

SCR 194/SR 148

Measure Title:

ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION, CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC PLAYGROUND THAT ALLOWS VISUALLY IMPAIRED CHILDREN TO FREELY EXPLORE THEIR ENVIRONMENT AND INTERACT WITH THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS IN A SAFE, WELCOMING, AND DEVELOPMENTALLY ENRICHING ENVIRONMEN.

THE SENATE

THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2013

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Will Espero, Chair

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair

DATE 03/28/13

Strong SUPPORT FOR BILL SCR 194 / SR 148

Thank you Senator Espero for introducing Bill SCR 194/SR148
Thank you for the opportunity to give testimony

My name is Yolanda Phelan
I am speaking on behalf of the
Hawaii Association of the Blind.

Not that long ago most blind children were educated at residential schools for
The blind, Where the children play together which
help develop leadership qualities.

Here in Hawaii Blind children are isolated from the opportunity to meet other Blind children in our
community and a playground would
Make it possible where they can have social interaction .
Social interaction as we all are aware of is important in the development of learning
Builds healthy body working their muscle, bone, develop balance and stimulates their
Desire to explore and broaden their sensory perspective.

The mind's eye has a mental view but having tactile experiences gives you a better perspective.
and helps develop confidence and a sense of competition.

Children need to touch a variety of textures and play with them to develop normal tactile processing.

Sensory activity equipment would need to be installed.

Example Play Tunnels And Tents:

Both of these have many uses as part of sensory integration activities.

The following are just some of the ways to use them...

use the tunnels as an active *gross motor and bilateral motor coordination activity* just by having the child crawl through them.

create a *tactile experience* by placing different textured objects or carpet squares inside the tunnel.

These activities are almost endless in choices. *Proprioception refers to input to the muscles, joints, ligaments, tendons and connective tissue.* It refers to motor control and planning, body awareness, grading of movement (knowing how "hard" or "soft" to perform a task), and postural stability.

If the proprioceptive sense is not working well, it will be difficult to move in smooth, coordinated, and properly graded movements.

use play tents as a *safe haven for children who are overwhelmed by sensory stimuli* or as a *sensory controlled environment* resting or reading. we can place bean bags, headphones with relaxing music inside for a relaxing environment)

There can be a section with instruments such as wooden blocks, symbols, triangles, etc. so they can have a

jam session with their new friends.
other things like Slides, Big balls, sand box and so on.

A playground would be place to make new friends with peers instead of being the only Blind person in a group setting.

A playground would not only be wonderful for Blind Children but also for the parents and families Who will socialize and learn and from each other issues and give support to each other. Which can make a difference in a Childs life.

With Respect,

Yolanda Phelan
Hawaii Association of the Blind
Legislator Co-Chair
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SR148

Submitted on: 3/25/2013

Testimony for PSM/HMS on Mar 28, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Troy Abraham	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support urgent passage of bill to make all parks more easy accessible to all people regardless of age, disability or anything.

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Strong SUPPORT FOR BILL SCR 194 / SR 148

Thank you Senator Espero for introducing Bill SCR 194/SR148

Thank you for the opportunity to give testimony

My name is Debra Fine

I am in support of SCR 194 SR 148

My name is Debra Fine

A Playground for Blind children is essential because the playground will suit and enhance their abilities.

They will be able to socialize with their peers.

It also gives their parents social interaction with their children and each other. They will no longer be isolated socially.

Debra Fine

Member

Hawaii Association of the Blind

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Thank you Senator Espero for introducing Bill SCR 194/SR148
Thank you for the opportunity to give testimony

My name is Nora Ota

I am giving my testimony as a individual

Having a park for blind children is a very Good idea
It helps with Motor skills development and the
Opportunity to play with each other.
Interaction is important to develop social and leadership skills.
Teaches how to get along with others and learn from each other.

Parents will also learn what other parents are experiencing and learn
From each other.

Nora Ota