

SB 148 SD 1

Measure Title: RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES.
Report Title: Comprehensive Service Center; Appropriation (\$)
Description: Appropriates moneys to establish and operate a comprehensive service center for the deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind. (SD1)
Companion:
Package: None
Current Referral: HMS, WAM
Introducer(s): GALUTERIA



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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

February 14, 2013

MEMORANDUM:

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

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 148, S.D. 1 – REALTING TO HUMAN SERVICES**

Hearing: Thursday, February 14, 2013 , 1:45 p.m.
Conference Room 016, 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 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** and purpose of S.B. 148, 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 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 our testimony to this Committee.

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

SENATE BILL NO. 148, SENATE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2013 AT 1:45 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 016**

Aloha, Chair Chun Oakland, Vice-Chair Green, members of 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, 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. 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 Senate Bill No. 148, Senate Draft 1 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

To: Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Colleen Cidade-Matusof
colleenaloha@signsofself.com
Text Message: 808-442-6434

Hearing: February 14, 2013, 1:45 p.m., Conference Room 016

Re: SB148 SD1, Relating to Human Services: Appropriates moneys to establish and operate a comprehensive service center for the deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind.

Aloha, my name is Colleen Cidade Matusof, I am a Deaf as single mother of my hearing two sons, Independent Living Specialist at Signs of Self, Educator, Leader as advocate, and Read Aloud to Deaf Keiki. I testify in 100 percent support of **Senate Bill No. 148 – RELATION TO HUMAN SERVICE: Appropriates moneys to establish and operate a comprehensive service center for deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind individuals.**

- **ONE language - communicate access**
- **ONE culture - cherished histories**
- **ONE unite - our empowerment**
- **ONE community - our second home as socialize**

Our language, our community, our unite, and our cultures are very important for our people who live as second home because we do communicate access as we need, do for fight our rights as empowerment, and don't want us break up – left behind on us. Please support this **Senate Bill No.148** and very strong support this bill. Are we worthless or do we have worth as our people?

Again, I firmly urge you to **supporting** the **SENATE BILL No.148**: Appropriates funds to establish and operate a comprehensive service center for deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind individuals to for our future so we can all use their services more! Again, please **No Deaf Community Left Behind!**

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

Sincerely,

Colleen Cidade Matusof
1481 South King St. #541
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

From: [Billy](#)
To: [HMS Testimony](#)
Subject: sb148, february 14 at 1:45 pm
Date: Wednesday, February 13, 2013 12:51:24 PM

Dear Chair Suzanne Chun-Oakland and committee members,

My name is Billy Kekua and currently serving as the president for Aloha State Association of the Deaf (ASAD). We have worked hard to ensure that our goal to establish a center for the Deaf since 1972. It has been a long time for us to push for it to happen and I ask of you members to help us to complete our goal.

More and more of our beloved Deaf members are becoming the important part of the community as senior citizens. We need a center that provides the service for our older Deaf people. They eventually will need our help to ensure that they live in a comfortable environment where the language is available.

Also we have many young members who needs our wisdom, leadership, and guidance thus the need of a continuing education program. We can provide the service for them to improve their literacy skills, independent living skills, occupational skills, and many more.

Our language is the number one priority for our daily needs. I believe that the center should be open and transparent where Deaf people can feel safe and comfortable to use the services through American Sign Language. I cannot stress enough how important for this to happen since we worked hard for 41 years.

In addition to **supporting** the CSC, please appropriate monies for an Interpreter Referral Service which is losing funding form VR as of July 1, 2013.

ASAD and I respectfully urge you committee members to help us and set up the center together. I would like to give you my appreciation for your hard work for us.

Malama pono,
Billy Kekua
ASAD President

Aloha Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair, Senator Josh Green, Vice-Chair, and committee members of Senate Committee on Human Services:

Hello my name is Albert Marsh and I am deaf and currently stationed on Oahu.

I **strongly support** in intent of Senate Bill 148, Senate Draft 1, Relating to Human Services that establishes and operates a comprehensive service center for deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind.

