



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 27, 2018

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senate Bill 2650, SD1 – Relating to Movie Theaters

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports Senate Bill 2650, SD1. The purpose of this measure is to make permanent the requirement for certain motion picture theater owners and operators to provide open movie captioning at least twice per week, one of which begins no earlier than 4:30 p.m., and repeals the requirement to provide an option of personal closed captioning screenings by means of lightweight eyewear. These changes to the law would afford individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing an equal opportunity to attend open captioned movies and follow the audio aspects of movies exhibited in motion pictures similar to the general public. In a community that readily accepts subtitled foreign language movies and television programs, open captioning is a natural expansion of that concept.

The Legislature passed Act 39 (2015) that required movie theaters with more than two locations to offer each movie produced with captions to have two showings/week with open captioning, similar to subtitles. Times were at the discretion of the theater. This state law augmented the federal requirements to offer an assistive technology option to view movies with closed captioning. Act 211 (2017) rolled back the rights in Act 39 (2015) to (a) require one, versus two, viewings per week, and (b) allow no open captioned viewings if the theater offered lightweight glasses as an alternative. This proposed Senate Bill 2650 essentially seeks to revert the statute to the status provided in Act 39 (2015) without a sunset date.

Our support is based upon two factors:

- (1) **The deaf community strongly prefer open captioning to any type of eyewear, even if lightweight. It is a myth that the current federal law with closed captioning was preferred at the federal level by the deaf and hard of hearing community; it was a compromise to the industry.**
- (2) **It is inappropriate to reference a specific type of technology, i.e., lightweight glasses, in statute, essentially providing a proprietary advantage. Federal law allows theaters to use any option to view closed captions while our state law limits viewing to only one option. With the rapid technological advances, there is likely to be a better solution in the near future than lightweight glasses and our statute would be stuck with a reference to obsolete technology in the law. The portion of the bill to delete the reference to the glasses is the most important portion of the bill.**

We note that another bill, Senate Bill 2797, is similar to this measure and part of the Administrative Package. We support both bills which are nearly identical.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Francine Wai
for FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543

February 27, 2018

The Honorable Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Twenty-Ninth Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: SB 2650 SD1 - Relating to Movie Theaters

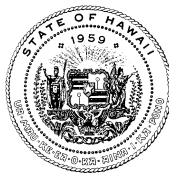
The State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS SB 2650 SD1**. The bill makes permanent the requirement for certain motion picture theater owners and operators to provide open movie captioning at least twice per week, one of which begins no earlier than 4:30 p.m. Repeals the requirement to provide an option of personal closed captioning screenings by means of lightweight eyewear.

Open movie captioning provides a display of text on a screen or other visual display that provides additional or interpretive information of what is being presented. Star Wars: The Force Awakens movie was the first official premiere of open movie captioning on December 30, 2015. The overwhelming response of individuals attending the movie with open captioning was evident of the positive benefits of providing access for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to enjoy movies in a similar manner as those who do not require open movie captioning.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **supporting SB 2650 SD1**.

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF LANGUAGE ACCESS
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 322
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 23, 2018

To: The Honorable Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Aphirak Bamrungruan, Executive Director

Subject: **SB 2650 SD1 – RELATING TO MOVIE THEATERS**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 27, 2018, 9:30 AM
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

Agency's Position: The Office of Language Access (OLA) supports Senate Bill 2650.

Purpose and Justification: The purpose of this measure is to make permanent the requirement for certain motion picture theater owners and operators to provide open movie captioning at least twice per week, one of which begins no earlier than 4:30 p.m., and repeals the requirement to provide an option of personal closed captioning screenings by means of lightweight eyewear.

The purpose of OLA's enabling statute (Hawaii Revised Statutes 321C) is to address the language access needs of limited English Proficient (LEP) persons and ensure their meaningful access to services, programs, and activities offered by the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of state government, including departments, offices, commissions, boards, or other state-funded agencies.

SB 2650 benefits more than the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing. Open captioning provides a critical link to communication and making information accessible to Limited English Proficient (LEP) individuals and English-Language Learners (ELLs). Using open captioning can be a great tool for LEP individuals and ELLs to enjoy movies and to increase an opportunity to learn the correspondence between spoken and written language.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



S E A C
Special Education Advisory Council

1010 Richard Street, Room 118

Honolulu, HI 96813

Phone: 586-8126 Fax: 586-8129

email: spin@doh.hawaii.gov

February 27, 2018

**Special Education
Advisory Council**

Ms. Martha Guinan, *Chair*
Ms. Dale Matsuura, *Vice Chair*
Dr. Patricia Sheehey, *Vice
Chair*
Ms. Ivalee Sinclair, *Vice Chair*

Ms. Brendelyn Ancheta
Dr. Robert Campbell, *liaison
to the military*

Ms. Deborah Cheeseman
Ms. Annette Cooper
Ms. Gabriele Finn
Mr. Sage Goto
Ms. Cathy Kahooanohano
Ms. Bernadette Lane
Ms. Kaili Murbach
Ms. Stacey Oshio
Ms. Kau'i Rezentos
Ms. Charlene Robles
Ms. Rosie Rowe
Mr. Daniel Santos
Mr. James Street
Dr. Todd Takahashi
Dr. Christine Tydeman, *liaison
to the Superintendent*
Mr. Steven Vannatta
Mr. Gavin Villar
Dr. Amy Wiech
Ms. Jasmine Williams
Ms. Susan Wood

Amanda Kaahanui, Staff
Susan Rocco, Staff

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

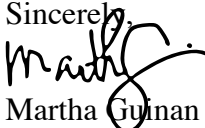
RE: S.B. 2650, S.D. 1 - RELATING TO MOVIE THEATERS

Dear Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), strongly supports the intent of S.B. 2650, S.D. 1 that makes permanent the requirement for certain movie theaters to provide open movie captioning at least twice a week.

SEAC is a strong advocate for inclusive practices in school and in the community. It is well documented that open captioning provides a preferred access to the movie-going experience for students who are deaf and students who are English learners. Students with learning disabilities, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, or other cognitive disabilities also benefit from the open captions supplementing the audio. Research has further shown that the majority of the movie audiences adapt easily to the captions and find the captions beneficial by supplementing the audio when dialogue is missed due to poor sound quality or due to audience noises.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important legislation. If you have questions or concerns, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Martha Guinan
Chair


Ivalee Sinclair
Legislative Committee Chair

SB-2650-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 5:37:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Louis Erteschik	Testifying for Hawaii Disability Rights Center	Support	No

Comments:

For a few years Hawaii led the nation in having a state law which provided open captioning requirements in movie theaters that went beyond the requirements of federal law. It provided opportunities to the deaf and/or hard of hearing members of our community to enjoy movies in a similar fashion as those who do not require open movie captioning.

Last year, when the law was due to sunset, the legislature enacted a measure which reduced the availability of open captioning and we believe that was unfortunate. This bill will restore the provisions of the prior law and will also specify that at least one showing will be during a time that is more conducive for most people to attend.

We applaud the effort of the legislature this session to do that and we urge the Committee to advance this bill forward.

SB-2650-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 9:10:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Darlene Ewan	Testifying for Aloha State Association of the Deaf	Support	Yes

Comments:

February 22, 2018

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senate Bill 2650 SD1 – Relating to Movie Theaters

Senator Brian Taniguchi
Chair, Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol Room #219
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Taniguchi,

It is on behalf of Deaf community and Hawai`i Community that I submit this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 2650 SD1 relating to captioning at motion picture theaters. Many of us recall growing up in an era where captioning was nonexistent. Whenever watching motion pictures, the only dialogues Most of us could access were the ones we had created with our imagination. Over time, legal efforts and their effects made movie theaters increasingly accessible for the deaf and hard of hearing. However, instead of providing open caption display, many theaters nowadays choose to make captioning available via the use of various assistive devices. Examples include portable screens held up by stands placed in cup holders, and special – not to mention bulky – glasses that may be worn throughout the film. While Movie Theater Companies call these devices to be effective, the reality is that they are neither comfortable nor easily usable for many deaf and hard of hearing people. Moreover, most theaters provide just one form of access, and often do so without consulting the local deaf and hard of hearing community.

I often remind myself how far we've come in terms of disability access, yet we have farther to go in order to achieve full accessibility. Those who are deaf or hard of hearing deserve to enjoy their movie theater experience as much as the next person. Instead, many find their experience diminished and feel shortchanged when left with no choice

but to take in movies with flawed assistive devices. The deaf and hard of hearing deserve better. The first step towards fully accessible motion picture theaters lies in this very bill, which will require regular open captioned showings. Please accept our unwavering support of this bill on behalf of Hawai`i Deaf community and Hawaii community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Ewan

President



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 27, 2018

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senate Bill 2650, SD1 – Relating to Movie Theaters

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports Senate Bill 2650, SD1. The purpose of this measure is to make permanent the requirement for certain motion picture theater owners and operators to provide open movie captioning at least twice per week, one of which begins no earlier than 4:30 p.m., and repeals the requirement to provide an option of personal closed captioning screenings by means of lightweight eyewear. These changes to the law would afford individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing an equal opportunity to attend open captioned movies and follow the audio aspects of movies exhibited in motion pictures similar to the general public. In a community that readily accepts subtitled foreign language movies and television programs, open captioning is a natural expansion of that concept.

The Legislature passed Act 39 (2015) that required movie theaters with more than two locations to offer each movie produced with captions to have two showings/week with open captioning, similar to subtitles. Times were at the discretion of the theater. This state law augmented the federal requirements to offer an assistive technology option to view movies with closed captioning. Act 211 (2017) rolled back the rights in Act 39 (2015) to (a) require one, versus two, viewings per week, and (b) allow no open captioned viewings if the theater offered lightweight glasses as an alternative. This proposed Senate Bill 2650 essentially seeks to revert the statute to the status provided in Act 39 (2015) without a sunset date.

Our support is based upon two factors:

- (1) **The deaf community strongly prefer open captioning to any type of eyewear, even if lightweight. It is a myth that the current federal law with closed captioning was preferred at the federal level by the deaf and hard of hearing community; it was a compromise to the industry.**
- (2) **It is inappropriate to reference a specific type of technology, i.e., lightweight glasses, in statute, essentially providing a proprietary advantage. Federal law allows theaters to use any option to view closed captions while our state law limits viewing to only one option. With the rapid technological advances, there is likely to be a better solution in the near future than lightweight glasses and our statute would be stuck with a reference to obsolete technology in the law. The portion of the bill to delete the reference to the glasses is the most important portion of the bill.**

We note that another bill, Senate Bill 2797, is similar to this measure and part of the Administrative Package. We support both bills which are nearly identical.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Francine Wai
for FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director

SB-2650-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 11:44:48 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Self Advocates	Testifying for Hawaii Self Advocacy Advisory Council (non-profit organization)	Support	No

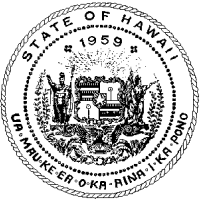
Comments:

My name Renee Manfredi. I am the President of the Hawaii Self Advocacy Advisory Council. We have nearly 200 members statewide.

Our members represent individuals with disabilities and we are in strong support of SB2650 SD1.

The passaging of SB2650 SD1 will make close captioning a permanent requirement and it will be done during a time where teenagers can watch it after school as well as adults after work.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony supporting SB2650 SD1.



HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 411 HONOLULU, HI 96813 · PHONE: 586-8636 FAX: 586-8655 TDD: 568-8692

February 27, 2018
Rm. 016, 9:30 a.m.

To: The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

From: Linda Hamilton Krieger, Chair
and Commissioners of the Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission

Re: S.B. No. 2650, S.D.1

The Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) has enforcement jurisdiction over Hawai‘i’s laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and access to state and state funded services (on the basis of disability). The HCRC carries out the Hawai‘i constitutional mandate that no person shall be discriminated against in the exercise of their civil rights. Art. I, Sec. 5.

S.B. No. 2650, S.D.1, amends H.R.S. § 489-9(a), to restore the statutory requirement originally enacted as a provision of Act 39, L. 2015, that covered movie theaters provide open captioning during at least two showings per week of each motion picture that is produced and offered with open captioning. The bill deletes the amendment of that provision effected by Act 211, L. 2017, reducing the requirement to one showing per week with open captioning, and eliminating that requirement for theaters that opt to provide “[a] personal closed captioning system by means of lightweight eyewear for a motion picture that is produced and offered with closed captioning content.”

S.B. No. 2650, S.D.1, also amends H.R.S. § 489-9(a) to require that at least one of the two showings per week featuring open captioning shall not be a matinee showing.

And, S.B. No. 2650, S.D.1, amends Act 39, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, as amended by Act 211, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, to eliminate the “sunset” of the statute on January 1, 2020.

The HCRC has enforcement jurisdiction over H.R.S. chapter 489, including § 489-9. Under § 489-9(c), a violation of the open captioning and audio description requirements is an unlawful discriminatory practice.

H.R.S. § 489-9, as enacted in Act 39 in 2015, was intended to establish its state requirements in addition to and supplementing federal ADA Title III requirements under US DOJ rules, which require covered movie theaters to provide *closed captioning* and audio description for digital movies produced, distributed or available with those features, accessed by use of individual movie captioning and audio devices at individuals' seats.

As enacted in 2015, Act 39 was considered landmark legislation for the deaf community, the first of its kind in the nation, specifically because it required the limited number (2) of open captioned showings per week, that were not required by federal law. Many of the 2015 testifiers on H.B. No. 1272, which was enacted as Act 39, testified that closed captioning was not an effective accommodation for everyone to enjoy a movie viewing experience, noting that the "cupholder" closed caption reading device required the viewer to simultaneously look down at the text and up at the screen, the use of available eyewear to read closed captions was uncomfortable and disorienting, and that the eyewear for reading closed captions could not be worn by viewers who need and use prescription eyeglasses.

Act 211, enacted in 2017, reduced the required number of open captioned showings from two to one per week. However, by inserting the "or" between the amended H.R.S. § 489-9(a)(1) and (2), it effectively eliminated the requirement for any open captioned showings for theaters that provide closed captioning systems by means of lightweight eyewear. It did so without defining "lightweight eyewear," or any numerical requirement for the number of lightweight eyewear units a theater would have to provide at each theater or megaplex location. (The US DOJ federal rule requires a megaplex with 8-15 auditoriums to have 8 captioning devices, which could be eyewear or other captioning devices used by patrons at their seats.)

Act 211 effectively eliminated the open captioned showing requirement that made the current law additive and supplemental to the federal requirements. The HCRC has consistently opposed rollback, erosion, and elimination of existing civil rights protections.

S.B. No. 2650, S.D.1, will help to ensure that members of the deaf community have full, equal, and nondiscriminatory access to and enjoyment of motion pictures with open captioning.

The HCRC strongly supports S.B. No. 2650, S.D.1.

SB-2650-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 7:03:27 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carie Sarver	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a resident of Honolulu and a Sign Language interpreter. I would like my Deaf and Hard of Hearing friends, colleagues and fellow residents to be able to walk into a movie theater, buy their tickets and popcorn, choose a seat, sit down and enjoy the film...just like the rest of us. I would like them to be able to do that with out barriers, indefinitely, with no sunset clause and without the burden of having to grapple with cumbersome eyeware or other devices.

I am asking that you please support this bill.

Mahalo.

Carie Sarver

SB-2650-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 1:39:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Darlene Ewan	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

February 22, 2018

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senate Bill 2650 SD1 – Relating to Movie Theaters

Senator Brian Taniguchi
Chair, Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol Room #219
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

Dear Senator Taniguchi,

It is on behalf of Deaf community and Hawai`i Community that I submit this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 2650 SD1 relating to captioning at motion picture theaters. Many of us recall growing up in an era where captioning was nonexistent. Whenever watching motion pictures, the only dialogues most of us could access were the ones we had created with our imagination. Over time, legal efforts and their effects made movie theaters increasingly accessible for the deaf and hard of hearing. However, instead of providing open caption display, many theaters nowadays choose to make captioning available via the use of various assistive devices. Examples include portable screens held up by stands placed in cup holders, and special – not to mention bulky – glasses that may be worn throughout the film. While Movie Theater Companies call these devices to be effective, the reality is that they are neither comfortable nor easily usable for many deaf and hard of hearing people. Moreover, most theaters provide just one form of access, and often do so without consulting the local deaf and hard of hearing community.

