

HB-1009

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 7:50:09 AM

Testimony for LAB on 2/5/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

HOUSE BILL 1009 TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON "LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

February 1, 2019

Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Labor & Public Employment
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 436
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Johanson,

I am submitting this testimony in support of House Bill 1009, which will permanently require open captioning at movie theaters in Hawaii.

For many Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing residents and visitors to the islands including all residents of Hawaii, seeing a film in a movie theater can prove to be difficult. Often, movie theaters offer "closed captioning" glasses for attendees who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind or Hard of Hearing so they can view captions detailing spoken words, sounds, and music throughout the film. These glasses are unreliable due to battery failure and lack of proper connectivity. The glasses are heavy, often not properly cleaned - which could pose a health risk to those with compromised immune systems. The glasses are uncomfortable and can be difficult to wear for those that also use every day glasses, hearing aids, or cochlear implants.

Some theaters use a "captioning box," which is placed in an attendee's cup holder. The moviegoer then has to look back and forth between the box and the movie screen to understand what is happening. This causes strained necks and eyes and increases the likelihood that Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing moviegoers miss portions of the film. These devices are also unreliable due to battery failure and lack of proper connectivity too.

Providing open captions directly on films allows patrons who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind or Hard of Hearing to enjoy a film equally to that of their hearing peers. Open captions do not just benefit individuals who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind or Hard of Hearing but also those with other disabilities or non-native English speakers who may rely on captions to fully understand what is said.

Sincerely,

Darlene Ewan

President

HB-1009

Submitted on: 2/1/2019 5:36:04 PM

Testimony for LAB on 2/5/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Louis Erteschik	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.

A few years ago, 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. While we might suggest a provision which would specify that at least one showing be during a time that is more conducive for most people to attend, this version represents a distinct improvement, and we applaud the effort of the legislature this session to do that.

HB-1009

Submitted on: 2/1/2019 4:48:09 PM

Testimony for LAB on 2/5/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lynn Murakami-Akatsuka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Committee,

I strongly support the passage of HB 1009 for the permanent requirement of open movie captioning and audio descriptions for at least two showings per week at motion picture theaters in the state of Hawaii. This will enable individuals who are deaf or with hearing impairment as well as our aging population, to enjoy movies in the theaters within their community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Lynn Murakami-Akatsuka

LABtestimony

From: Jamie Berke <rangerfan_us@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 1:29 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1009 and it's importance

Writing this in a hurry to make the deadline. I'm actually on a bus on my way to work in Washington, DC right now. Yes, I said Washington, DC. That should tell you how important HB 1009 is to the entire nation.

This bill means that for the first time, access to open captioned movies will be enshrined in a state law. No other state in the country has this yet. Hawaii will be the first.

Closed captioning equipment for movies is uncomfortable (I wear glasses and the captioning glasses hurt my nose while the cup and box type of equipment is difficult and frustrating to use.

Open captions benefit much more than deaf and hard of hearing. I'll try to remember them all off the top of my head. People learning English as a second language. Children learning to read. People with autism. People with auditory processing disorders. Older people just starting to lose hearing. Veterans with war related hearing loss. Hearing people challenged by hard to understand actors or noise.

And there are those with hearing loss plus vision impairment that make it impossible to use closed caption equipment. Like my husband who is blind in one eye.

Last but not least, I lead Caption Action 3, a closed Facebook group supporting this bill and other efforts (DC is getting its own bill soon). So your vote in support of this bill sends a message to not just the people of Hawaii but to everyone in the United States.

I would say mahalo but I don't know what it means yet. What I do know is this: I have always dreamed of being able to visit Hawaii. If this bill passes it means I can take a vacation in Hawaii and go to see an open captioned movie with my husband on vacation!

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

LABtestimony

From: Sabrina Kingsbury <sabrinabury1967@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 3, 2019 6:02 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HOUSE BILL 1009 TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

February 1, 2019

Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Labor & Public Employment
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 436
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Johanson,

I am submitting this testimony in support of House Bill 1009, which will permanently require open captioning at movie theaters in Hawaii.