I would like to share my experience as a deaf person who has had the opportunity to travel to different countries. I was previously stationed in Germany where I have seen the German version of comprehensive service center for deaf and hard of hearing. At their center, there are several service organizations in a central location where deaf people go to receive assistance effectively without any barriers or other unnecessary bureaucracy with multiple service organizations in different locations. With one central location, it promotes for further collaboration among multiple organizations that has the deaf person's best interests and will expedite the inter-agency communication among the organizations. I urge you to support the Comprehensive Services Center, interpreter referral service, and independent living service for the people of Hawaii.

In addition, please add Interpreter Referral Service and Independent Living Service in the CSC bill.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of SB148, SD1, and I hope you will support the Comprehensive Services Center, the interpreter referral services, and independent living services.

Sincerely,
Albert Marsh
92-831 Makakilo Dr #29
Kapolei, HI 96707

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| arnold tellez | Individual | Support | No |

I Arnold D. Tellez, support appropriating funds to help an underserved population like the deaf, and blind. More resources are needed to help this population. Please support this bill.

Aloha Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair, Senator Josh Green, Vice-Chair, and committee members of Senate Committee on Human Services:

My name is Cathie Collier and I am a teacher at Hawaii School for the Deaf and the Blind (HSDB).

I **strongly support** Senate Bill 148, Senate Draft 1, Relating to Human Services that establishes and operates a Comprehensive Services Center for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf Blind individuals

Every year I have had the privilege of teaching the Personal Transition Planning course, working with our senior class students and preparing them as they transition to adult life.

I have found that most of these students do not have parents/family that fully understand them or have the ability to communicate with their deaf child on issues which are essential for a healthy independent life. This is why I wholeheartedly support HB1430 the Comprehensive Services Center (CSC) for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf Blind individuals. Having several service organizations in a central location would make receiving assistance very effective. There would not be any barriers or other unnecessary bureaucracy that deaf people are faced with when multiple service organizations are in different locations. Having a centralized location, promotes further collaboration among multiple organizations that supports the deaf person's best interests, and will expedite the inter-agency communication among the organizations.

In addition, please allocate monies for Interpreter Referral Services and Independent Living Skills in the CSC bill.

Thank you for allowing me to testify. I urge you to pass SB148, SD1 for the Comprehensive Services Center.

Sincerely,

Cathie Collier

99-943 Halawa Heights Rd., Aiea, HI 96701

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HMS Testimony](#)
Cc: ckcidade2@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB148 on Feb 14, 2013 13:45PM*
Date: Wednesday, February 13, 2013 1:55:13 PM

SB148

Submitted on: 2/13/2013

Testimony for HMS on Feb 14, 2013 13:45PM in Conference Room 016

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| ckc | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

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Aloha Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair, Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair, and committee members of Senate Committee on Human Services:

I **strongly support** Senate Bill 148, Senate Draft 1, Relating to Human Services that establishes and operates a Comprehensive Services Center.

My name is Lokene Lindsey and I am a senior at Hawaii School for the Deaf and the Blind. I am aware of the importance of my education and I have always tried my best to learn all I can, however to be as successful as possible I need the services of a sign language interpreter to help me understand the words of people who do not sign. There are a lot of important things that I would like to contribute to our community, but without an interpreter my words will not be understood by people who do not know my language.

I know that I will need a variety of services as I begin college life and start on my career path, and that's why I support the Comprehensive Services Center along with interpreter referral service and independent living services. I would like for all deaf people to have the opportunity to access needed services and not experience negative consequences due to a lack of services.

Thank you for allowing me to testify. I urge you to pass SB148, SD1 on behalf of the students at Hawaii School for the Deaf and the Blind.

