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# 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 communications access board



1 shall ensure that a telephone-based audible information access  
2 service is available statewide to individuals with visual or  
3 other 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 (1) Cost;  
11 (2) Quality of services;  
12 (3) Experience; and  
13 (4) Any other factors that the board deems appropriate.

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

18 (d) As used in this section:

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



1 SECTION 3. Notwithstanding any provision of section 138-3,  
2 Hawaii Revised Statutes, to the contrary, there is appropriated  
3 out of the wireless enhanced 911 fund, the sum of \$80,000 or so  
4 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 and  
5 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
6 year 2012-2013 for deposit into the disability and communication  
7 access board special fund established pursuant to section 348F-  
8 7, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

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

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

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



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

6 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 6. 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 disability and communications access board to contract for a telephone-based service to provide access to timely print media. Makes appropriation. Effective 07/01/2050. (SD3)

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

