HSH Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. SHIMABUKURO, Maile S. L. (C)	X			
2. RHOADS, Karl (VC)	X			
3. AWANA, Karen Leinani	X			
4. BELATTI, Della Au				X
5. BERTRAM, Joe, III				X
6. CABANILLA, Rida T.R.	X			
7. GREEN, Josh, M.D.	X			
8. MIZUNO, John	X			
9. TOKIOKA, James Kunane	X			
10. WARD, Gene, Ph.D.	X			
TOTAL (10)	8			2
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <small>committee acronym(s)</small>				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: <u>Karl Rhoads</u>				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office				