
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) No later than January 1, 2013, the board shall adopt
15 rules pursuant to chapter 91 to administer a telephone-based
16 audible information access service, including establishing a
17 mechanism for providing ongoing funding 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. The board shall submit a report to the
2 legislature no later than 20 days prior to the start of the
3 regular session of 2012 describing its progress toward
4 contracting with qualified providers of telephone-based audible
5 information access.

6 SECTION 4. Notwithstanding any provision of section 138-3,
7 Hawaii Revised Statutes, to the contrary, there is appropriated
8 out of the wireless enhanced 911 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 deposit into the disability and communication
12 access board special fund established pursuant to section 348F-
13 7, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

14 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the disability and
15 communication access board special fund the sum of \$80,000 or so
16 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 and
17 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
18 year 2012-2013 for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a
19 telephone-based audible information access service.

20 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the disability
21 and communication access board for the purposes of this Act;
22 provided that the appropriations authorized under this Act shall



1 be expended on a contract for services with the Hawaii affiliate
2 of a national organization that:

- 3 (1) Has affiliates in at least all fifty states; and
- 4 (2) Provides electronic services that provide blind,
5 visually impaired, and print-disabled persons with
6 access to newspapers, magazines, and television
7 listings twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week,
8 by means of a touch-tone telephone, the Internet, or
9 by downloading the electronic information to a digital
10 talking book player or MP3 playing device.

11 SECTION 6. New statutory material is underscored.

12 SECTION 7. 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 Communication Access Board to contract for a telephone-based service to provide access to timely print media. Appropriates funds. Effective July 1, 2050. (SB893 HD1)

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