

SB 2435

Measure Title: RELATING TO INFORMATION ACCESS.

Report Title: Telephone-based Audible Information Access Service; Appropriation

Description: Appropriates funds for 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.

Companion: HB1740

Package: None

Current Referral: HMS, WAM

Introducer(s): BAKER, CHUN OAKLAND, ENGLISH, ESPERO, FUKUNAGA, GREEN, KIDANI, TOKUDA, TSUTSUI, Gabbard, Galuteria, Ihara, Nishihara, Ryan, Taniguchi

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



LATE
PATRICIA McMANAMAN
DIRECTOR
BARBARA A. YAMASHITA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 14, 2012

MEMORANDUM:

TO: The Honorable Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: SB 2435 - RELATING TO INFORMATION ACCESS

Hearing: Tuesday, February 14, 2012, 1:25 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds for 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.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports S.B. 2435. We ask that if this appropriation is approved that it does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget.

It is essential for our clients who are print disabled to have access to the Newsline service. Print disabled clients include, but are not limited to, clients who have blindness and visual impairments; dyslexia; or have learning disabilities. The Newsline service allows these clients to have access to real-time information such as job listings, local and national media information, postings of our public hearings that

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solicit commentary on our state plans and many other types of information necessary for our clients to live independently.

Access to the Newslite service is already available for persons on Oahu. This appropriation will provide access for residents on the Neighbor Islands.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony to this Committee.



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DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 101 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V/TDD) • Fax (808) 586-8129

February 14, 2012

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senate Bill 2435 – Relating to Information Access

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports the intent of Senate Bill 2435 Relating to Information Access that appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services' Vocational Rehabilitation and Services for the Blind Division to provide access to current information for individuals who have print disabilities such as visual impairments, dyslexia or physical impairments that prevent direct access to conventional print media.

On a daily basis, the public has access to current information and news through various sources such as the local daily newspaper, radio, television, etc. Having daily local and national newspapers and various periodicals available through a telephone-based information access service will make similar information available to individuals who have limited access to print media.

We defer to the Department of Human Services regarding the funding necessary to provide the service.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

BARBARA FISCHLOWITZ-LEONG
Chairperson

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2012 1:19 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: young.brandon4@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2435 on 2/14/2012 1:25:00 PM
Attachments: newslite bill testimony.doc

Testimony for HMS 2/14/2012 1:25:00 PM SB2435

Conference room: 016
Testifier position:
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brandon Young
Organization: Individual
E-mail: young.brandon4@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/11/2012

Comments:

Brandon Young

Newsline Testimony

My name is Brandon Young and I am testifying in support of this measure. I am a member of the National Federation of the Blind and the person that has been sheparding this bill for this year. The Newsline service is very important and is something that we need to keep here in Hawaii. I will come and testify in person and I thank you for your support.

From: Ann Lemke [lemke@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2012 11:35 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: nanifife@aol.com; 'Milton Ota'; caota@hawaii.rr.com; atashiro@dhs.hawaii.gov; 'Debbie L. Jackson'
Subject: supporting SB 2435

Esteemed Committee Members,

I am a blind person who cannot read the newspaper, unless I have access to it by telephone or possibly my computer. I find that newspaper articles often provide more depth than television sound bytes. I use the Newsline service almost every day, although our local paper is not currently providing their content to this service.

In this election year I especially want to be able to be well-informed as I consider the serious choices and decisions that face all of us.

I know that the budget is very tight, but please don't drop our access to basic news information. Imagine what your life would be like, if you could not read newspapers, magazines, television listings, and other current printed information.

Respectfully,

Ann Lemke, Ph.D.
47-375 Hui Iwa
Apt. A
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Phone: 232-4040 work: 235-7448

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2012 9:07 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: mota1252@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2435 on 2/14/2012 1:25:00 PM

Testimony for HMS 2/14/2012 1:25:00 PM SB2435

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Milton Ota
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mota1252@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/12/2012

Comments:

My name is Milton Ota and I am a member of the National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii, and I am the NFB-Newsline Sponsor. I'm coming to you in support of SB2435 and ask that you pass this bill. For me having a service like Newsline allows me to read the Obituary from the Star-Advertiser, keep up with technology by accessing PC World a computer magazine, and read about diabetes to care for my health.

Newsline offers me the convenience of doing this anytime of the day by either using the Internet or telephone. I also get some of the publications from Newsline via e-mail which is nice, too.

As the Newsline sponsor, I get calls from our users telling me how much they like the service.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

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From: Charlene Ota [caota@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2012 7:44 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: Testimony for SB2435 Relating to Information Access

Honorable Human Services Committee Members:

I want to stand in support of SB2435 Relating to Information Access.

For those of us who for whatever reason are unable to read regular printed material, it is a reliable and timely source of current newspapers, magazines and TV schedules that you probably take for granted in your everyday life. There is really no other simple and efficient way for us to read our local newspaper as well as access many other newspapers from around the country.

Thank you for your support of SB2435 and for providing timely access to current news for people with disabilities who for whatever reason cannot read regular printed materials. Don't shut us out from access to media that you may take for granted that you use in your everyday life.

Respectfully Submitted,
Charlene Ota

LATE

From: Charlene Ota [caota@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2012 7:44 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: Testimony for SB2435 Relating to Information Access

Categories: Red Category

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Respectfully Submitted,
Charlene Ota