
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO INFORMATION ACCESS.

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

1 SECTION 1. Thousands of Hawaii residents experience
2 disabilities such as visual impairments, dyslexia, and physical
3 impairments that prevent them from directly accessing
4 conventional print media. Many printed materials are available
5 through governmental and nonprofit agencies in accessible
6 formats such as braille, large print, or audio recording.
7 However, it is generally not practical to provide time-sensitive
8 information such as a local daily newspaper in these specialized
9 formats. The legislature finds that even in a media environment
10 where information is frequently available in multiple formats
11 that are both portable and widely accessible, telephone-based
12 audible information access remains an important service for many
13 individuals.

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 348F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
16 and to read as follows:

17 "§348F- Telephone-based access to time-sensitive print
18 media. (a) The disability and communication access board shall



1 ensure that a telephone-based audible information access service
2 is available statewide to individuals with visual or other
3 impairments that limit access to printed media.

4 (b) The board shall investigate the availability of
5 experienced providers of quality telephone-based audible
6 information access service and shall award a contract to provide
7 this service to one or more providers that the board determines
8 to be best qualified. In reviewing the qualifications of any
9 provider or providers, the board shall consider the factors of
10 cost, quality of services, experience, and any other factors
11 that the board deems appropriate.

12 (c) The board shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 to
13 administer a telephone-based audible information access service,
14 including establishing a mechanism for providing ongoing funding
15 for the service.

16 (d) As used in this section:

17 "Telephone-based audible information access service" means
18 the delivery of current daily newspapers and other periodicals
19 in audio format through a telephone call to a local or toll-free
20 telephone number."

21 SECTION 3. Notwithstanding any provision of section 138-3,
22 Hawaii Revised Statutes, to the contrary, there is appropriated



1 out of the wireless enhanced 911 fund, the sum of \$80,000 or so
2 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 and
3 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
4 year 2012-2013 for deposit into the disability and communication
5 access board special fund established pursuant to section
6 348F-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

7 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the disability and
8 communication access board special fund the sum of \$80,000 or so
9 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 and
10 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
11 year 2012-2013 for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a
12 telephone-based audible information access service.

13 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the disability
14 and communication access board for the purposes of this Act;
15 provided that the appropriations authorized under this Act shall
16 be expended on a contract for services with the Hawaii affiliate
17 of a national organization that:

- 18 (1) Has affiliates in at least all fifty states; and
- 19 (2) Provides electronic services that provide blind,
20 visually impaired, and print disabled persons with
21 access to newspapers, magazines, and television
22 listings twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week,



1 by means of a touch tone telephone, the Internet, or
2 by downloading the electronic information to a digital
3 talking book player or MP3 playing device.

4 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2011.



Report Title:

Telephone-based Audible Information Access Service; Disability and Communication Access Board; Appropriation

Description:

Directs the disability and communication access board to establish and maintain a telephone-based audible information access service to provide access to daily newspapers and other periodicals in an audio medium; makes appropriations from the wireless enhanced 911 fund to the disability and communication access board special fund to establish the information access service. (SD1 Proposed)

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