Sincerely,

Lokene Lindsey
91-995 Piliokahe Place, Ewa Beach, HI 96706

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HMS Testimony](#)
Cc: olindaaiwohi@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB148 on Feb 14, 2013 13:45PM*
Date: Monday, February 11, 2013 10:17:39 PM

SB148

Submitted on: 2/11/2013

Testimony for HMS on Feb 14, 2013 13:45PM in Conference Room 016

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Olinda Aiwohi | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

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Aloha Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair, Senator Josh Green, Vice-Chair, and committee members of Senate Committee on Human Services:

Hello my name is Ralph Collier and I am a deaf father of 4 hearing children. I am an alumnus of Hawaii School for the Deaf and the Blind (HSDB), and the assistant chairperson for the 100th Anniversary of the Hawaii School for the Deaf and the Blind Committee. In 2014 HSDB will celebrate its 100th Anniversary, and we are planning a large celebration with many alumni returning to Hawaii to participate in this event. Our committees are looking forward to offering the alumni the opportunity to visit Hawaii's many attractions. However upon hearing that funding for the interpreter referral services will soon run out, I am very concerned that our deaf alumni and their families may be let down by our possibly deficient interpreter referral services and miss out on enjoying our historic places.

I **strongly support** in intent of Senate Bill 148, Senate Draft 1, Relating to Human Services, that establishes and operates a comprehensive service center for deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind. Please add two important service providers, Interpreter Referral Services and Independent Living Skills, with moneys in addition.

Thank you for allowing me to testify. In behalf of deaf parents and HSDB alumni, I urge you to pass SB148 in support of the Comprehensive Services Center, the interpreter referral services, and independent living services.

Sincerely,
Ralph Collier
99-943 Halawa Heights Rd., Aiea, HI 96701

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HMS Testimony](#)
Cc: natividadrg@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB148 on Feb 14, 2013 13:45PM
Date: Wednesday, February 13, 2013 11:38:02 AM

SB148

Submitted on: 2/13/2013

Testimony for HMS on Feb 14, 2013 13:45PM in Conference Room 016

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Renante Natividad | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: I strongly support SB 148. Without this support for our comprehensive service center for Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing and Deaf-Blind, they will be lost and will have difficulty filling out paperworks for jobs, doctors etc.. Please I urge you to support Senate Bill No. 148. Thank ou!

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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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 SB 148, SD1
"MAKING A GRANT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT
AND OPERATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE CENTER."

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2013
1:45 p.m, CONFERENCE ROOM 016
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL

my name is Roderick Macdonald. I am originally from New England but have lived here in Hawaii for the past 14 years.

I have been blind since I was three years old, and have been profoundly deaf for most of my life. These are significant obstacles to getting ahead in life, but I have been very fortunate to have had a good education, good training and good support that enabled me to achieve most of my goals in life.

I am retired now, but for 30-odd years I worked as a Computer Specialist, Management Analyst, Policy Analyst, Rehabilitation Teacher for the Blind, and instructor at the Community College and University levels. I could never have done that without being taught to read without sight, listen without hearing and use a computer without either sight or hearing. I've been there, done that, and it would never have come to pass without the skills I learned along the way.

This brings me to the here-and-now: I am here to **support**, as strongly as I am able, the adoption of SB 148, SD1 for the establishment of a Comprehensive Service Center for Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing and Deaf-Blind individuals. I do not represent any agency or organization; I represent only me, myself and I. However, I am a consumer who has had the opportunity to benefit from the types of services this Center will be providing, and I cannot stress too strongly how important these training opportunities have been to me in the past.

Hawaii is a very special place. I use the word "special" as both a superlative and as a challenge, but I would like to focus on the challenging aspect of being a person with a disability in Hawaii.

When I taught my first class here in Hawaii, I had eight students from eight ethnic backgrounds; everyone was a minority of one. Each of these eight students came from a unique cultural background that influenced the individual's approach to learning, about disability and, most of all, about being a person.

I'd like to tell you about one of these students. She was 68 years old, very intelligent and with two advanced degrees from a Mainland university. She lost her eyesight as an adult, and whenever she visited her mother, the family expected her to enter the house through the back door, because they were embarrassed to have people seeing a blind person using a cane enter their front door.

Another of my students had been a school principal on one of the pacific islands who also lost his vision as an adult. He was very quiet during class and always said "yes" if i asked him if he understood the lesson. But I could tell he wasn't getting it, so we had a chat. He explained to me that he had been brought up to be quiet, respectful and never question authority. I in turn explained to him that I need him to participate in the learning experience by asking questions when he needed answers. We came to

an agreement and when this man went home, one of the first things he did was to send me an email on his very new computer to thank me for helping him acquire the skills that enabled him to use a computer.

