



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

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

February 28, 2012

**MEMORANDUM:**

TO: The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 2435 - RELATING TO INFORMATION ACCESS**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 28, 2012, 9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 211, 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 Newline service. Print disabled clients include, but are not limited to, clients who have blindness and visual impairments; dyslexia; or have learning disabilities. The Newline 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

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

Access to the Newslines 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.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [mota1252@gmail.com](mailto:mota1252@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2435 on 2/28/2012 9:00:00 AM  
**Date:** Sunday, February 26, 2012 3:00:55 PM

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Testimony for WAM 2/28/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2435

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Milton Ota  
Organization: National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii  
E-mail: [mota1252@gmail.com](mailto:mota1252@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/26/2012

Comments:

My name is Milton Ota, a member of the National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii and the NFB-NEWSLINE Sponsor Representative for the organization of the NFB of Hawaii. I'm a regular user of the NFB-NEWSLINE service and receive my daily news via e-mail. Having my daily news of the Wall Street Journal and the Star-Advertiser helps me to keep up with current events in the area of technology, financial picture and get a more indepth coverage. I also frequently check the local television schedule and weekly Target ads.

I urge this committee to pass this bill SB2435 so that I and many others that take advantage of the service can enjoy the same information as everyone else.

Thank you for taking the time to read this short testimony.