I often remind myself how far we've come in terms of disability access, yet we have farther to go in order to achieve full accessibility. Those who are deaf or hard of hearing deserve to enjoy their movie theater experience as much as the next person. Instead, many find their experience diminished and feel shortchanged when left with no choice but to take in movies with flawed assistive devices. The deaf and hard of hearing deserve better. The first step towards fully accessible motion picture theaters lies in this very bill, which will require regular open captioned showings. Please accept our unwavering support of this bill on behalf of Hawai'i Deaf community and Hawai'i community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

SB-2650-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 1:40:32 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Theresa Ewan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

February 22, 2018

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senate Bill 2650 SD1 – Relating to Movie Theaters

Senator Brian Taniguchi
Chair, Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol Room #219
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

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I often remind myself how far we've come in terms of disability access, yet we have farther to go in order to achieve full accessibility. Those who are deaf or hard of hearing deserve to enjoy their movie theater experience as much as the next person. Instead, many find their experience diminished and feel shortchanged when left with no choice but to take in movies with flawed assistive devices. The deaf and hard of hearing deserve better. The first step towards fully accessible motion picture theaters lies in this

very bill, which will require regular open captioned showings. Please accept our unwavering support of this bill on behalf of Hawai`i Deaf community and Hawai`i community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary

Peggy Liang
Testimony presented as an individual
Email; Peggy Liang liangpeg@hawaii.edu

February 24, 2018

Testimony in *support* to Senate Bill 2650, SD1 – Relating to Movie Theaters

My name is Peggy Liang. I am presenting this testimony as an individual in favor of SB 2650 SD1, which require movie theaters to provide open movie captioning at least twice per week, one of which begins no earlier than 4:30 p.m. and remove the requirement to provide an option of open captioning or closed captioning (personal lightweight eyewear with closed captioning).

From my personal experience, using the closed caption glasses was uncomfortable especially when I have to wear my prescription glasses on too. Also, I find the scheduled movies with open captioning, not convenient because it often offers the showing either in the morning during the work hours or late nights on week day that would conflict with my work and school schedule. I would love to find the movies with open captioning during the prime times.

The bottom line is that the passage of Senate Bill 2650 Senate Draft 1 will provide equal access to movie theaters for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf Blind.

I strongly urge the Committee to pass this bill, which will widen the audience by giving the option with open captioning and make movies available after 4:30 p.m.

Thank you for your time to read my testimony.

SB-2650-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 10:21:22 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mala Arkin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

February 24, 2018

Senate Bill 2650 SD1 – Relating to Movie Theaters

Senator Brian Taniguchi
Chair, Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol [Room #219](#)
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Taniguchi,

I submit this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 2650 SD1 relating to captioning at motion picture theaters. Deaf and hard of hearing people should have the same access to the movies as I do. As a hearing person I do not find the open captions to be a distraction and enjoy being able to go to the movies with my friends who are Deaf and hard of hearing. Open captions make the experience possible and enjoyable.

The deaf and hard of hearing deserve better than to have equipment that is not comfortable and often does not work. The first step towards fully accessible motion picture theaters lies in this very bill, which will require regular open captioned showings. Please accept my unwavering support of this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

MÄ• la Arkin

PO Box 11988

Honolulu HI 96828

SB-2650-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 7:51:28 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ray Oda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

From: [Shannon McMahon](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Bill 2650 SD1
Date: Sunday, February 25, 2018 10:01:04 AM

February 22, 2018

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senate Bill 2650 SD1 – Relating to Movie Theaters

Senator Brian Taniguchi
Chair, Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol Room #219
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

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However, instead of providing open caption display, many theaters nowadays choose to make captioning available via the use of various assistive devices. Examples include portable screens held up by stands placed in cup holders, and special – not to mention bulky – glasses that may be worn throughout the film. While Movie Theater Companies call these devices to be effective, the reality is that they are neither comfortable nor easily usable for many deaf and hard of hearing people. Moreover, most theaters provide just one form of access, and often do so without consulting the local deaf and hard of hearing community.

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Please accept our unwavering support of this bill on behalf of Hawai`i Deaf community and Hawai`i community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon McMahon
Kaneohe

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Kathy](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: SB 2650 Testimony
Date: Sunday, February 25, 2018 9:23:47 AM

February 22, 2018

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senate Bill 2650 SD1 – Relating to Movie Theaters

Senator Brian Taniguchi
Chair, Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol Room #219
[415 South Beretania Street](#)
[Honolulu](#), Hawai`i 96813

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It is on behalf of Deaf community and Hawai`i Community that I submit this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 2650 SD1 relating to captioning at motion picture theaters. Many of us recall growing up in an era where captioning was nonexistent. Whenever watching motion pictures, the only dialogues most of us could access were the ones we had created with our imagination. Over time, legal efforts and their effects made movie theaters increasingly accessible for the deaf and hard of hearing.

However, instead of providing open caption display, many theaters nowadays choose to make captioning available via the use of various assistive devices. Examples include portable screens held up by stands placed in cup holders, and special – not to mention bulky – glasses that may be worn throughout the film. While Movie Theater Companies call these devices to be effective, the reality is that they are neither comfortable nor easily usable for many deaf and hard of hearing people. Moreover, most theaters provide just one form of access, and often do so without consulting the local deaf and hard of hearing community.

I often remind myself how far we've come in terms of disability access, yet we have farther to go in order to achieve full accessibility. Those who are deaf or hard of hearing deserve to enjoy their movie theater experience as much as the next person. Instead, many find their experience diminished and feel shortchanged when left with no choice but to take in movies with flawed assistive devices. The deaf and hard of hearing deserve better. The first step

towards fully accessible motion picture theaters lies in this very bill, which will require regular open captioned showings.

Please accept our unwavering support of this bill on behalf of Hawai`i Deaf community and Hawai`i community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Thomas

Kaneohe, Hi

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

February 25, 2018

Senate Bill 2650 SD1 – Relating to Movie Theaters

Senator Brian Taniguchi

Chair, Judiciary

Hawaii State Capitol Room #219

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

Dear Senator Taniguchi and Judiciary Committee Members,

It is on behalf of Deaf community and Hawai`i Community that I submit this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 2650 SD1, relating to captioning at motion picture theaters.

Many of us Hawai`i recall growing up in an era where captioning was nonexistent. Whenever watching motion pictures, the only dialogues most of us could access were the ones we had created with our imagination. Over time, legal efforts and their effects made movie theaters increasingly accessible for the deaf and hard of hearing. In fact, it is with ample delight and pride that I was able to screen the blockbuster Black Panther this weekend- a multi-diverse production that all indigenous peoples can and should be proud of. That storyline has a special connection for us Hawai`ians for our night marchers being connected on the ancestral plane.

However, instead of providing open caption display, many Hawai`ian theaters nowadays choose to make captioning available via the use of various assistive devices. Examples include portable screens held up by stands placed in cup holders, and special – not to mention bulky – glasses that may be worn throughout the film. While Movie Theater Companies call these devices to be effective, the reality is that they are neither comfortable nor easily usable for many deaf and hard of hearing people. Moreover, most theaters provide just one form of access, and often do so without consulting the local deaf and hard of hearing community.

I often remind myself how far we've come in terms of disability access, yet we have farther to go in order to achieve full accessibility. Those who are deaf or hard of hearing deserve to enjoy their movie theater experience as much as the next person. Instead, many find their experience diminished and feel shortchanged when left with no choice but to take in movies with flawed assistive devices.

We, the Deaf and hard of hearing deserve better. The first step towards fully accessible motion picture theaters lies in this very bill, which will require regular open captioned showings. Please accept our unwavering support of this bill on behalf of Hawai`i Deaf community and Hawai`i community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Sincerely,

Kevin Bernadt
1411 Makahina Drive,
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Gertrude Morita](#)
To: [JDC Testimony](#)
Subject: Senate Bill 2650 SD1 - Relating to Movie Theaters
Date: Sunday, February 25, 2018 5:40:54 AM

Trudy Morita

119 Sherbrooke Way

Griffin, GA 30223

February 25, 2018

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senate Bill 2650 SD1 – Relating to Movie Theaters

Senator Brian Taniguchi
Chair, Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol Room #219
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

Dear Senator Taniguchi,

It is on behalf of Deaf community and Hawai`i Community that I submit this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 2650 SD1 relating to captioning at motion picture theaters. Many of us recall growing up in an era where captioning was nonexistent. Whenever watching motion pictures, the only dialogues most of us could access were the ones we had created with our imagination. Over time, legal efforts and their effects made movie theaters increasingly accessible for the deaf and hard of hearing. However, instead of providing open caption display, many theaters nowadays choose to make captioning available via the use of various assistive devices. Examples include portable screens held up by stands placed in cup holders, and special – not to mention bulky – glasses that may be worn throughout the film. While Movie Theater Companies call these devices to be effective, the reality is that they are neither comfortable nor easily usable for many deaf and hard of hearing people. Moreover, most theaters provide just one form of access, and often do so without consulting the local deaf and hard of hearing community.

I often remind myself how far we've come in terms of disability access, yet we have farther to go in order to achieve full accessibility. Those who are deaf or hard of hearing deserve to enjoy their movie theater experience as much as the next person. Instead, many find their experience diminished and feel shortchanged when left with no choice but to take in movies with flawed assistive devices. The deaf and hard of hearing deserve better. The first step towards fully accessible motion picture theaters lies in this very bill, which will require regular open captioned showings. Please accept our unwavering support of this bill on behalf of Hawai`i Deaf community and Hawai`i community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Trudy Morita

From: [Tiare Dela Cruz](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Senate Bill 2650 SD1 – Relating to Movie Theaters
Date: Saturday, February 24, 2018 2:17:38 PM

Senate Bill 2650 SD1 – Relating to Movie Theaters

Dear Senator Taniguchi,

It is on behalf of Deaf community and Hawai`i Community that I submit this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 2650 SD1 relating to captioning at motion picture theaters. Many of us recall growing up in an era where captioning was nonexistent. Whenever watching motion pictures, the only dialogues most of us could access were the ones we had created with our imagination. Over time, legal efforts and their effects made movie theaters increasingly accessible for the deaf and hard of hearing. However, instead of providing open caption display, many theaters nowadays choose to make captioning available via the use of various assistive devices. Examples include portable screens held up by stands placed in cup holders, and special – not to mention bulky – glasses that may be worn throughout the film. While Movie Theater Companies call these devices to be effective, the reality is that they are neither comfortable nor easily usable for many deaf and hard of hearing people. Moreover, most theaters provide just one form of access, and often do so without consulting the local deaf and hard of hearing community.

