



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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

February 5, 2013

MEMORANDUM:

TO: The Honorable Mele Carroll, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 624 – MAKING A GRANT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND
OPERATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE CENTER**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 5, 2013; 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds to the Department of Human Services as a grant for the establishment and operation of a Comprehensive Service Center for deaf, hard-of-hearing, and deaf-blind individuals in Hawaii.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) formerly known as the Vocational Rehabilitation and Services to the Blind Division of the Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of H.B. 624. We ask that if this bill is passed that it does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Biennium Budget.

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 submit testimony to this Committee.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE, 2013**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 624, RELATING TO MAKING A GRANT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE DEAF CENTER.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

DATE: Tuesday, February 5, 2013 **TIME:** 9:30 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 329

TESTIFIER(S): David M. Louie, Attorney General, or
Candace J. Park, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Carroll and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments on this bill, the purpose of which is to provide grants for the establishment and operation of a comprehensive service center for the deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind community.

Sections 2 and 3 of this bill propose that grants be made pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), for the establishment and operation of a comprehensive service center, but do not specify the intended recipients of the grants. This poses a potential constitutional problem.

Article VII, section 4, of the State Constitution provides in part: "No grant of public money or property shall be made except pursuant to standards provided by law." Chapter 42F, HRS, provides the standards for grants made by the Legislature; "grant" is defined in section 42F-101 as "an award of state funds by the legislature, by an appropriation to a specified recipient, to support the activities of the recipient and permit the community to benefit from those activities."

In order to avoid the potential constitutional concern, we respectfully request that the Committee amend the bill by specifying the intended recipients of the grants.



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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February 5, 2013

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

House Bill 624 – Making a Grant for the Establishment and Operation of a Comprehensive Deaf Center

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports the intent of House Bill 624 - Making a Grant for the Establishment and Operation of a Comprehensive Deaf Center. This bill appropriates \$449,700 for fiscal year 2013-2014 and \$353,700 for fiscal year 2014-2015 to the Department of Human Services as a grant to establish and operate a comprehensive deaf 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 clients of DVR. 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 clients of DVR would not be able to participate in center services. An appropriation from the general fund will allow the center to offer services to non-DVR clients. House Bill 637, a similar measure is also being heard this morning at 11:00 a.m. in the joint Committees on Human Services and Health. Both bills may not be necessary.

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, as well as which bill they prefer to have passed out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

BARBARA FISCHLOWITZ-LEONG
Chairperson

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director

kobayashi1-Joni

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 2:26 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: archerygal001@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB624 on Feb 5, 2013 09:30AM

Categories: Maroon

HB624

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for HUS on Feb 5, 2013 09:30AM in Conference Room 329

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

Comments: HB 624 is similar to HB637 to be deferred to 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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