

**HB-2675**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 7:47:29 AM

Testimony for PBS on 2/1/2018 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Victor K. Ramos	Maui Police Department	Support	No

Comments:



## DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • Fax (808) 586-8129 • TTY (808) 586-8162

February 1, 2018

### TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

#### House Bill 2675 - Relating to Emergency Management

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports the intent of House Bill 2675 to require each local television station to make emergency information that is provided in the audio portion of its video programming accessible to persons with hearing disabilities by using a method of closed or open captioning.

The importance of this bill is underscored by the events of the false missile alert on January 13, 2018. There were no captioned or interpreted announcements on television to inform the deaf and hard of hearing community that the alert was a false alarm, nor were there any captioned or interpreted press conferences, interviews, or explanations after the false alarm. Persons with hearing disabilities are entitled to receive the same timely information from the media.

While we support the intent of the bill, we would like to offer technical comments regarding the wording of the bill. It should be noted that captioning of video programming does not automatically make the information equally accessible to all persons with hearing disabilities. Additional requirements, such as live American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation, will increase the number of individuals that are afforded effective communication during emergency broadcasts. This is important to note because a significant number of individuals with a hearing disability graduate high school without the reading proficiency needed to effectively understand written emergency announcements.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCINE WAI  
Executive Director

Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair  
Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice Chair  
Committee on Public Safety

**Peggy Liang**  
**Testimony presented as an individual**  
**Email; Peggy Liang [liangpeg@hawaii.edu](mailto:liangpeg@hawaii.edu)**

January 30, 2018

Testimony in *support* to House Bill 2675 – Relating to Emergency Management

My name is Peggy Liang. I am presenting this testimony as an individual in favor of HB 2675, which require requires each local television station to make emergency information that is provided in the audio portion of its video programming accessible to persons with hearing disabilities by using a method of closed or open captioning.

From my personal experience on January 13, 2018: I was completely lost when I got the alert on my phone and I had to rely on other people for further information based on one alert. Later, I found the live stream related to the public announcement and it was not captioned. Also, the American Sign Language interpreter was not displayed to give the Deaf community, effective communication access. I suggest you to consider adding the interpreter on the site to widen the audience including those people with English as a second or foreign language. Hawaii is the most diverse state with flourished international visitors coming in for vacation.

The bottom line is that the passage of House Bill 2675 will provide effective communication access on the television for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf Blind.

I strongly urge the Committee to pass this bill, which will bring the safety among the residents and visitors with equal and effective communication access.

**HB-2675**

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 8:01:54 AM

Testimony for PBS on 2/1/2018 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Theresa Ewan		Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2675**

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 9:39:03 AM

Testimony for PBS on 2/1/2018 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cathy Ferreira		Support	No

Comments:

February 1, 2018

HB2675 TESTIMONY TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE

PUBLIC SAFETY

Representative Gregg Takayama  
Chair, Public Safety

Hawaii State Capitol  
Room #323  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Takayama,

My name is Cathy Ferreira. I am writing this testimony in support of HB2675, which requires each local television station to make emergency information that is provided accessible to persons with hearing disabilities by captioning all information.

On January 13, 2018, the Deaf community was stranded without any information via all Hawaii local television news-broadcasting stations throughout the entire day. All Hawaii local television stations did not provide any closed or open captioning for the entire time. This was especially horrifying considering that we had just received notification of a missile alert — yet we could not obtain ANY INFORMATION from Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. There was no information via alternative sources such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, the HEMA website, the Governor's Office website or any online broadcasts, including CNN.com.

I must stress that I am not deaf, but as someone who has been involved with the Deaf community for several years I feel this issue needs to be addressed for ALL residents. I, along with hearing, other deaf and hard of hearing Hawaiians, was isolated and did not receive the same access to information. This was alarming, because I also had no idea

of what was going on or why we had received such a terrible alert. The emotional and psychological effects of that day are not to be taken lightly, and could have easily been resolved with captioning. There must be accessible information at all times for all Hawaii residents.

It is important that you pass this bill so we can be assured that we will receive full information for any and all emergencies. I do not want to relive what I experienced on January 13 and the remainder of the weekend.

