



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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

March 14, 2013

MEMORANDUM:

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

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 148, S.D. 2 – RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES**

Hearing: Thursday, March 14, 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 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 of S.B. 148, S.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 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.



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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senate Bill 148, SD2 – Relating to Human Services

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports the intent of Senate Bill 148, SD2 – 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 with an effective date of July 1, 2050.

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

Board of Directors

Anne Chipchase
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Robert Scott Wall
Vice President

Crystal Aguinaldo
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Jessica Carroll

Randolph Hack

Gina Hungerford

Susan King

To: The Hawai'i State House of Representatives Committee on Human Services
Re: SB 148 SD 2

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

Aloha,

The Community Alliance for Mental Health along with United Self Help strongly supports SB 148 SD2. 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

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**REPRESENTATIVE MELE CARROLL, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE BERTRAND KOBAYASHI, VICE-CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES**

SENATE BILL NO. 148, SENATE DRAFT 2, RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES

**THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2013 AT 9:30 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 329**

Aloha, Chair Carroll, Vice-Chair Kobayashi, members of House 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 Senate Bill No. 148, Senate 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. 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 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

To: Chair Mele Carroll, House District 13
Vice-Chair Bert Kobayashi, House District 9
House Committee on Human Services

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

Hearing: March 14, 2013, 9:30 a.m., Conference Room 329

Re: Senate Bill 148, Senate Draft 2, Relating to Human Services: Appropriates Ways and Means 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 148, Senate Draft 2, RELATION TO HUMAN SERVICE: Appropriates Ways and Means 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 148, Senate Draft 2 and very strong support this bill and ask you to please put it the bill \$500,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2013 to 2014 and \$400,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2014 to 2015. Are we worthless or do we have worth as our people?

Again, I firmly urge you to supporting the **Senate Bill 148, Senate Draft 2**: 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 **Deaf Community Left Behind, No Way!**

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

Aloha Rep. Mele Carroll, Chair; Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair; and members of the House Committee on Human Services,

Hello, my name is Eileen Chiwa. I am deaf and a retired federal worker. I have worked for the federal government for 29-1/2 years. During my employment with the federal government, I went to various workshops and training; and at these required activities, I have always depended on interpreters. I am concerned when I heard that DVR funds for interpreter referral services and independent living services may not be available after June 30th of this year. I feel that these funds are extremely important for these services as well as the Comprehensive Services Center for the deaf, hard-of-hearing, and deaf-blind. I have often depended on professional interpreter services to assist with communication when I go to doctors' appointments. I would like to share my experience of having surgeries. At first, I thought that I did not need an interpreter and I would try to read my doctor's lips. However, upon learning that the doctor would be wearing a mask on surgery day and I would not be able to read his lips, I panicked and decided to call his office a few days before surgery to request for an interpreter. I was so happy the doctor's office was able to contact the interpreter referral services and hired an interpreter. The surgery went well because of this interpreter. And last year, I had the other surgery, and the interpreter was with me during the entire time I was in the hospital: Interpreting when I have questions and the nurse(s) answered; interpreting the procedure of an anesthesiologist before surgery and when I woke up in the recovery room and was ready to leave the hospital. Thank goodness for this invaluable service!

Independent living services for the deaf are important, too. Presentations or workshops such as Nutrition, Social Security & Medicare, and various other issues to meet the deaf community's needs are available through these services. Continuance of such services will enable the deaf community to live independently.

I ask you all to please support SB 148, SD2, as this will provide for the very important bridge to communication for deaf and hearing people. Without the funds for interpreter referral services as well as for the independent living services for the deaf, this would cause disaster for the deaf people and they would feel helpless.

Thank you for allowing me to testify. I urge you to pass SB 148, SD2.

Sincerely,
Eileen Chiwa

kobayashi1-Joni

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 3:04 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: heather.interpreter@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB148 on Mar 14, 2013 09:30AM

Categories: Green Category

SB148

Submitted on: 3/12/2013

Testimony for HUS on Mar 14, 2013 09:30AM in Conference Room 329

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

Comments: Please put in bill: \$500,000.00 for fiscal year 2013-2014 and \$400,000 for fiscal year 2014-2015. Thank you.

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
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
REP. Mele Carroll, CHAIR

RELATING TO SB 148, SD2
"RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES"

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2013
9:30 AM, CONFERENCE ROOM 329
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL

Good morning, 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.