



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • TTY (808) 586-8162 • Fax (808) 586-8129

March 23, 2023

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

House Concurrent Resolution 187/House Resolution 192 – Urging the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency to Include in All Live and Recorded Emergency Alert System Video Broadcasts, an On-Screen Interpreter Disseminating the Emergency Information in American Sign Language at All Times, Including During Graphic Presentations

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports and offers comment on House Concurrent Resolution 187/House Resolution 192 – Urging the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency to Include in All Live and Recorded Emergency Alert System Video Broadcasts, an On-Screen Interpreter Disseminating the Emergency Information in American Sign Language at All Times, Including During Graphic Presentations.

There is a need to improve access to emergency broadcasts for individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing. Many individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing need emergency information in American Sign Language (ASL) to make educated decisions to safely respond to emergencies and disasters. In addition, there is a need to ensure qualified ASL interpreters perform this essential service and ASL interpreters are not forced out of view of the camera shot, obstructed, or viewed in an angle that is counterproductive of effective communication. This resolution would urge the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency to (1) include in all live and recorded Emergency Alert System (EAS) video broadcasts, an on-screen interpreter disseminating the emergency information in ASL at all times, including during graphic presentations; (2) provide training for ASL interpreters by including them in all training provided to EAS broadcasters; and (3) have all video broadcasts have one camera showing the ASL interpreter at all times

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director