



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

April 12, 2018

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

Senate Concurrent Resolution 108, SD1—Urging the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency to work with the Federal Communications Commission, the Federal Emergency Management Agency 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 SCR 108, SD1 and concurs with the amendments made by the Senate. It is essential to include the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency and Federal Emergency Management Agency as the link to work with 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.

Senate Draft 1 also adds two “Whereas” and one “Be It Resolved” clauses that address the needs of people who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind or cognitively impaired to obtain the same information about a current emergency or disaster as anyone else would by listening to the EAS on the radio or television.

We acknowledge the Legislature’s efforts to protect and ensure equal access to information for people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs to receive the same accurate information about disasters, available to the public without disabilities, that may impact the areas in which they live.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director