



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

House Bill 2468 - Relating to Vocational Rehabilitation

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports the intent of House Bill 2468 that establishes the Vocational Rehabilitation Division within the Department of Human Services (DHS), clarifies services for participants who are deaf, hard of hearing or deaf-blind, and requires DHS to develop a strategic plan to provide services to persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or deaf-blind through a comprehensive service center.

DCAB supports the amendment in Section 1 regarding establishment of vocational rehabilitation within the Department of Human Services on page 1, line 3 – 6. The reference to Chapter 348F on page 1, line 9 is incorrect. Chapter 348F is a reference to the Disability and Communication Access Board, and not to Vocational Rehabilitation. That reference should be amended to read Chapter "348."

Currently, there is a committee under DHS' Deaf and Hard of Hearing Advisory Board (DHHAB) that is working on plans for the comprehensive deaf center (CDC). There are representatives on the committee from the deaf and hard of hearing community, Kapiolani Deaf Center (which is the Gallaudet University Regional Center) and DCAB. Since planning is already underway, section 2 of the bill is unnecessary and we suggest deleting it.

Section 3 of the bill requires DHS to submit a legislative report presenting the results of the strategic plan for the comprehensive service center. We recommend that DHS submit a report to the 2011 Legislature based on the work of DHHAB's CDC Planning Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES W. FLEMING
Chairperson

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director

LATE
testimony

Rec'd 9:10am