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AARON S. FUJIOKA
ADMINISTRATOR

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE
P.O. Box 119
Honolulu, Hawaii 96810-0119
Tel: (808) 587-4700 Fax: (808) 587-4703
<http://hawaii.gov/spo>

TESTIMONY
OF
AARON S. FUJIOKA
ADMINISTRATOR
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
JUDICIARY

March 30, 2010

2:30 P.M.

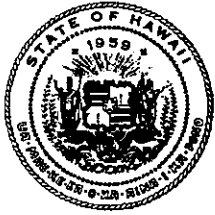
HCR 312

REQUESTING ALL BRANCHES OF STATE GOVERNMENT AND ALL AGENCIES OF COUNTY GOVERNMENTS TO MAKE GOVERNMENT RECORDS AVAILABLE IN DIGITIZED FORMS READABLE BY SOFTWARE AND HARDWARE FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED AND TO PROVIDE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES AND THE PUBLIC WITH THE SOFTWARE AND HARDWARE NECESSARY TO DIGITIZE AND READ PUBLIC RECORDS.

Chair Karamatsu, Vice Chair Ito, and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to testify on HCR 312. This resolution requests that the chief procurement officer (CPO) of each branch of state and each agency of the county governments to develop nonvisual access standard for information technology (IT) systems.

If this resolution moves forward, it is more appropriate to replace on page 2, line 38 and page 3, line 13 from chief **procurement** officer to chief **information** officer of each branch of government to coordinate and develop access standards for IT systems.

Thank you.



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 101 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V/TDD) • Fax (808) 586-8129

March 30, 2010

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

House Concurrent Resolution 312 – Requesting All Branches of State Government and All Agencies of County Governments to Make Government Records Available in Digitized Form Readable by Software and Hardware for the Blind and Visually Impaired and to Provide Public Employees and the Public with the Software and Hardware Necessary to Digitize and Read Public Records

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports the intent of House Concurrent Resolution 312 requesting all branches of State and county government agencies make government records accessible to individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

Administrative Directive 97-01 appointed DCAB to do the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) coordination for Executive Branch agencies of State government on August 28, 1997. Per this directive, technical assistance has been provided to all branches of government related to making employment, as well as programs and services accessible to individuals with disabilities, including people who are blind or visually impaired. The ADA does not require specific items to make programs and services for individuals with disabilities, because one answer will not address all needs. Accessibility should be addressed on a case-by-case basis, and this resolution implies that one solution will address the issue of accessibility to information for all individuals who are blind or visually impaired. Providing software or hardware to make government records accessible is only one solution to a multi-faceted issue. Technology changes rapidly, and what works today will be obsolete tomorrow.

Although the purpose of this resolution is consistent with DCAB's mission and principles, we suggest the following amendments to the language:

- Page 1, change the title to read "...Software and Hardware for Persons who are Blind or Visually Impaired..." (use of "people first language");
- Page 1, line 23, add "...state, per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)...";
- Page 1, line 24, delete "employees" (under the ADA employees with disabilities to request reasonable accommodation from the employer that will work for them);
- Page 2, line 22, delete "PDF" (newer versions of Adobe Acrobat has voice output for pdf files);
- Page 2, line 34, delete "the" and insert "persons who are";
- Page 2, line 34, delete "public employees" (the responsibility to provide a reasonable accommodation is with the employer);
- Page 2, line 35, clarify the intent. (Are the State and county purchasing software or hardware to give to members of the public or providing the software on computers for public use?); and
- Page 3, Lines 4-5, change wording to "...individuals who are blind and visually impaired...".

Overall, the intent of the resolution needs to be clarified about whether software and hardware will be purchased for individuals who are blind or visually impaired to use on their own computers or if the intent is to have information available to the public on government computers be provided in an accessible format. With that clarification, references to public employees who are blind or visually impaired can be deleted from the resolution, since the employer already has the obligation to provide reasonable accommodations for the employee in the workplace.

It is encouraging to see the Legislature addressing accessibility issues related to individuals who are blind or visually impaired, and we look forward to seeing the intent of this resolution expand to encompass the accessibility needs of all disability groups.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,



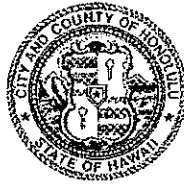
CHARLES W. FLEMING
Chairperson
Legislative Committee



FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honolulu.org



MUFI HANNEMANN
MAYOR

LOUIS M. KEALOHA
CHIEF

DELBERT T. TATSUYAMA
RANDAL K. MACADANGDANG
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE RB-VYH

March 30, 2010

The Honorable Jon Riki Karamatsu, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Karamatsu and Members:

Subject: House Concurrent Resolution No. 312, Requesting All Branches of State Government and All Agencies of County Governments to Make Government Records Available In Digitized Form Readable By Software and Hardware for the Blind and Visually Impaired and to Provide Public Employees and the Public With the Software and Hardware Necessary to Digitize and Read Public Records

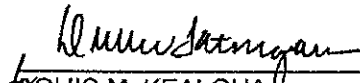
I am Ron Bode, Captain of the Records and Identification Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu. The HPD opposes the passage of House Concurrent Resolution No. 312.

While we support efforts to acquire technology that allows nonvisual access to government records, the passing of this resolution would create a financial burden on the HPD. All government agencies are experiencing budget and staffing reductions. Providing this service would require that new computer programs be created and new computer hardware and software be purchased. Additionally, departmental personnel would need to be trained to assist the public when using this new system.

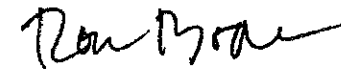
There are also privacy concerns with regard to the release of information in the required format. Certain information may be left in government records for one person but removed for another due to privacy concerns. Consideration should also be given to converting diagrams and photographs to very large print, audible speech, or Braille.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:


LOUIS M. KEALOHA
Chief of Police

Sincerely,


RON D. BODE, Captain
Records and Identification Division

Serving and Protecting With Aloha

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: steve ito [steven.ito@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2010 7:08 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: HGR 312

Steve Ito Testifier's name: Ann Ito, citizen

- The Committee the comments are directed to: Judiciary (House)
- The date and time of the hearing: Tuesday, March 30, 2010 2:30 p.m.
- Measure number: HCR 312

Testimony:

Testimony in support of

HCR 312 REQUESTING ALL BRANCHES OF STATE GOVERNMENT AND ALL AGENCIES OF COUNTY GOVERNMENTS TO MAKE GOVERNMENT RECORDS AVAILABLE IN DIGITIZED FORM READABLE BY SOFTWARE AND HARDWARE FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED AND TO PROVIDE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES AND THE PUBLIC WITH THE SOFTWARE AND HARDWARE NECESSARY TO DIGITIZE AND READ PUBLIC RECORDS. (JUD, FIN)

Dear Chair Karamatsu and Members of the House Committee on the Judiciary:

My name is Ann Ito, a blind citizen, and I respectfully submit testimony in support of HCR 312 relating to equal access by blind and visually impaired persons to digitized government records. The technology to make digitized records accessible to blind, visually and other print impaired persons (e.g., those with learning disabilities, traumatic brain injury, etc.) is affordable and user friendly from both the production and consumer perspectives.

Please help bring to an end unwitting discriminatory practices by our state and county offices in the critical domain of digitized information access by this ever increasing segment of our population.

Thank you.

Sincerely:

Ann Ito