Yet another of my students told me that her upbringing taught her that a disability was punishment for sins committed in a past life. Another told me that it had been a major decision just to come to the agency seeking help, because her tradition held that it was the family that was responsible for "problems", not public agencies.

The challenges I have mentioned were encountered when I worked as a Rehabilitation Teacher for the Blind at Ho'opono, Hawaii's specialized training facility for the blind. Blindness is Ho'opono's specialty, but they have neither the understanding nor the expertise to deal with hearing loss. Yet the "other" sensory loss affects more people and can be every bit as much of an obstacle to participation and achievement. It was once observed that with blindness, one tends to miss things; but with deafness one tends to miss people.

Many people do not understand that hearing loss is often an "invisible" barrier. If you pass a deaf person on the street and say, "Good morning!", and the other person does not reply, you might well feel the person was rude in not returning your greetings. But the other person is deaf, did not hear your greeting, and very possibly may not have the ability to speak orally. I was once standing on a street corner preparing to cross when a man came up beside me and asked me a question. I did not even know he had asked me a question - I just continued watching the traffic. He became angry and hit me on the shoulder. When I turned to him he started pointing down the street, obviously asking something. I told him I was deaf and could not understand him, and then crossed the street.

Many people "assume" that deaf people can read lips. Some can, but most deaf people find lip reading difficult, at best. For most deaf people communication is via American Sign Language, a unique language separate from English that does not have a written form, so even communicating via written notes can be confusing at times. And because English for most deaf people is a second language they have never heard, simple tasks like reading the instructions printed in English may not be quite so simple.

In many situations when a deaf person must interact with hearing individuals - situations that of necessity happen every day - the assistance of a sign language interpreter is needed. One might think that having a third party facilitate the communication between two languages is a great solution, and most of the time it is: The hearing person can speak as usual and the deaf person can "listen" as usual while following American Sign Language, and when it is the deaf person's turn to say something he or she can use ASL, the interpreter repeats the communication in spoken English,

and we are all on the same page.

Unfortunately it doesn't always work as planned. While I was working at Ho'opono we had a case meeting to discuss braille instruction for a young deaf woman who was losing her vision. The young woman sat on one side of a long table while her interpreter sat opposite. Everything was fine until one of the staff, sitting beside the deaf woman, became annoyed that she was not looking at him - she kept watching her interpreter. He finally reached out and shook her by the shoulder, saying "Look at me when I am talking to you!" This was a well-trained professional; he knew quite a bit about vision loss, including the specific eye condition the young woman had, but he did not understand deafness. After that meeting the young woman decided she did not want braille instruction, yet that instruction would have been very useful to her as her progressive vision loss impaired her ability to read printed materials.

So how are deaf people to acquire the skills to work, learn and prosper? How are deaf people to learn to overcome stereotypes and prejudices that prevail in a hearing society? How do deaf people learn to write an effective resume in a language that is not their own? How do deaf people learn to feel positive about themselves, and how do deaf people help their family members overcome that embarrassment and even shame?

Ladies and Gentlemen, I suggest that you have the answer in front of you with the proposal to establish a Comprehensive Service Center to address these issues. Please accept my very strong support of this bill.

Aloha, Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair, Senator Josh Green, Vice-Chair, and committee members of Senate Committee on Human Services:

Hello my name is Susan Nishino and I am a deaf senior citizen. I am the sole caretaker of my 79-year-old husband who is also deaf. Several years ago I was in a car accident and taken to Queen's Hospital emergency room. I am so grateful that the hospital contacted the interpreter referral agency and a sign language interpreter came to the emergency room and helped me understand what the doctor and nurses needed to tell me. I urge you to support the Comprehensive Service Center, interpreter referral service, and independent living service.

Thank you for allowing me to testify. In behalf of deaf senior citizens, I thank you for your **support** of the Comprehensive Services Center, the interpreter referral services, and independent living services.

Sincerely,
Susan Nishino
1348 Hoolaulea Street, Pearl City, HI 96782