I often remind myself how far we've come in terms of disability access, yet we have farther to go in order to achieve full accessibility. Those who are deaf or hard of hearing deserve to enjoy their movie theater experience as much as the next person. Instead, many find their experience diminished and feel shortchanged when left with no choice but to take in movies with flawed assistive devices. The deaf and hard of hearing deserve better. The first step towards fully accessible motion picture theaters lies in this very bill, which will require regular open captioned showings. Please accept our unwavering support of this bill on behalf of Hawai`i Deaf community and Hawai`i community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Thank you!

From: [Manae M](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Senate Bill 2650 SD1 – Relating to Movie Theaters
Date: Saturday, February 24, 2018 4:59:59 PM

February 24, 2018

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senate Bill 2650 SD1 – Relating to Movie Theaters

Senator Brian Taniguchi
Chair, Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol [Room #219](#)
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

Dear Senator Taniguchi,

It is on behalf of Deaf community and Hawai`i Community that I submit this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 2650 SD1 relating to captioning at motion picture theaters. Many of us recall growing up in an era where captioning was nonexistent. Whenever watching motion pictures, the only dialogues most of us could access were the ones we had created with our imagination. Over time, legal efforts and their effects made movie theaters increasingly accessible for the deaf and hard of hearing. However, instead of providing open caption display, many theaters nowadays choose to make captioning available via the use of various assistive devices. Examples include portable screens held up by stands placed in cup holders, and special – not to mention bulky – glasses that may be worn throughout the film. While Movie Theater Companies call these devices to be effective, the reality is that they are neither comfortable nor easily usable for many deaf and hard of hearing people. Moreover, most theaters provide just one form of access, and often do so without consulting the local deaf and hard of hearing community.

I often remind myself how far we've come in terms of disability access, yet we have farther to go in order to achieve full accessibility. Those who are deaf or hard of hearing deserve to enjoy their movie theater experience as much as the next person. Instead, many find their experience diminished and feel shortchanged when left with no choice but to take in movies with flawed assistive devices. The deaf and hard of hearing deserve better. The first step towards fully accessible motion picture theaters lies in this very bill, which will require regular open captioned showings. Please accept our unwavering support of this bill on behalf of Hawai`i Deaf community and Hawai`i community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Manae Makino

From: [Kammi Koza](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Senate Bill 2650 SD1 – Relating to Movie Theaters
Date: Saturday, February 24, 2018 4:01:32 PM

February 24, 2018

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senate Bill 2650 SD1 – Relating to Movie Theaters

Senator Brian Taniguchi
Chair, Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol Room #219
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

Dear Senator Taniguchi,

It is on behalf of Deaf community and Hawai`i Community that I submit this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 2650 SD1 relating to captioning at motion picture theaters. Many of us recall growing up in an era where captioning was nonexistent. Whenever watching motion pictures, the only dialogues most of us could access were the ones we had created with our imagination. Over time, legal efforts and their effects made movie theaters increasingly accessible for the deaf and hard of hearing. However, instead of providing open caption display, many theaters nowadays choose to make captioning available via the use of various assistive devices. Examples include portable screens held up by stands placed in cup holders, and special – not to mention bulky – glasses that may be worn throughout the film. While Movie Theater Companies call these devices to be effective, the reality is that they are neither comfortable nor easily usable for many deaf and hard of hearing people. Moreover, most theaters provide just one form of access, and often do so without consulting the local deaf and hard of hearing community.

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of Hawai`i Deaf community and Hawai`i community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Kammi Koza

From: [Kris Natori-Sonognini](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Senate Bill 2650 sD1
Date: Monday, February 26, 2018 8:04:29 AM

February 22, 2018

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senate Bill 2650 SD1 – Relating to Movie Theaters

Senator Brian Taniguchi Chair, Judiciary Hawaii State Capitol Room #219 415 South Beretania Street Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

Dear Senator Taniguchi,

It is on behalf of Deaf community and Hawai`i Community that I submit this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 2650 SD1 relating to captioning at motion picture theaters. Many of us recall growing up in an era where captioning was nonexistent. Whenever watching motion pictures, the only dialogues most of us could access were the ones we had created with our imagination. Over time, legal efforts and their effects made movie theaters increasingly accessible for the deaf and hard of hearing. However, instead of providing open caption display, many theaters nowadays choose to make captioning available via the use of various assistive devices. Examples include portable screens held up by stands placed in cup holders, and special – not to mention bulky – glasses that may be worn throughout the film. While Movie Theater Companies call these devices to be effective, the reality is that they are neither comfortable nor easily usable for many deaf and hard of hearing people. Moreover, most theaters provide just one form of access, and often do so without consulting the local deaf and hard of hearing community.

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Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully yours,
Kris Natori-Sonognini

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From: [Keri Lee](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Senate Bill 2650
Date: Monday, February 26, 2018 7:30:22 AM

February 22, 2018

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senate Bill 2650 SD1 – Relating to Movie Theaters

Senator Brian Taniguchi
Chair, Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol [Room #219](#)
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

Dear Senator Taniguchi,

It is on behalf of Deaf community and Hawai`i Community that I submit this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 2650 SD1 relating to captioning at motion picture theaters. Many of us recall growing up in an era where captioning was nonexistent. Whenever watching motion pictures, the only dialogues most of us could access were the ones we had created with our imagination. Over time, legal efforts and their effects made movie theaters increasingly accessible for the deaf and hard of hearing. However, instead of providing open caption display, many theaters nowadays choose to make captioning available via the use of various assistive devices. Examples include portable screens held up by stands placed in cup holders, and special – not to mention bulky – glasses that may be worn throughout the film. While Movie Theater Companies call these devices to be effective, the reality is that they are neither comfortable nor easily usable for many deaf and hard of hearing people. Moreover, most theaters provide just one form of access, and often do so without consulting the local deaf and hard of hearing community.

