

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
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April 17, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Michael Y. Magaoay, Chair
House Committee on Legislative Management

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: S.C.R. 37, S.D. 1 – REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE BUREAU TO
STUDY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE
VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION CENTER FOR DEAF AND HARD OF
HEARING INDIVIDUALS

Hearing: Thursday, April 17, 2008, 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 309, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to request the Legislative Reference Bureau to conduct a study on the establishment of a comprehensive Vocational Rehabilitation Center serving deaf and hard of hearing individuals to coordinate and improve their employment options through the Department of Human Services Vocational Rehabilitation and Services for the Blind Division.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of this resolution. A study on the establishment of a comprehensive state facility to specifically meet the needs of deaf and hard of hearing persons statewide through Vocational Rehabilitation and Services for the Blind Division (VRSBD) is the first step toward the improvement of services to this population. Deaf and hard of hearing persons have special communication needs that impact all areas of their lives. Their unique communication needs

affect language development, understanding of social situations, budgeting, housing and transportation and more. These areas have a critical impact on education and training related to employment.

The proposed study will initiate the process of provide quality services for persons who are deaf and hard of hearing. Comprehensive services will broaden employment options and the successful employment of Hawaii's citizens who are deaf and hard of hearing.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this concurrent resolution.

DAN NAGATA, SR

Friday, April 4, 2008 in Conference Room at 10:05 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON SCR 37. SD 1. DEAF CENTER

To Ways and Means Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members:

I am Dan Nagata, Sr. I am deaf and a resident of Honolulu, Hawaii.

I support SCR 37. SD 1. We want full service center for deaf people. I can get better job training. I want a better life and a good, permanent full time job so I can have a house and a car. My doctor told me I need a car because of my serious health problem but cannot afford because no full time job. Hard for me to find a full time job here. If we have the center for deaf people with job training and on-the-job training, I might be able to work full time and get the house and car.

Please pass this resolution to start a full service center for deaf people here in Hawaii.

Mahalo for let me testify.

Sincerely,

Dan Nagata, Sr.