

JAN 17 2014

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that a center for deaf  
2 and hard of hearing education is necessary to support a full  
3 continuum of communication options in education, including  
4 American sign language, other forms of sign language, cued  
5 speech, listening, and spoken language, or any combination of  
6 these skills.

7           The purpose of this Act is to establish a center for deaf  
8 and hard of hearing education.

9           SECTION 2. Chapter 348, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
10 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
11 and to read as follows:

12           "§348-       Center for deaf and hard of hearing education;  
13 established. (a) There is established a center for deaf and  
14 hard of hearing education.

15           (b) The center shall carry out the following duties in an  
16 unbiased manner to ensure that children who are deaf or hard of  
17 hearing acquire optimal language skills and academic abilities,  
18 regardless of the mode of communication used:



- 1        (1) Monitor and track the identification, early  
2        intervention, education, and successful transitions of  
3        children who are deaf or hard of hearing from birth  
4        through twenty-one years of age and enrolled or  
5        preparing to enroll in early intervention services,  
6        preschool, elementary, or secondary school;
- 7        (2) Develop student learning opportunities;
- 8        (3) Provide family support;
- 9        (4) Develop child assessment service models, consistent  
10       with federal and state early childhood intervention  
11       and special education law, for the following:
- 12       (A) Audiological assessments;
- 13       (B) Social and developmental assessments;
- 14       (C) Communication assessments, including language  
15       assessments; and
- 16       (D) Academic achievement assessments;
- 17       (5) Provide classroom assessments of instruction,  
18       acoustics, and other environmental aspects;
- 19       (6) Assess professionals who provide students with sign  
20       language interpreting, oral interpreting, cued speech  
21       transliteration, and captioning services;



1 (7) Provide consultation to schools in providing services  
2 to students who are deaf or hard of hearing; and

3 (8) Act as a liaison with all state agencies that provide  
4 services to individuals who are deaf and hard of  
5 hearing, including the department of education, the  
6 department of health, family and social services  
7 administration, and statewide independent programs for  
8 the deaf."

9 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
11 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to  
12 establish a center for deaf and hard of hearing education.

13 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
14 human services for the purposes of this Act.

15 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

16 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

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INTRODUCED BY:

*[Handwritten signature]*

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*Randy L. Park*

*Russell P. ...*

*Trananne ... Oakland*

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**Report Title:**

Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education; Department of Human Services; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes the center for deaf and hard of hearing education. Requires the center to fulfill certain duties in an unbiased manner to ensure that children who are deaf or hard of hearing acquire optimal language skills and academic abilities. Makes an appropriation to establish the center.

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