# **Community** Alliance for Mental Health

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To: The Hawai'i State Senate Committee on Ways and Means Re: SB 148 SD 1  $\,$ 



To: The Honorable Senator Ige and the members of the committee.

### Aloha,

The Community Alliance for Mental Health along with United Self Help strongly supports SB 148 SD1. We feel that this bill will allow for the necessary strengthening of services for our State's most vulnerable population.

Mahalo, Scott Wall Vice-President



## <u>SB148</u>

Submitted on: 2/21/2013 Testimony for WAM on Feb 22, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
colleen cidade	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I support Senate Bill 148 for that 100 percent. Please DEAF SERVICE LEFT BEHIND, NO WAY! Thank you!

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## <u>SB148</u>

Submitted on: 2/21/2013 Testimony for WAM on Feb 22, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keri Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I fully support HB1430 & SB 148. The Comprehensive Service Center, (CSC). Having a central place where Deaf people can go to meet their needs is very important to their physical, emotional and social needs. Deaf people like hearing people love to interact with each other. Deaf people live in varies placed throughout the island. They don't get to socialize with each other on a daily basis like hearing people do. When there is a center that brings them together to have their needs met will be very healthy for them. They will develop more social awareness of what is going on around them and in the world. It will allow them to become more educated and more empowered. As a child of Deaf parents, when my father passed away my mother felt very alone. After my dad's passing, my mother decided to move away. She moved to a bigger city in hopes to interact with more Deaf people. My mother was not use to driving in a city where there was a lot of traffic; therefore she was not able to get out and socialize as much as she wanted. Like Hawaii Deaf people in Utah, where my mom lived did not live near each other so that made it even harder for her. If there was a central place where she could go I truly believe she would have been so much happier. As it turned out because she so lonely and sad, and isolated in her apt she moved again. Later when she had to move into a nursing home the one thing she feared most was not being able to communicate with the staff and other people around her. She was scared and did not want to live there. Again had there had been a comprehensive service center that would service a lot of her needs she would not have had to face those fears alone. In these two examples shows how she felt isolated and alone. She was not as productive as she could have been in her later years. As we all grow older it is so important that we keep our minds active and continue learning so that we don't have certain health issues. Having a CSC will continue promote individual growth and learning and autonomy. Having a CSC is a great place where mentoring can happen as well. Young Deaf socializing with older Deaf is critical. It is always good to have someone to look up to. Older Deaf people can teach younger Deaf youth how they can empower themselves and become more independent. The history and language of the Deaf culture is so very rich and beautiful. That will continue to be passed down from generation to generation while many people enjoy the CSC throughout the years to come. Having a CSC will be a great way to empower the Deaf. There are many capable and willing Deaf people

who would love to work and even volunteer there at this center. I fully support this bill and know that it will be a benefit to all Deaf involved. Keri Lee ASL Interpreter

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