Mahalo for your consideration and strong support for this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Cathy Ferreira

Deaf Community Ally

Kapahulu, O'ahu, Hawai'i

House Bill 2675 Requiring All Local Televisions to Provide Closed or Open Captioning During Emergency

**Subject:** FW: testimony on House Bill 2675

February 1, 2018  
HB2675 TESTIMONY TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC SAFETY

Representative Gregg Takayama  
Chair, Public Safety

Hawaii State Capitol  
[Room #323](#)  
[415 South Beretania Street](#)  
[Honolulu, Hawaii 96813](#)

Dear Representative Takayama,

My name is Darlene Ewan. I am writing this testimony in support of HB2675, which requires each local television station to make emergency information that is provided accessible to persons with hearing disabilities by captioning all information.

On January 13, 2018, the Deaf community was stranded without any information via all Hawaii local television news-broadcasting stations throughout the entire day. All Hawaii local television stations did not provide any closed or open captioning for the entire time. This was especially horrifying considering that we had just received notification of a missile alert — yet we could not obtain ANY INFORMATION from Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. There was no information via alternative sources such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, the HEMA website, the Governor's Office website or any online broadcasts, including [CNN.com](#).

I, along with other deaf and hard of hearing Hawaiians, was isolated and did not receive the same access to information. This was alarming, because I had no idea of what was going on or why we had received such a terrible alert. The emotional and psychological effects of that day are not to be taken lightly, and could have easily been resolved with captioning. There must be accessible information at all times for all Hawaii residents.

It is important that you pass this bill so I can be assured that I will receive full information for any and all emergencies. I do not want to relive what I experienced on January 13 and the remainder of the weekend.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Darlene Ewan  
Honolulu, Hawaii

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"Failure will never overtake me if my determination to succeed is strong enough."



**Subject:** FW: Testimony on HB 2675

February 1, 2018  
HB2675 TESTIMONY TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC SAFETY

Representative Gregg Takayama  
Chair, Public Safety

Hawaii State Capitol  
[Room #323](#)  
[415 South Beretania Street](#)  
[Honolulu, Hawaii 96813](#)

Dear Representative Takayama,

My name is Keri Lee. I am writing this testimony in support of HB2675, which requires each local television station to make emergency information that is provided accessible to persons with hearing disabilities by captioning all information.

On January 13, 2018, the Deaf community was stranded without any information via all Hawaii local television news-broadcasting stations throughout the entire day. All Hawaii local television stations did not provide any closed or open captioning for the entire time. This was especially horrifying considering that we had just received notification of a missile alert — yet we could not obtain ANY INFORMATION from Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. There was no information via alternative sources such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, the HEMA website, the Governor's Office website or any online broadcasts, including [CNN.com](#).

Many if not all deaf and hard of hearing Hawaiians, was isolated and did not receive the same access to information. This was alarming, because they had no idea of what was going on or why we had received such a terrible alert. The emotional and psychological effects of that day are not to be taken lightly, and could have easily been resolved with captioning. There must be accessible information at all times for all Hawaii residents.

It is important that you pass this bill so I can be assured that I will receive full information for any and all emergencies. They do not want to relive what was experienced on January 13 and the remainder of the weekend.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Keri Lee  
Laie, HI

**Subject:** FW: Testimony on House Bill 2675

February 1, 2018  
HB2675 TESTIMONY TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC SAFETY

Representative Gregg Takayama  
Chair, Public Safety

Hawaii State Capitol  
[Room #323](#)  
[415 South Beretania Street](#)  
[Honolulu, Hawaii 96813](#)

Dear Representative Takayama,

My name is Stephanie Steinlein-Balding. I am writing this testimony in support of HB2675, which requires each local television station to make emergency information that is provided accessible to persons with hearing disabilities by captioning all information.

On January 13, 2018, the Deaf community was stranded without any information via all Hawaii local television news-broadcasting stations throughout the entire day. All Hawaii local television stations did not provide any closed or open captioning for the entire time. This was especially horrifying considering that we had just received notification of a missile alert — yet we could not obtain ANY INFORMATION from Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. There was no information via alternative sources such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, the HEMA website, the Governor's Office website or any online broadcasts, including [CNN.com](#).

I, along with other deaf and hard of hearing Hawaiians, was isolated and did not receive the same access to information. This was alarming, because I had no idea of what was going on or why we had received such a terrible alert. The emotional and psychological effects of that day are not to be taken lightly, and could have easily been resolved with captioning. There must be accessible information at all times for all Hawaii residents.

It is important that you pass this bill so I can be assured that I will receive full information for any and all emergencies. I do not want to relive what I experienced on January 13 and the remainder of the weekend.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Steinlein-Balding  
Honolulu, Hawaii

## **gates2 - Michael**

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**From:** takayama1 - Amani  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 31, 2018 11:55 AM  
**To:** gates2 - Michael; Benjamin Gates  
**Cc:** Karen Kawamoto  
**Subject:** FW: HB2675- testimony

More testimony we received.

Mahalo nui loa,

Amani Love  
Committee Clerk on behalf of Representative Gregg Takayama  
House District 34: Pearl City, Waimalu, and Pacific Palisades  
Chair of Public Safety  
808 586 6340

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**From:** Rep. Gregg Takayama  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 31, 2018 11:53 AM  
**To:** Karen Kawamoto <k.kawamoto@capitol.hawaii.gov>; takayama1 - Amani <takayama1@capitol.hawaii.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: HB2675- testimony

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**From:** Kris Natori-Sonognini [<mailto:hauolibear2@live.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 31, 2018 9:58 AM  
**To:** Rep. Gregg Takayama <[reptakayama@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:reptakayama@capitol.hawaii.gov)>  
**Subject:** HB2675- testimony

Dear Representative Takayama,

My name is Kiki Natori-Sonognini . I am writing this testimony in support of HB2675, which requires each local television station to make emergency information that is provided accessible to persons with hearing disabilities by captioning all information.

On January 13, 2018, the Deaf community was stranded without any information via all Hawaii local television news-broadcasting stations throughout the entire day. All Hawaii local television stations did not provide any closed or open captioning for the entire time. This was especially horrifying considering that we had just received notification of a missile alert — yet we could not obtain ANY INFORMATION from Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. There was no information via alternative sources such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, the HEMA website, the Governor's Office website or any online broadcasts, including [CNN.com](http://CNN.com).

I, along with other deaf and hard of hearing Hawaiians, was isolated and did not receive the same access to information. This was alarming, because I had no idea of what was going on or why we had received such a

terrible alert. The emotional and psychological effects of that day are not to be taken lightly, and could have easily been resolved with captioning. There must be accessible information at all times for all Hawaii residents.

It is important that you pass this bill so I can be assured that I will receive full information for any and all emergencies. I do not want to relive what I experienced on January 13 and the remainder of the weekend.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Kiki Natori-Sonognini  
Kailua, O'ahu

**LATE**

**HB-2675**

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:12:44 PM

Testimony for PBS on 2/1/2018 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Heather Benjamin		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

i fully support HB 2675. There is no reason, technologically speaking, that captions or an interpreter would not be provided during an emergency to ensure that everyone in this state has access to information.

Please pass this bill.

Mahalo,

Heather Benjamin

Honolulu, Hawaii

**LATE**

**HB-2675**

Submitted on: 2/1/2018 2:46:39 AM

Testimony for PBS on 2/1/2018 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

**DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII**

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Thursday, February 1, 2018

10:00 a.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 312

**RE: Testimony in Support** of HB 2675, RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

To the Honorable Gregg Takayama, Chair; the Honorable Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Public Safety:

Good morning. My name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill No. 2675, relating to HEMA and broadcasting emergency information in closed or open captioning for the benefit of the hearing-impaired. The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of House Bill No. 2675 and support its passage.

House Bill No. 2675, is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it requires each local television station to make emergency information that is provided in the audio portion of its video programming accessible to persons with hearing disabilities by using a method of closed or open captioning.

Specifically, the DPH Platform states, "[t]he inherent dignity and equal and inalienable rights of all human beings are the foundations of freedom, justice, and peace. We support affirmative action, the full implementation of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990." (Platform of the DPH, P. 3, Lines 158-161 (2016)).

Given that House Bill No. 2675 requires HEMA to broadcast emergency information in closed or open captioning for the benefit of the hearing-impaired, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

**/s/ Melodie Aduja**

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

Email: [legislativepriorities@gmail.com](mailto:legislativepriorities@gmail.com), Tel.: (808) 258-8889