

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 31, 2013 8:33 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: aslteal@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB308 on Jan 31, 2013 13:15PM

SB308

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for HMS on Jan 31, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Linda Lambrecht	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: When I was young, we did not have our deaf community center. I wait for a long time. Our dream is we want to have our own Deaf community center that is useful for us. It is time to do now Please vote it for our deaf community's sake. I 100% support SB308. Thank you, Linda age 68

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LATE

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

From: Kristine Pagano
krispagano@mac.com

Hearing: January 31, 2013, 1:15 p.m., Conference Room 016

Re: SB 308, Making a Grant for the Establishment and Operation of a
Comprehensive Service Center

I strongly support the establishment of a comprehensive service center because I am a deaf mother who will participate in the center's activities with my family.

My name is Kristine Pagano and an advocate for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community. I am a mother of two who can hear. My children have unlimited access to services because they can hear and have the support by those who can hear. I will never have to worry about my children receiving any type of services because they do not have a communication barrier.

Access to employment, medical, education and advocacy services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing are limited to a few organizations that provide direct communication access by hiring staff that can sign American Sign Language.

However, it is these few organizations that are struggling financially to provide direct services for one to become independent. These few organizations depend on the Department of Human Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation for funding support.

The Department of Human Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation has made a commitment to establish a comprehensive service center (CSC) for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind. The CSC can support organizations that provide direct client services and provide additional services that one cannot get through from other agencies that utilize a sign language interpreter. The CSC can save the State costs by hiring staff that can communicate in ASL and consolidate the services in a one-stop center.

I urge the State to continue to provide funding support for the CSC because of communication barriers and lack of readily available access to any type of services that one can hear.

Thank you.

Sentator Suzanne Chun-Okland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

LATE

Senate Bill NO. 308
**MAKING A GRANT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION
OF A COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE CENTER**

Thursday, January 31, 2013 at 1:15pm

Aloha, my name is Colleen Cidade Matusof, I am a Deaf mother, Independent Living Specialist at Signs of Self, Educator, Leader as Advocate, and Read Aloud to Deaf Keiki. I testify in support of Senate Bill No. 308 – MAKING A GRANT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE CENTER for our people - Senior Citizens, youth kids, college students, families, workers, who need second home, our language, our socialize, our one center and our one communicate access.

- Youth kids – Sports, counseling, peers
- Senior citizens – socialize, activities
- College students – tutoring, mentors, performance
- Family member – literacy, tutoring, counseling, peers,
- Workers – learn ASL, advocate, independent living
- One language – ASL communication access
- One socialize – community center as second home
- One culture – cherished histories
- One unite - Empowerment

I work with deaf, hard of hearing and blind/deaf clients at Signs of Self. Clients are very enthusiastic and want to learn more, asking me where are others like themselves, they need help and want to be their independent living. Some of them don't have any tech, come to my office from their homes (West side and East side) by their get bus. They want to learn to socialize, educate, know about their rights, learn how to be strong leaders and advocates. I want to see them grow their self-esteem high. I want to see them be successful and see them smile again.

Some clients are not getting their VR because they are waiting on their lists. They depend on SSI or SSDI, stay home, sometimes get in trouble, have low self-esteem, and become dependent. Remember they have dreams too, and they have goals, but without support it's so difficult. Are they worthless or do they have worth as people?

Again, I firmly urge you to supporting the SENATE BILL 308 to establish the Comprehensive Service Center for our future so we can all use their services more!

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

Sincerely,



Colleen Cidade Matusof
1308 Farrington Street
Honolulu, HI 96826