For many Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing residents and visitors to the islands including all residents of Hawaii, seeing a film in a movie theater can prove to be difficult. Often, movie theaters offer “closed captioning” glasses for attendees who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind or Hard of Hearing so they can view captions detailing spoken words, sounds, and music throughout the film. These glasses are unreliable due to battery failure and lack of proper connectivity. The glasses are heavy, often not properly cleaned - which could pose a health risk to those with compromised immune systems. The glasses are uncomfortable and can be difficult to wear for those that also use every day glasses, hearing aids, or cochlear implants.

Some theaters use a “captioning box,” which is placed in an attendee’s cup holder. The moviegoer then has to look back and forth between the box and the movie screen to understand what is happening. This causes strained necks and eyes and increases the likelihood that Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing moviegoers miss portions of the film. These devices are also unreliable due to battery failure and lack of proper connectivity too.

Providing open captions directly on films allows patrons who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind or Hard of Hearing to enjoy a film equally to that of their hearing peers. Open captions do not just benefit individuals who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind or Hard of Hearing but also those with other disabilities or non-native English speakers who may rely on captions to fully understand what is said.

Sincerely,
Sabrina Kingsbury



LATE

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 5, 2019

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

House Bill 1009 – Relating to Movie Theaters

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports House Bill 1009, which will strengthen our state's law relating to the provision of open captioning movie showings for the deaf and hard of hearing population.

The Legislature passed Act 39 (2015) requiring 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. Open captioned showtimes 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) restricted 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.

House Bill 1009 essentially seeks to return the statute what was initially provided in Act 39 (2015) without a sunset date and with some additional conditions on the movie screening times.

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 Hawaii, a community that readily accepts subtitled foreign language movies and television programs, open captioning is a natural expansion of that concept.

Our support for the bill is based upon two factors:

- The deaf community strongly prefers 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. When a person uses the lightweight glasses, they are labeled as deaf, whereas when captions are shown, the deaf individual is not singled out.
- Identifying a specific type of technology in statute is not appropriate. Federal law allows theaters to use any option to view closed captions while our state law limits viewing to one option. With rapid technological advances occurring, there may be a better solution developed in the future other than lightweight glasses.

With the specificity in our current statute, Hawaii would be limited by a reference to obsolete technology in the law.

We offer the following comments related to what the two movie theaters cited in their prior testimony on the issue of captioned movies:

- (1) The theaters state that the bill will deprive patrons the option to seeing the closed captioning at any show time on any day and will leave them with no choice but attend limited open captioned shows. This is NOT true. Under federal law, all the showings that are not open captioned must still have the option to be viewed with assistive technology. This bill will not negate federal law but supplement it. This bill is about providing CHOICE to consumers who prefer open captioning to using any assistive device. For any given show in a week, there would still be approximately thirty shows without open captioning.
- (2) The theaters also stated that there has been an increase in the use of personal captioning devices between 2015 and 2017. This is, in part, because they were not available before such time and the availability coincided with the passage of the federal law requiring movie theaters to have a specific number of assistive devices.
- (3) The theaters claim that they have lost revenue due to lower attendance at open captioned movies, as stated in a Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism study from December 2017. Their inference is misleading, as the open captioned showings have consistently been at non-peak times where attendance is lower in general. It would be inappropriate to infer causation – that the difference in attendance was attributed to the captioning. Furthermore, it is not possible to measure whether patrons simply selected another showtime with an overall net impact of zero.

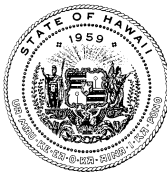
The proposed amendments to the current law would address the discriminatory effects of communication barriers at movie theaters encountered by individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, ensuring equal opportunity to enjoy motion picture showings. We ask that you pass House Bill 1009 out of Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,



FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director



LATE

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

February 4, 2019

To: The Honorable Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
The Honorable Representative Stacelynn K.M. Eli, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

From: Aphirak Bamrungruan, Executive Director

Subject: **HB 1009** – RELATING TO MOVIE THEATERS

Hearing: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:30 AM
Conference Room 309, State Capitol

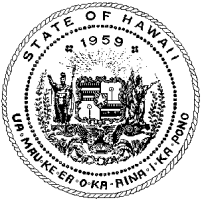
Agency's Position: The Office of Language Access (OLA) supports House Bill 1009.