I often remind myself how far we've come in terms of disability access, yet we have farther to go in order to achieve full accessibility. Those who are deaf or hard of hearing deserve to enjoy their movie theater experience as much as the next person. Instead, many find their experience diminished and feel shortchanged when left with no choice but to take in movies with flawed assistive devices. The deaf and hard of hearing deserve better. The first step towards fully accessible motion picture theaters lies in this very bill, which will require regular open captioned showings. Please accept our unwavering support of this bill on behalf of Hawai`i Deaf community and Hawai`i community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,
Keri Lee
Laie, HI

From: [Catherine Ferreira](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: SUPPORT FOR: Senate Bill 2650 SD1
Date: Monday, February 26, 2018 9:09:52 AM

February 22, 2018

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senate Bill 2650 SD1 – Relating to Movie Theaters

Senator Brian Taniguchi
Chair, Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol Room #219
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

Dear Senator Taniguchi,

It is on behalf of Deaf community and Hawai`i Community that I submit this testimony in **strong support of Senate Bill 2650 SD1** relating to captioning at motion picture theaters. As a dedicated ally of the Deaf community, I can only imagine growing up in an era when captioning was nonexistent. The experience must have been similar to reading an action novel, only it was the dialogues that were created with imagination.

Only fairly recently have legal efforts and their effects made movie theaters increasingly accessible for the deaf and hard of hearing. However, instead of providing open caption display, many theaters nowadays choose to make captioning available via the use of various assistive devices. Examples include portable screens held up by stands placed in cup holders, and special – not to mention bulky – glasses that may be worn throughout the film. While these devices may be considered reasonable and effective options, the reality is that they are neither comfortable nor easily usable for many deaf and hard of hearing people. Moreover, most theaters provide just one form of access, and often do so without consulting the local deaf and hard of hearing community.

I often remind myself how far we've come in terms of disability access, yet we have farther to go in order to achieve full accessibility. Those who are deaf or hard of hearing deserve to enjoy their movie theater experience as much as the next person. Instead, many find their experience diminished and feel short changed when left with no choice but to take in movies with flawed assistive devices.

The deaf and hard of hearing

deserve better. The first step towards fully accessible motion picture theaters lies in this very bill, which will require regular open captioned showings. Please accept our unwavering support of this bill on behalf of Hawai`i Deaf community and Hawai`i community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Ferreira
Deaf Community Ally
Kapahulu, O'ahu

From: [Kurstin Chun](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Supporting Senate Bill 2650 SD1 – Relating to Movie Theaters
Date: Sunday, February 25, 2018 10:01:56 PM

February 22, 2018

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senate Bill 2650 SD1 – Relating to Movie Theaters

Senator Brian Taniguchi
Chair, Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol Room #219
[415 South Beretania Street](#)
[Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813](#)

Dear Senator Taniguchi,

My name is Kurstin Chun. I am writing in support of SB-2650.

Although I am hearing, I benefit from the captioning tremendously. I am a visual person and at home I use captions to watch television, Netflix, online videos and movies as it helps reinforce what is being said.

In the past, if a Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing friend wanted to go see a movie, we would see some foreign language flick because of the subtitles on the screen. Often times we would have no idea what the foreign movie was even about, but we would choose it because no one needed those caption glasses or the bulky captioning device, but rather we all could view the movie together in an enjoyable way.

Since attending open captioned movies, one thing I can say is that I really enjoy being able to discuss and joke around with my Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing friends about what we just saw...which is a reflection of what is trending and current, instead of waiting until we see the movie on DVD before discussing it...and usually by that time the movie is old news. Being able to do this may seem like a very minor thing, but I think that is because we as hearing people take it for granted. Greater society thrives on discussing new things, whether it be something heart-warming, scary, or silly. Without providing access, we leave out a part of our OHANA in this discussion, and no minority group should have to repeatedly feel left out.

Recently, Nyle DiMarco, a Deaf model, actor and winner of the reality shows Americas Next Top Model and Dancing With The Stars, expressed his frustration in going to see "Black Panther", and having to rely on the closed captioning device. His experience was ruined because the device was not working properly and he ultimately left 10 minutes into the movie. Sadly my friends experience this often but usually endure it.

Should there be any question about the difference between watching a movie with open captioning or using the closed caption devices/audio amplifiers, I would encourage you and any other representative to try it personally. I think in most occasions you will find it cumbersome and that there are many frustrating quirks. Open captioning provides equal access and because the movies already have the captioning ready, all the theater has to do is

press the button to turn on the captioning.

I know that open captioning is beneficial for those that are Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing, late deafened adults, English foreign language learners, and allows family and friends opportunities to socialize with the Deaf and hard-of-hearing about things that are current.

Open captioning provides access to communication and the culture in which it is portrayed.

Please accept this email in support of passing SB-2650. Hawaii was the first to pass a bill like this several years ago and I hope that Hawaii will be able to continue to pioneer the way for other states when it comes to providing access for diverse populations.

