

# **HB 1430, HD2**

Measure Title: RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES.

Report Title: Comprehensive Service Center; Appropriation (\$)

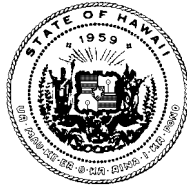
Description: Appropriates funds to establish and operate a comprehensive service center for deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind individuals. Effective July 1, 2030. (HB1430 HD2)

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: HMS, WAM

Introducer(s): MIZUNO, CARROLL, HANOHANO



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

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

March 14, 2013

**MEMORANDUM:**

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

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

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

Hearing: Thursday, March 14, 2013, 1:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

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

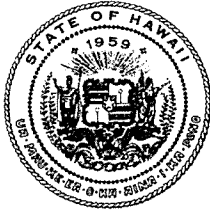
**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) formerly known as the Vocational Rehabilitation and Services for the Blind Division of the Department of Human Services supports the intent of H.B. 1430, H.D. 2. We ask that if this appropriation is approved that it does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Biennium Budget.

The DHS is unclear as to why there are two appropriation sections (Sections 2 and 3) for the operational costs of the Comprehensive Service Center.

The DVR 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 proposed budget.

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



## DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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

March 14, 2013

### TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

#### House Bill 1430, HD2 – Relating to Human Services

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports the intent of House Bill 1430, HD2 – Relating to Human Services. This bill appropriates an unspecified amount for each year of the biennium budget to the Department of Human Services to establish and operate a comprehensive service center for people who are deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind.

The Department of Human Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) is in the process of establishing a comprehensive service center for DVR clients. The center will offer a variety of classes to promote individual growth, social awareness and productivity. Members of the deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind community who are not DVR clients would not be able to participate in center services. An appropriation from the general fund will allow the center to offer services to both DVR and non-DVR clients.

DCAB defers to the Department of Human Services and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Advisory Board regarding the amount of an appropriation necessary for a comprehensive service center for individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

BARBARA FISCHLOWITZ-LEONG  
Chairperson

FRANCINE WAI  
Executive Director



# Community Alliance for Mental Health

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To: The State of Hawai'i State Senate Committee on Human Services  
Re: HB 1430 HD2

To: The Honorable Representative Luke and the members of the committee.

Aloha,

The Community Alliance for Mental Health along with United Self Help strongly supports HB 1430 HD 2. 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](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HMS Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [alangarcia999@yahoo.com](mailto:alangarcia999@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1430 on Mar 14, 2013 13:00PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 13, 2013 1:25:16 PM

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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
Alan Garcia	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB1430, because this measure will establish a comprehensive service center for the deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf and blind individuals. This type of service center is long overdue and this measure will allow our residents the ability to become more independant.

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](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
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**Cc:** [heather.interpreter@gmail.com](mailto:heather.interpreter@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1430 on Mar 14, 2013 13:00PM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 12, 2013 3:06:02 PM

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HB1430

Submitted on: 3/12/2013

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Heather Benjamin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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I fully support HB1430 & SB 148. The Comprehensive Service Center, (CSC). Having a central place where Deaf people can go to meet their needs is very important to their physical, emotional and social needs. Deaf people like hearing people love to interact with each other. Deaf people live in varies placed throughout the island. They don't get to socialize with each other on a daily basis like hearing people do. When there is a center that brings them together to have their needs met will be very healthy for them. They will develop more social awareness of what is going on around them and in the world. It will allow them to become more educated and more empowered.

As a child of Deaf parents, when my father passed away my mother felt very alone. After my dad's passing, my mother decided to move away. She moved to a bigger city in hopes to interact with more Deaf people. My mother was not use to driving in a city where there was a lot of traffic; therefore she was not able to get out and socialize as much as she wanted. Like Hawaii Deaf people in Utah, where my mom lived did not live near each other so that made it even harder for her. If there was a central place where she could go I truly believe she would have been so much happier. As it turned out because she so lonely and sad, and isolated in her apt she moved again. Later when she had to move into a nursing home the one thing she feared most was not being able to communicate with the staff and other people around her. She was scared and did not want to live there. Again had there had been a comprehensive service center that would service a lot of her needs she would not have had to face those fears alone. In these two examples shows how she felt isolated and alone. She was not as productive as she could have been in her later years. As we all grow older it is so important that we keep our minds active and continue learning so that we don't have certain health issues. Having a CSC will continue promote individual growth and learning and autonomy.

Having a CSC is a great place where mentoring can happen as well. Young Deaf socializing with older Deaf is critical. It is always good to have someone to look up to. Older Deaf people can teach younger Deaf youth how they can empower themselves and become more independent. The history and language of the Deaf culture is so very rich and beautiful. That will continue to be passed down from generation to generation while many people enjoy the CSC throughout the years to come.

Having a CSC will be a great way to empower the Deaf. There are many capable and willing Deaf people who would love to work and even volunteer there at this center. I fully support this bill and **know** that it will be a benefit to all Deaf involved.

Keri Lee  
ASL Interpreter



TESTIMONY OF  
RODERICK J. MACDONALD

SUBMITTED TO  
THE HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE  
HAWAII STATE SENATE  
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
SENATOR SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, CHAIR

RELATING TO HB 1430, HD2  
“RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES”

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2013  
1:00 p.m, CONFERENCE ROOM 016  
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL

Good afternoon, my name is Rod Macdonald. Since I provided testimony in support of this legislation at an earlier hearing, I would like to focus on three specific areas today: (1) the population that would benefit from the establishment of a Comprehensive Service Center; (2) what types of services might be provided; and (3) dollar amounts needed.

According to the Gallaudet University website, between 9% and 14% of the population in the United States has a significant hearing loss. Applying that estimate to Hawaii would result in roughly 110,000-170,000 people in Hawaii having a significant hearing loss. Additionally, the Helen Keller National Center estimates that 1.2 million Americans have a significant loss of both vision and hearing, and if we apply that estimate to Hawaii there should be around 4,800 deaf-blind people here. Most of these folks are seniors who likely are not candidates for employment or will need pre-employment training; a large percentage will have issues learning the English language; and so it goes. These are the folks the Center will try to help.

Basic language and math skills will be taught by the Center, as well as a variety of basic skills to prepare the individual for employment, higher education and to take part in community life.

A simple example in my case: You folks all use a cell phone, but I can't because I can't hear it. A cell phone can be used to send text messages, but I can't use that either because I can't read the screen. But technology is catching up: it is possible to couple a cell phone wirelessly with a compatible Braille display, and, yes, I can use that ... but who is going to teach me how? It is a non-standard application of standard equipment, and I would hope that the Center could teach me this skill.

Finally there is the issue of funding. The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation has said that they have \$300,000 that can be used for the CSC, but an additional \$300,000 is sought through this legislation. However, two other programs – Interpreter Referral and Independent Living training, both intended to benefit the exact same population – lost funding when it was discovered that Federal dollars could not be used for these purposes. Now it is hoped that these two projects, awarded via contract, can also be funded through this CSC legislation - \$80,000 for Interpreter Referral and \$100,000 for Independent Living. This makes it a total of \$480,000 sought through this legislation, to be added to the \$300,000 held by DVR, for a total project budget of \$780,000 for the first year, July 1 2013-June 30, 2014.

The Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing and Deaf-Blind people of Hawaii have been dreaming of the establishment of this Center for some 25 years. Now we are looking to you to make this dream come true. Thank you for your support of this legislation.