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 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.

HB1009 benefits more than the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing. Under the current law, the lightweight glasses are only available to those requiring an ADA accommodation, not for LEP individuals. Using open captioning can be a great tool for LEP individuals and English-Language Learners (ELLs) to enjoy movies and to increase an opportunity to learn the correspondence between spoken and written language. Open captioning provides a critical link to communication and making information accessible to LEP individuals and ELLs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

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

LATE

February 5, 2019
Rm. 309, 9:30 a.m.

To: The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Members of the House Committee on Labor and Public Employment

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

Re: H.B. No. 1009

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.

H.B. No. 1009 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.”

And, H.B. No. 1009 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.

H.B. No. 1009 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 H.B. No. 1009.

LATE

HB-1009

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 9:38:23 AM

Testimony for LAB on 2/5/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Khara Jabola-Carolus	Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women	Support	No

Comments:



S E A C
Special Education Advisory Council
1010 Richards Street, Room 118
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: 586-8126 Fax: 586-8129
email: spin@doh.hawaii.gov

LATE

February 5, 2019

**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
Ms. Virginia Beringer
Ms. Deborah Cheeseman
Ms. Annette Cooper
Mr. Motu Finau
Mr. Sage Goto
Ms. Lindsay Heller
Dr. Kurt Humphrey
Ms. Tina King
Ms. Bernadette Lane
Ms. Kaili Murbach
Ms. Stacey Oshio
Ms. Carrie Pisciotto
Ms. Kau'i Rezentos
Ms. Rosie Rowe
Mr. James Street
Mr. Francis Taele
Mr. Steven Vannatta
Dr. Amy Wiech
Ms. Jasmine Williams
Ms. Susan Wood

Ms. Cara Tanimura, *liaison
to the Superintendent*
Dr. Bob Campbell, *liaison to
the military community*

Amanda Kaahanui, Staff
Susan Rocco, Staff

Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: H.B. 1009 - RELATING TO MOVIE THEATERS

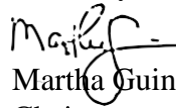
Dear Chair Ling Johanson and Members of the Committee,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), strongly supports the intent of H.B. 1009 that makes permanent the requirement for certain motion picture theater owners and operators to provide open movie captioning at least twice a week with at least one showing on a Saturday or Sunday.

SEAC is a strong advocate for inclusive practices in school and in the community. It is well documented that open movie 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

LATE

HB-1009

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 3:29:18 PM

Testimony for LAB on 2/5/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mericia Palma Elmore	SAG-AFTRA	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-1009

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 5:47:10 PM

Testimony for LAB on 2/5/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

February 4, 2019

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at 9:30 AM

Conference Room 309, State Capitol

RE: HOUSE BILL 1009 RELATING TO MOVIE THEATERS

Dear Chair Johanson:

Isle Interpret is submitting testimony in support of House Bill 1009 to require **OPEN** captioning at movie theaters in Hawaii.

In 2015, Hawaii was the first state to require open captioning at movie theaters. This provided patrons who are deaf, hard or hearing, or latened deaf including a large senior citizen population to enjoy full and equal access to movies along with their families. When the law changed in 2017 permitting theaters to utilize "lightweight eyewear," this made attending movies unenjoyable for many deaf, hard of hearing, and latened senior citizens. The experience was no longer full or equal. Not only are the glasses uncomfortable and sometime impossible for patrons to wear, they are not conducive for deaf children, and there are frequently technological issues that interfere with having an enjoyable night out. This has resulted in many deaf, hard of hearing and latened deaf to once again wait until movies are released on DVD to be able to enjoy them.

Open captions are not deterrant for other patrons of movie theaters. They should be the standard for all movies that are shown at all movie theaters so they are 100% accessible and inclusive of all members of our community. A side benefit is that captions will also support and enhance English literacy in the state.

