



## DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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**LATE**

March 22, 2018

### TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS AND COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION AND HEALTH

Senate Concurrent Resolution 108/Senate Resolution 67 – 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 SCR 108/SR 67 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 also are 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 to ensure that everyone in the public obtains the same information. On recent EAS announcements for flash floods, it was noted that what was on the EAS 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

**LATE**

**SCR-108**

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 2:13:42 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/22/2018 1:30:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Carie Sarver        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I was in complete disbelief when I turned on my closed captioning on the day of the missile false alert to see initially no captions then scrambled, confusing captions during the press conferences. I had also expected to see as we do in other states a qualified Sign Language Interpreter on site with the governor and other state officials while responding to an emergency.

Our Deaf and Hard of Hearing citizens deserve better. They should have access to the same information as the rest of the people of Hawaii.

Please support this bill to provide equal access for all.

Mahalo.

Carie Sarver

**LATE**

**SCR-108**

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 6:06:48 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/22/2018 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

**LATE**

**SCR-108**

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 6:14:40 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/22/2018 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments: