
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 board shall ensure that a telephone-based



1 audible information access service is available statewide to
2 individuals with visual or other impairments that limit access
3 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 following
10 factors:

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

15 (c) No later than January 1, 2013, the board shall adopt
16 rules pursuant to chapter 91 to administer a telephone-based
17 audible information access service, including establishing a
18 mechanism for providing ongoing funding for the service.

19 (d) As used in this section:

20 "Telephone-based audible information access service" means
21 the delivery of current daily newspapers and other periodicals



1 in audio format through a telephone call to a local or toll-free
2 telephone number."

3 SECTION 3. The disability and communication access board
4 shall submit a report to the legislature no later than twenty
5 days prior to the start of the regular session of 2012
6 describing its progress toward contracting with qualified
7 providers of telephone-based audible information access.

8 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general funds
9 of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much thereof as
10 may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 and the same sum or
11 so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013
12 for deposit into the disability and communication access board
13 special fund established pursuant to section 348F-7, Hawaii
14 Revised Statutes.

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



1 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the disability
2 and communication access board for the purposes of this Act;
3 provided that the appropriations authorized under this Act shall
4 be expended on a contract for services with the Hawaii affiliate
5 of a national organization that:

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

14 SECTION 6. New statutory material is underscored.

15 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Telephone-based Audible Information Access Service;
Appropriation

Description:

Directs the Disability and Communication Access Board to contract for a telephone-based service to provide access to timely print media. Appropriates unspecified amounts of funds. Effective July 1, 2050. (SB893 HD2)

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