We respectfully ask that HB 1009 be passed in order to make the provision of **OPEN captioning** a permanent requirement ensuring that person who are deaf, hard of hearing have full and equal access at Hawaii's movie theaters. Please vote in support of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Tamar Lani, President

Susan Kroe-Unabia, Vice President

Isle Interpret, LLC

LATE

HB-1009

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 7:26:08 AM

Testimony for LAB on 2/5/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

LATE

February 5, 2019

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at 9:30 A.M.
Conference Room 309, State Capitol

RE: HOUSE BILL 1009 RELATING TO MOVIE THEATERS

Dear Chair Johanson:

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of House Bill 1009, which will ensure that individuals in Hawaii who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind are afforded full and equal access at movie theaters in Hawaii by requiring open captioned showings. I have relied on open captioning my entire life to fully enjoy screen-based dialogue; no other method has ever remotely given me an equal degree of access.

The decision to allow for “lightweight” eyewear as a substitute for open captioning was a slap in the face for me; I was left feeling like I was demoted to a second-class citizen who was not worthy of a fully accessible movie-going experience. The “lightweight” eyewear is not light, comfortable, or effective. Even more so, they are embarrassing and borderline discriminatory to wear.

To go even further, individuals other than those who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind benefit from captioning. This is true for kupuna, members of the limited English proficient community, or everyday individuals desperate to comprehend heavily accented or obscured dialogue. In fact, a study by the BBC showed that 80% of individuals who rely on captioning have no hearing disability at all.¹ However, these same individuals cannot benefit from assistive technology provided at movie theaters because, without a disability, they cannot request ADA accommodations. This is where mandatory open captioning is a boon; it allows anyone – regardless of ability – to benefit from captioned movies.

There are many issues with Hawaii’s current open captioning law that will be corrected and made permanent by House Bill 1009, which will ensure that individuals in Hawaii who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind have full and equal opportunity to enjoy showings at movie theaters. I ask you to consider including language to require at least one showing on a Saturday or Sunday (as seen in HB 1340/SB 331) and vote in support of this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Mary Harman
Honolulu, HI

¹ http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/magazine/4862652.stm

February 5, 2019

LATE

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at 9:30 A.M.
Conference Room 309, State Capitol

RE: HOUSE BILL 1009 RELATING TO MOVIE THEATERS

Dear Chair Johanson:

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of House Bill 1009, which will ensure that individuals in Hawaii who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind have full and equal access at movie theaters in Hawaii by requiring open captioned showings. I have relied on open captioning my entire life to fully enjoy screen-based dialogue; nothing else has allowed me to experience the degree of access afforded by open captioning.

In fact, I recall rejoicing in 2015, when Hawaii became the first state in the U.S. to require open captioning at movie theaters. That feeling, however, diminished when the law changed in 2017. The decision to allow for “lightweight” eyewear as a substitute for open captioning was a gut-punch; I could not help but feel like a second-rate citizen. Assistive devices are glitchy, and my ability to follow dialogue is never “effective” – the standard required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Moreover, wearing devices feels ostracizing. Wear them yourself in a room full of strangers and you will understand what I mean.

There are many issues with Hawaii’s current open captioning law that will be corrected and made permanent by House Bill 1009, which will ensure that individuals in Hawaii who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind have full and equal opportunity to enjoy showings at movie theaters. Please consider including language to require at least one showing on a Saturday or Sunday (as seen in HB 1340/SB 331) and vote in support of this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Colin Whited
Honolulu, HI

LATE

HOUSE BILL 1009 TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

February 1, 2019

Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Labor & Public Employment
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 436
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Johanson,

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For many Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing residents and visitors to the islands including all residents of Hawaii, seeing a film in a movie theater can prove to be difficult. Often, movie theaters offer "closed captioning" glasses for attendees who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind or Hard of Hearing so they can view captions detailing spoken words, sounds, and music throughout the film. These glasses are unreliable due to battery failure and lack of proper connectivity. The glasses are heavy, often not properly cleaned - which could pose a health risk to those with compromised immune systems. The glasses are uncomfortable and can be difficult to wear for those that also use every day glasses, hearing aids, or cochlear implants.

Some theaters use a "captioning box," which is placed in an attendee's cup holder. The moviegoer then has to look back and forth between the box and the movie screen to understand what is happening. This causes strained necks and eyes and increases the likelihood that Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing moviegoers miss portions of the film. These devices are also unreliable due to battery failure and lack of proper connectivity too.

