



LATE

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March 2, 2013

TESTIMONY

House Bill 1430, HD1 – Relating to Human Services

Description: Establish and operate a comprehensive service center for deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind individuals

My name is Sue Sugimura. I have been a librarian at the Hawaii Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH) since 1975. During this time, I worked with not only the blind, but the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing. My involvement with the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing was as an employee at the library and as an individual with a special interest for 30 years.

I worked very closely with Georgia Morikawa, advocate for the deaf. A Task Force on Library Services for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing was established at LBPH. Georgia was the chair until she passed away in 2001. The purpose of the Task Force was to help LBPH and the Hawaii State Public Library System provide services to this population and to promote Deaf awareness. In addition, as a member of the Aloha State Association of the Deaf (ASAD), I served on the Board and assisted whenever I could with many of the activities throughout the Deaf community.

During my association with Georgia, it was her dream to establish a Deaf Community Center. Unfortunately, she passed away before this dream became a reality.

Over the years that I worked with the Deaf, the ASAD office was moved several times. The office was a place where meetings could be held, activities planned and a place where the Deaf could also socialize. The last office was shared with another organization. Space was limited...it was difficult for the Deaf to meet there.

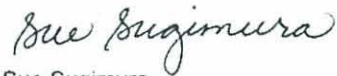
A Comprehensive Center for Services for the Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing and Deaf-Blind would allow for services and professionals such as vocational, adjustment educational and financial specialists, counselors, audiologists, etc. to be located in one centralized area. Social aspects and learning about Deaf culture and heritage

AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

would also be important aspects of this comprehensive center. These resources would empower the Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing and Deaf-Blind and help them to lead more productive, independent and fulfilling lives. Interpreter services would also be readily available so that communication would not be a problem. Having this support would be very beneficial to not only the above groups, but their families and friends as well.

I fully support the establishment of the Comprehensive Center for the Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing and Deaf-Blind to provide statewide services to the Deaf community. It would be a truly wonderful outcome to see Georgia's dream finally become a reality...she was a remarkable woman who was (and still is) so admired and respected for her dedication and commitment to the Deaf community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sue Sugimura".

Sue Sugimura
Acting Branch Manager



LATE

To: Chair Chun Oakland
Vice Chair Green
Members of the Committee on Human Services

Fr: Nanci Kreidman, M.A.

RE: HB 1430, HD2

Good afternoon. Thank you for allowing us this opportunity to raise an issue that has been long overlooked in relation to the establishment of a comprehensive service center for deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind individuals.

There is a disproportionately high incidence of abuse and sexual violence perpetrated against people with disabilities that has not been adequately addressed in our community. The vulnerabilities that characterize the reality of persons with disability create increased opportunities for victimization. And our response system and community programs have been insufficiently equipped to meet their unique needs.

With the development of the service center, may we respectfully suggest that program design, client services and staff training include an effort to focus on the abuse and trauma that is not uncommon for people with disabilities.

The expertise that our staff possess and the experiences we have had serving the broad community has provided insight and strengthened our resolve to make certain that all those suffering victimization have the opportunity to live in safety. We would be happy to make ourselves available as a resource in consideration of program development and design.

Thank you.

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 2:46 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: kananisouza@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1430 on Mar 14, 2013 13:00PM

HB1430

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for HMS on Mar 14, 2013 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kanani Souza	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB1430, because this will establish a service center for Hawaii's deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind residents. This center is needed and will serve a large number of Hawaii residents with services which will allow them greater educational and employment opportunities.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 4:48 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: info@schha.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1430 on Mar 14, 2013 13:00PM*

HB1430

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for HMS on Mar 14, 2013 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
annie au hoon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 10:02 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: foxhawaii2010@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1430 on Mar 14, 2013 13:00PM

