

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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

March 25, 2013

MEMORANDUM:

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

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 1430, H.D. 2, S.D. 1 – RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES**

Hearing: Monday, March 25, 2013, 9:10 a.m.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds to the Department of Human Services for the establishment and operation of a Comprehensive Service Center for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind Persons.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of H.B. 1430, H.D.2, S.D. 1. We ask that if this appropriation is approved that it does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Biennium Budget.

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) formerly known as the Vocational Rehabilitation and Services for the Blind Division of the DHS has worked closely with the deaf community throughout the years to establish a Comprehensive Service Center (CSC) for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind and is committed to assist in the funding of vocational rehabilitation activities within the center.

The DVR does not have sufficient funds to support non-vocational rehabilitation related activities under the proposed center. The DVR is unable to support any further funding beyond the Governor's proposed budget if such additional funding will affect current priorities within the Governor's Executive Biennium Budget.

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



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND & PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED
402 KAPAHULU AVENUE, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96815
Phone: (808) 733-8444 V/T; Fax: (808) 733-8449
E-mail: olbcirc@librarieshawaii.org

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.

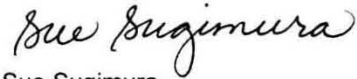
A Comprehensive Center for Services for the Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing and Deaf-Blind would allow for services and professionals such as vocational, adjustment educational and financial specialists, counselors, audiologists, etc. to be located in one centralized area. Social aspects and learning about Deaf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



Community Alliance for Mental Health

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To: The State of Hawai'i State Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Re: HB 1430,HD2, SD1

To: The Honorable Senator Ige and the members of the committee.

Aloha,

The Community Alliance for Mental Health along with United Self Help strongly supports HB 1430, HD 2, SD1. We feel that this bill will allow for the necessary strengthening of services for our State's most vulnerable population.

Mahalo,
Scott Wall
Vice-President

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: damizu@me.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1430 on Mar 25, 2013 09:10AM
Date: Friday, March 22, 2013 5:19:23 PM

HB1430

Submitted on: 3/22/2013

Testimony for WAM on Mar 25, 2013 09:10AM in Conference Room 211

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 commuication access I need and will not fully participate independently as contributing citizen in the General Community. 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.

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
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: archerygal001@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1430 on Mar 25, 2013 09:10AM
Date: Monday, March 25, 2013 8:26:40 AM

HB1430
 Submitted on: 3/25/2013
 Testimony for WAM on Mar 25, 2013 09:10AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
FRANCINE KENYON		Comments Only	Yes

Comments: As a member and CSC/CDC/Leg chair, I am to inform that Deaf and Hard of Hearing Advisory Board of Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, not a governor-appointed board, has the majority vote to propose \$500,000.00 state funding for FY 2013-2014 and \$4,000.00 state funding for FY 2014-2015 prior to the hearing with the Human Services. This will help expand more services and programs in short-term and long-term plans, including alerting and assistive devices as dmonstration for deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind & emergency interpreting services not contracted by DVR.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: clearaccessinterpreting@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1430 on Mar 25, 2013 09:10AM
Date: Saturday, March 23, 2013 2:23:33 PM

HB1430

Submitted on: 3/23/2013

Testimony for WAM on Mar 25, 2013 09:10AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mala Arkin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support the appropriation of funds to establish and operate a comprehensive service center for deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind individuals.
Mahalo, Mala Arkin

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Neil Okuna
2750A Lowrey Ave.
Honolulu, HI 96822
nnokuna@gmail.com

To: Senate Ways and Means Committee
Re: HB1430, HD2, SD1 hearing March 25, 2013, 9:10 a.m.
Testimony in support of HB1430 (1 pg.)

Aloha Chair Ige, Vice-Chair Kidani and members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of funding the Comprehensive Service Center for the Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing and Deaf-Blind in Hawaii. Having previously submitted written testimony in support of HB1430 to the Health and Human Services Committee, I am gratified to see that the bill has made it as far as it has and have great hopes that the bill will become law. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to make a suggestion for a vital function that the Center could provide.

I have seen many worthwhile suggestions in previously submitted testimony on what the Center should contain to serve the Deaf community. I applaud the considerable amount of support that has already been demonstrated by the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard-of-hearing community for this bill. I would like to add the non-Deaf family members of the targeted community to the list of persons receiving services.

Statistics show that approximately 90% of deaf children are born to hearing parents. Quite often, there is no one else in the family who is deaf. While this appears to be just an interesting bit of trivia, the real significance is in the interaction, or more correctly, the lack of interaction between the hearing family and the deaf child. If the family does not know how to sign, they will not be able to communicate with their deaf child. Efforts need to be made to provide access to sign language classes for all family members of deaf children.

A tremendous amount of knowledge is gained through incidental learning. Children are socialized simply hearing their parents and siblings discuss things over the dinner table, in the car, on walks, etc. If the family does not sign around and with the deaf child, the child may not have functional language until pre-school, at which point a tremendous opportunity for learning has been lost. Children with limited language exposure will have a much harder time in school and in life.

As a special licensed foster parent of deaf children and the spouse of a sign language interpreter, I have seen the results of children not having early language and not having bonded with their parents. They felt isolated and often confused about what was going on in their home lives.

I would like to see sign language classes for all parents and siblings of deaf children become a part of the Comprehensive Service Center. The classes should begin as soon as it is ascertained that their child is deaf or hard-of-hearing. Children as young as six-months old are able to sign for themselves, and I believe that it is vital for the child's wellbeing that all in the family are able to sign. I believe these efforts in early childhood will pay great dividends when the deaf child becomes an adult.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

TESTIMONY OF
RODERICK J. MACDONALD

SUBMITTED TO
THE HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE
HAWAII STATE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SENATOR DAVID Y. IGE, CHAIR

RELATING TO HB 1430, HD2, SD1
"MAKING A GRANT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT
AND OPERATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE CENTER."

MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2013
9:10 AM, CONFERENCE ROOM 211
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL

Good morning. My name is Rod Macdonald. I am both deaf and blind, and am a consumer of the services the Comprehensive Service Center is to provide.

The Comprehensive Service Center will, among other things, provide services specifically designed to assist people who are deaf-blind, as I am. To the best of my knowledge and belief, Hawaii has NEVER passed legislation specifically designed to serve deaf-blind adults.

I have submitted testimony in support of this legislation several times, so I will try not to repeat myself here. I'll just repeat myself to say this: the deaf, hard-of-hearing and deaf-blind people of Hawaii have been waiting for this Center for more than a quarter century; the services to be provided are urgently needed; and we are looking to you to make this dream come true.

Thank you.