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## DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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March 22, 2018

### TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND VETERANS, AND MILITARY AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS

House Concurrent Resolution 163/House Resolution 139 – Requesting the Federal Communications Commission and the National Weather Service to Make Necessary Updates to Ensure that Textual and Audible Information from the Emergency Alert System are Matched and Synchronized During Television Broadcasts

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports HCR 163/HR139 and provides comments. This measure requests the Federal Communications Commission and the National Weather Service to ensure that textual and audible information from the Emergency Alert System (EAS) are matched and synchronized during television broadcasts.

It is important to note that any information broadcasted on local television stations through the EAS are also accessible to people with disabilities. This includes people who are blind, deaf, or have cognitive disabilities. Therefore, any emergency alerts that are aired through the EAS should be matched and synchronized textual and audio to ensure that everyone in the public receives the same information. On a recent EAS announcements for flash floods, it was noted that what was on the EAS banner at the top of the page and voice narration were not matched and synchronized so people deaf or hard of hearing people reading the EAS are not receiving all of the information offered through voice narration which added the areas the flood alert was specifically impacting.

These resolutions are needed to protect people with disabilities and ensure that everyone in the community watching or listening to the EAS on television receive the same accurate information about disasters that may impact the areas in which they live.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCINE WAI  
Executive Director

**HCR-163**

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 9:16:30 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/22/2018 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments: