
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 348-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:
3 "(a) [~~Except as may be otherwise provided with respect to~~
4 ~~the blind, the]~~ There is established the vocational
5 rehabilitation division within the department of human services
6 [~~shall be the state agency]~~ to supervise and administer [~~the]~~
7 vocational rehabilitation services, including services for
8 persons who are blind or deaf that are not included under
9 chapter 348F, and services authorized by this chapter under the
10 state plan formulated in conformance with the Federal Vocational
11 Rehabilitation Act, as amended, except for that part as may be
12 administered by a local agency of a political subdivision in the
13 State, and the department of human services shall be the agency
14 to supervise the local agency in the administration of that
15 part.

16 For purposes of this subsection, "services for deaf
17 persons" means development and monitoring of vocational



1 rehabilitation services for persons who are deaf, hard-of-
2 hearing, or deaf-blind."

3 SECTION 2. (a) The department of human services shall
4 develop a strategic plan to provide services to persons who are
5 deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind through a comprehensive
6 service center.

7 (b) The strategic plan to establish a comprehensive
8 service center for vocational rehabilitation services to persons
9 who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind shall include:

- 10 (1) Philosophy, purpose, and goals of the center;
11 (2) Identification and integration of services to be
12 provided at the center;
13 (3) Location, facilities, and equipment necessary to make
14 the center accessible;
15 (4) Qualification, recruitment, training, and retention of
16 the personnel necessary to provide services at the
17 center;
18 (5) Restructuring operations, partnering with contractors,
19 and entering interagency agreements to eliminate any
20 duplication of services and maximizing available
21 state, federal, and grant funding;



1 (6) Provisions to ensure that the plan is effectively
2 communicated to all stakeholders and its
3 implementation monitored, including progress reports;
4 and

5 (7) A method of funding the center, including funds from
6 the federal government and private sources, that does
7 not rely on general fund appropriations.

8 (c) The department of human services shall consult,
9 through existing peer-to-peer relationships, with recognized
10 authorities in the provision of vocational rehabilitation
11 services to persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind
12 in developing the strategic plan required by this section.
13 Consumers in different categories of hearing loss shall be
14 consulted including the deaf and hard of hearing advisory board,
15 the disability and communication access board, the Hawaii school
16 for the deaf and the blind, the Kapiolani deaf center, and
17 Gallaudet University regional center.

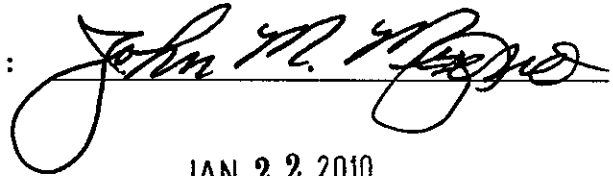
18 SECTION 3. The department of human services shall prepare
19 a report to be submitted to the legislature no later than twenty
20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2011 that
21 presents the results of the review and strategic plan required
22 by this Act.



1 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
4

INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M. Higgins", is written over a horizontal line.

JAN 22 2010



Report Title:

Vocational Rehabilitation; Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Description:

Establishes a vocational rehabilitation division within the department of human services. Places services for blind persons and deaf services under the vocational rehabilitation division. Clarifies services for the deaf. Requires the department of human services to develop a strategic plan to restructure services to the deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind through a comprehensive service center.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

