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**From:** Kyle Laconsay [hearkylaugh@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 23, 2011 6:27 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Support for SB893, SD1

L A T E

To: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Water and Means (WAM)

From: Kyle Sabrina Laconsay  
National Federation of the Blind, Hawaii  
Affiliate Treasurer  
Honolulu Chapter, President

Dear Senator David Y. Ige,

My name is Kyle Sabrina Laconsay, and I serve both on the affiliate board, as treasurer, and on the Honolulu chapter board, as president of the National Federation of the Blind, Hawaii. I am writing in regards to SB893 and to express my support of "Newsline."

I am, what I call, "half-blind." I have NO sight in my right eye and LITTLE sight in my left. Because my cup is only "half" full, I never take life or ANYTHING for granted.

I can actually pick up a newspaper and "read" it with my LARGE magnifier. But, THAT easy, normal, day-to-day effort, again, I don't take for granted. My friends that are completely blind who cannot see, do NOT have that option...THEY NEED NEWSLINE! Sure, they can LISTEN to a television newscast, but I KNOW, having a Bachelor of Arts Degree in broadcasting, "newsprint" is different. Print writers have to "paint a picture" in your mind, because they are trained to WRITE that way. In television, the dialogue assumes you are "watching" and therefore, does not provide a complete description of the news. Blind people, or anyone who are unable to read "print," should be entitled to print media and to deprive them from it, is a tragedy!

Please Senator Ige, we ask for your help to keep Newsline available to those who want it, who need it and rely on it! We should have the same kind of conveniences and services as do the general public. Picking up our phone to listen to "Newsline" should be as accessible to a blind person as picking up a newspaper is to a sighted person. The only difference is, we will never take it for granted!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Kyle S. Laconsay

**Senator David Ige and committee members**

**State Capitol**

**Honolulu, Hawaii**

**February 23, 2011**

**SB 893,SD1,SSCR 378**

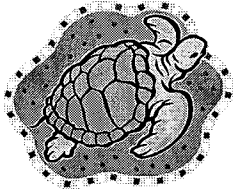
**My name is Nani Fife, National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii (NFBH) and I am in support of SSCR 378. As a blind person and resident of Hawaii it is so important to be able to access real time information in our daily lives and as independent consumers of Hawaii.**

**I understand there is a slight change in the committee report and I truly appreciate all the efforts that have been made to support SB 893, SD1, SSCR 378.**

**“Newsline” service has demonstrated what it means to be an independent blind person in this visual world we live in and how we are able to be successful blind individuals.**

**Please I sincerely ask for your support in passing SB 893, SD1, SSCR378.**

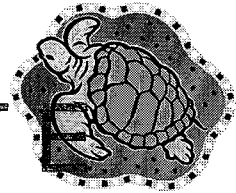
**Best Regards, Nani Fife**



**Francine Mae Aona Kenyon**

*dba Kuli Ike Kokua  
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Honolulu, HI 96816  
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**L A T E**



**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

**Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice-Chair**

**Thursday, February 24, 2011 at 9:00 am in Conference Room 211**

**SENATE BILL NO. 893, SENATE DRAFT 1,  
RELATING TO INFORMATION ACCESS**

Aloha, my name is Francine Mae Aona Kenyon. I am an active, strong Deaf advocate for the civil rights of people who are deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind in the State of Hawaii with many hats. I have been testifying for 20 years on various bills

I firmly support my comments for Senate Bill No. 893, Senate Draft 1, Relating to Information Access that directs 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 and makes appropriation because DHS is an appropriate department to provide such service to those who are blind and visually impaired to have telephone-based service to provide access to timely print media and seeks the appropriate service provider through the DHS special fund if available.

I have great confidence in you. I strongly recommend you pass Senate Bill No. 893 with the amendments proposed by DCAB and Vocational Rehabilitation.

Mahalo.

Sincerely,

Francine Mae Aona Kenyon  
Deaf Advocate