
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 347, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
16 and to read as follows:

17 "§347- Telephone-based access to time-sensitive print
18 media. (a) The vocational rehabilitation and services for the



1 blind division of the department of human services shall ensure
2 that a telephone-based audible information access service is
3 available statewide to individuals with visual or other
4 impairments that limit access to printed media.

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

- 12 (1) Cost;
13 (2) Quality of services;
14 (3) Experience; and
15 (4) Any other factors that the division deems appropriate.

16 (c) The division shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91
17 to administer a telephone-based audible information access
18 service, including establishing a mechanism for providing
19 ongoing funding for the service.

20 (d) As used in this section:

21 "Division" means the vocational rehabilitation and services
22 for the blind division of the department of human services.



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

5 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 and the
8 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
9 2012-2013 for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a
10 telephone-based audible information access service.

11 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the vocational
12 rehabilitation and services for the blind division of the
13 department of human services pursuant to the expenditure
14 authority granted under section 347-10, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
15 for the purposes of this Act; provided that the appropriations
16 authorized under this Act shall be expended on a contract for
17 services with the Hawaii affiliate of a national organization
18 that:

- 19 (1) Has affiliates in at least all fifty states; and
- 20 (2) Provides electronic services that provide blind,
21 visually impaired, and print disabled persons with
22 access to newspapers, magazines, and television

1 listings twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week,
2 by means of a touch tone telephone, the Internet, or
3 by downloading the electronic information to a digital
4 talking book player or MP3 playing device.

5 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Telephone-based Audible Information Access Service; Department of Human Services; Appropriation

Description:

Directs the vocational rehabilitation and services for the blind division of the department of human services to contract for a telephone-based service to provide access to timely print media. Makes appropriation. Effective 07/01/2050. (SD2)

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