HB1430

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for HMS on Mar 14, 2013 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sandra Sims	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I stand in strong support of HB1430 to appropriate funds for the establishment of a comprehensive service center for the deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf and blind individuals. This service center will allow such members the ability to become self-reliant. Moreover, it allows these individuals greater access to education and job opportunities.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2013 5:15 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: damizu@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1430 on Mar 14, 2013 13:00PM

HB1430

Submitted on: 3/14/2013

Testimony for HMS on Mar 14, 2013 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cheryl Mizusawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I, Cheryl Mizusawa, am a private citizen, distributor for the Better Body System, and leadership for Senior Citizen for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. I learned that Dept of Vocational Rehabilitation will end its contract for Interpreter Referral Services with the state on June 30, 2013 and will not be renewed! I use the interpreting service for many years and have requested interpreters for my training business, during my stay in the hospital for the surgery since no one in my family would interpreted for me. If these services end I will not have the effective, efficient communication access I need and will not fully participate independently as contributing citizen in the General Community. I'm writing this to request \$500,000 for the fiscal year 2013-2014 and \$400,000.00 for the fiscal year 2014-2015 for the Comprehensive Deaf Service to provide the statewide services that will help deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind clients seek for the housing, improve their independent living skills, and enhance communication access such as American Sign Language (ASL), advocate for their civil rights, and many other services that they desperately need.. Please add the Interpreter Referral Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in the CSC bill. The service is very essential for the Deaf Community to have full communication access. Thank you for allowing me to testify on behalf of the Deaf Community. I strongly urge to have this important bill be passed out of the committee.

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LATE

**SENATOR SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, CHAIR
SENATOR JOSH GREEN, VICE-CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1430, HOUSE DRAFT 2, RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES

**THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2013 AT 1:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 016**

Aloha, Chair Chun Oakland, Vice-Chair Green, members of Senate Committee on Human Services and friends,

My name is Francine Mae Aona Kenyon and am representing the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Advisory Board (DHHAB) as the chair of Comprehensive Deaf Center (CDC)/Comprehensive Service Center (CSC) Ad Hoc Committee and Legislative Committee.

DHHAB was established in 1980 by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and is comprised of nine (9) deaf and hard of hearing members including four (4) from the neighboring islands who are either current/former VR consumers or doing the business for the Deaf community; parent of deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind child; two (2) special education teachers; and non-voting Vocational Rehabilitation staff and administrator. The purpose of the DHHAB is to oversee the effectiveness and efficiency of the services provided by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

On behalf of DHHAB, we strongly testify in support of House Bill No. 1430, House Draft 2, Relating to Human Services, which appropriates monies to establish and operate a comprehensive service center because of our top priorities as follows: 1) communication access; 2) information and referral service/outreach and 3) development of a centralized, coordinated and comprehensive center for improved access to services.

Based on four (4) studies, our mission is to provide a centralized, coordinated, and comprehensive service center to enable people who are deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind and their families to expand access to knowledge and communication through support, empowerment, education and enhancement of self-sufficiency.

Therefore, we seek for the additional funds from the state that would provide services at the CSC for non-DVR consumers or for non-employment related services for DVR consumers, incurring \$500,000.00 for the fiscal year 2013-2014 and \$400,000.00 for the fiscal year 2014-2015. The target population for the CSC are about 10% of 260,000 people who are deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind, according to the 2012 Disability Statistics Compendium in the State of Hawaii.

In addition to supporting the CSC, please appropriate monies for an Interpreter Referral Services and Independent Living Skills for Deaf which are losing VR funding as of July 1, 2013.

Again, we firmly urge you to passing the House Bill No. 1430, House Draft 2 to have the Comprehensive Service Center be established and operated with additional funding for two service providers to serve the entire Deaf community in the state.

Thank you very much for your support of this important bill on behalf of the Deaf community.

Sincerely,



Francine Mae Aona Kenyon
Chair of CDC/CSC & Legislative Committee
Deaf & Hard of Hearing Advisory Board



Lisa Ann Tom
Chair
Deaf & Hard of Hearing Advisory Board