Mahalo,

Kurstin Chun

Aiea, Hawaii

Sent from my iPhone

From: [DC Deaf Moviegoers](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY - Senate Bill 2650 SD1 – Relating to Movie Theaters
Date: Sunday, February 25, 2018 1:30:20 PM

February 25, 2018

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senate Bill 2650 SD1 – Relating to Movie Theaters

Senator Brian Taniguchi
Chair, Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol Room #219
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Taniguchi,

I submit this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 2650 SD1 relating to captioning at motion picture theaters. I write to you from the Washington, DC area, where I am the lead organizer of the group DC Deaf Moviegoers. The group organizes and shares about open captioned movie screenings taking place in the area. Our Facebook group has over 1,900 people, and we also have a mailing list of over 700 people. I started the group in 2015 after my own continued frustrations with closed captioning devices. In my role as lead organizer, I have been shared multiple testimonies from deaf moviegoers who have long had similar frustrations, as well as supporting words from hearing moviegoers who do not mind or who like open captions. I spend my spare time as a private citizen, and for no monetary gain, to survey my community every month to find out what movies they want to see with open captions. With a friend, I put together and send out a weekly email, as well as engaging in outreach by spreading the word via various social media channels. I want to pose the question, why is the burden on me, a private citizen, to set up this immaculate open-caption approach that is much, much more favored by the community over the faulty closed-caption approach?

Closed captioning devices only exist on the off-chance that one or two hearing moviegoers in the audience may be bothered by encountering the accessible approach of words on the screen. It should be noted that this is a purely privileged complaint. As a case study, Sweden shows Swedish subtitles at all of its cinemas despite the vast majority of the hearing population knowing English. This means all deaf or hard of hearing Swedes have complete and issue-free accessibility to all movies, including the ones from the United States. The US can and should work toward that, and it has to start somewhere.

As a minority, the deaf and hard of hearing population is not able to compel movie theaters to improve their closed captioning technology. We have frequently complained to the movie theaters but do not see our complaints registered and have yet to see universal improvement of such technology. Instead we are given vouchers so we can come back to anxiously deal with the same technology again. It is a running joke in the deaf community for someone to have "a drawer full of vouchers" as a result of accumulated movie-going failures. I ask you to reflect on your own movie-going experience. How many times in your life have you experienced at the movies the audio dropping out or the screen cutting out? Perhaps once or twice. With devices not functioning or being maintained, we experience the equivalent of this

multiple times in a single movie, for most of the movies we see in a given year. Using the devices, we do not have equal access at the movies.

With individual devices of uncommon technology, from an engineering standpoint, a single point of failure denies the deaf moviegoer the accessibility they need. And there are multiple potential points of failure. It could be staff incompetence in not charging the batteries. It could be the number of devices running out. It could be the device experiencing constant signal loss. And these multiple points of failure can affect any one member in a group of deaf moviegoers who try to go see a movie. The likelihood of accessibility thus being deprived is very high. And largely because such points of failure are out of sight, they are out of mind. A wheelchair ramp crumbling apart is a problem recognized by everyone. A closed captioning device constantly dropping lines of dialogue is a problem that is hard to get everyone to recognize, much less support improvement.

Open captions are what the deaf and hard and hearing community needs for equal access at the movies. The historical lack of open captions is reflective of our under-representation in society when it comes to matters of accessibility. As demonstrated by Sweden's approach, we know that we the people can grow to be more inclusive. We ask you to recognize and acknowledge our community's frustrations so that we may be better represented. We support this bill and ask you to be inclusive of us by supporting the bill too.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Erik Nordlof

DC Deaf Moviegoers

Email: dc.deaf.moviegoers@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/dcdeafmoviegoers/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/dcdm4oc>

From: [Eileen Chiwa](#)
To: [JDC Testimony](#)
Subject: TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Date: Saturday, February 24, 2018 5:16:15 PM

Senate Bill 2650 SD1 – Relating to Movie Theaters

Senator Brian Taniguchi
Chair, Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol [Room #219](#)
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Taniguchi,

It is on behalf of Deaf community and Hawaii Community that I submit this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 2650 SD1 relating to captioning at motion picture theaters. Many of us recall growing up in an era where captioning was nonexistent. Whenever watching motion pictures, the only dialogues most of us could access were the ones we had created with our imagination. Over time, legal efforts and their effects made movie theaters increasingly accessible for the deaf and hard of hearing. However, instead of providing open caption display, many theaters nowadays choose to make captioning available via the use of various assistive devices. Examples include portable screens held up by stands placed in cup holders, and special – not to mention bulky – glasses that may be worn throughout the film. While Movie Theater Companies call these devices to be effective, the reality is that they are neither comfortable nor easily usable for many deaf and hard of hearing people. Moreover, most theaters provide just one form of access, and often do so without consulting the local deaf and hard of hearing community.

I often remind myself how far we've come in terms of disability access, yet we have farther to go in order to achieve full accessibility. Those who are deaf or hard of hearing deserve to enjoy their movie theater experience as much as the next person. Instead, many find their experience diminished and feel shortchanged when left with no choice but to take in movies with flawed assistive devices. The deaf and hard of hearing deserve better. The first step towards fully accessible motion picture theaters lies in this very bill, which will require regular open captioned showings. Please accept our unwavering support of this bill on behalf of Hawaii Deaf community and Hawaii community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Chiwa

Mililani, Hawaii

From: [Eileen Chiwa](#)
To: [JDC Testimony](#)
Subject: TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Date: Saturday, February 24, 2018 5:16:15 PM

Senate Bill 2650 SD1 – Relating to Movie Theaters

Senator Brian Taniguchi
Chair, Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol [Room #219](#)
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Chiwa

Mililani, Hawaii