Providing open captions directly on films allows patrons who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind or Hard of Hearing to enjoy a film equally to that of their hearing peers. Open captions do not just benefit individuals who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind or Hard of Hearing but also those with other disabilities or non-native English speakers who may rely on captions to fully understand what is said.

Sincerely,

Bobbie Arnold

LATE

HOUSE BILL 1009 TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

February 1, 2019

Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Labor & Public Employment
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 436
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Johanson,

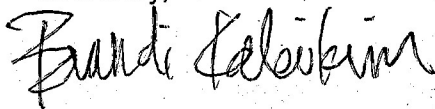
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Sincerely,



LATE

HOUSE BILL 1009 TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

February 1, 2019

Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Labor & Public Employment
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 436
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Johanson,

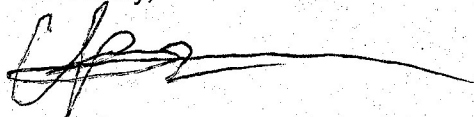
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Sincerely,



LATE

HOUSE BILL 1009 TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

February 1, 2019

Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Labor & Public Employment
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 436
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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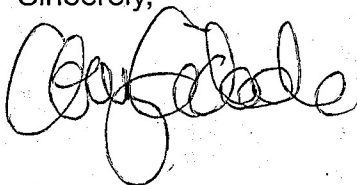
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Sincerely,

Brent Labrady

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Sincerely,

Cori Miyasato

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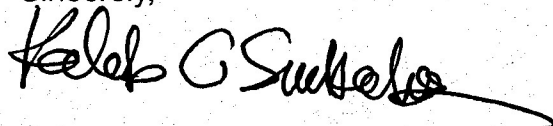
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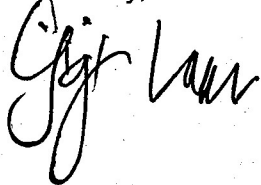
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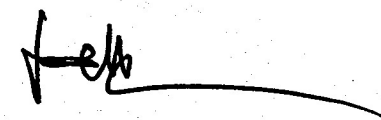
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Sincerely,

Linda L. Miller 

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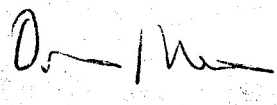
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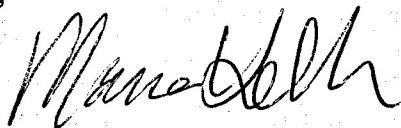
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Sincerely,

Daeunn Bumerylag

From Maui

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Clyde Ivan Custodio Kapaa Kawai

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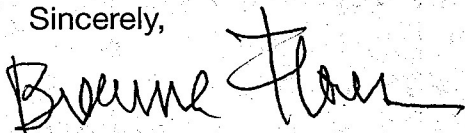
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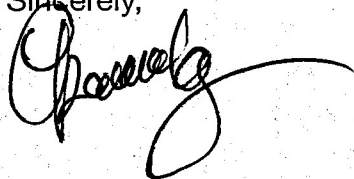
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Some theaters use a "captioning box," which is placed in an attendee's cup holder. The moviegoer then has to look back and forth between the box and the movie screen to understand what is happening. This causes strained necks and eyes and increases the likelihood that Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing moviegoers miss portions of the film. These devices are also unreliable due to battery failure and lack of proper connectivity too.

Providing open captions directly on films allows patrons who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind or Hard of Hearing to enjoy a film equally to that of their hearing peers. Open captions do not just benefit individuals who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind or Hard of Hearing but also those with other disabilities or non-native English speakers who may rely on captions to fully understand what is said.

Sincerely,



LATE

HOUSE BILL 1009 TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

February 1, 2019

Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Labor & Public Employment
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 436
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Johanson,

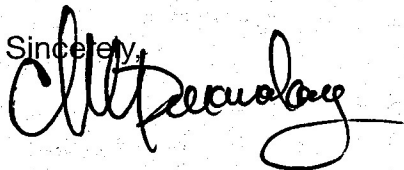
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Kiana Pano

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Kinohi Dumadog