



## DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
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February 14, 2018

### TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

#### House Bill 2677 – Relating to Interpreter Services

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports House Bill 2677 - Relating to Interpreter Services. The purpose of bill is to appropriate money to the Department of Health to pay for interpreter services for the Deaf and Blind Task Force monthly meetings.

DCAB serves as a representative on this Task Force which was started by Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland approximately six years ago. When the Task Force was initially organized, the group met monthly to discuss legislative issues impacting people who are Deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind and blind. The cost of interpreters for the regular meetings was too cost prohibitive to continue meeting on a monthly basis. After Senator Chun-Oakland retired, Senator Karl Rhoads became the convener of the meetings.

The Task Force has a member who is deaf-blind and he requires a transcriber to take notes on a Brallier. Thus, auxiliary aids and services for the meetings have usually required two interpreters and a Braille notetaker. Individual legislators do not have an allotment to pay for auxiliary aids and services of this type, which are required for equal access under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Because the focus of the meetings is on legislative initiatives and making changes through State law, and the Task Force was started by a State legislator, appropriating money to the Department of Health would not be proper. Instead, we suggest making a specific appropriation to the Senate Clerk's Office to allow them to cover the costs of providing effective communication for people who are Deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind and blind at the meetings.

DCAB respectfully requests that this change be made to the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCINE WAI  
Executive Director

**HB-2677**

Submitted on: 2/13/2018 3:34:08 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

February 12, 2018  
HB2677 TESTIMONY TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Health & Human Services  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Gentlemen:

My name is Cathy Ferreira, and I am ally for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing communities here in Hawaii. I would like to take this opportunity to strongly encourage your support of HB2677 which seeks to create a separate fund for interpreter services to be rendered during the Deaf and Blind Task Force's monthly meetings. I am also in agreement with the position of Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) that the funds which are appropriated should be administered by the House and Senate Clerk's offices, not the Department of Health.

Mahalo for your careful attention to this very important bill.

Cathy Ferreira  
Kapahulu, O'ahu  
Kapi'olani Community College  
AA LBRT DE/DS Spring 2017  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa  
BA English candidate Spring 2019  
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**HB-2677**

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 6:53:21 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Darlene Ewan	Aloha State Association of the Deaf	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2677**

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 5:54:13 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Susan Kroe-Unabia	Isle Interpret, LLC	Support	No

Comments:

We are in full support of HB2677.

Mahalo,

Tamar Lani, President

Susan Kroe-Unabia, Vice-President

**HB-2677**

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 6:43:32 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

**HB-2677**

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 6:44:27 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-2677**

Submitted on: 2/13/2018 7:20:15 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**LATE**

**HB-2677**

Submitted on: 2/14/2018 8:30:09 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kendrick Farm	Individual	Support	No

Comments: