

ART FRANK
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HONOLULU, HI 96818-1842
JANUARY 31, 2008

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

SB2050 RELATING TO THE NUMBER OF BLIND, DEAF, AND DEAF-BLIND PERSONS IN THE STATE OF HAWAII

My name is Art Frank from Foster Village in Aliamanu/Salt Lake. I've been a deaf consumer for over 30 years so I know we have no idea how many deaf or deaf blind persons we have in the State of Hawaii. In order for the State of Hawaii to provide the necessary services needed in our community, we need to have an idea of how many persons are out there on each island, especially the deaf-blind because I believe they will be the hardest segment of our community to provide services to. **consequently I support SB2050 and request your assistance in passing same**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2050
A BILL RELATING TO THE NUMBER OF BLIND, DEAF, AND DEAF-BLIND
PERSONS IN THE STATE OF HAWAII

Deanna Espinas, Chair of Hui O Na Makamaka
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Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Thursday, January 31, 2008, 1:30 pm
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Senator Chun Oakland and Members of the Committee:

As Chair of the Hui O Na Makamaka (Friends of the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped), we support Senate Bill 2050 which appropriates funds for a survey of the number of blind, deaf, and deaf-blind persons in the State of Hawaii.

Our Friends of the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH) seeks to promote services of LBPH by doing outreach throughout the community. This bill will help to survey the State and determine how many individuals with visual and hearing disabilities are in the different communities. When friends and family begin to lose their vision or hearing, support in many forms must be made available. These individuals continue to be contributing members of society and do not need to exist in isolation. We can continue to bridge the communication gap, expand the use of technology to bring them information, entertainment, education, internet access, etc.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 2050 and for helping us to continue to reach out and meet the needs of a growing segment of our population.