

- Measure Title: MAKING A GRANT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE CENTER.
- Report Title: Comprehensive Service Center; Appropriation; Grant (\$)
- Description: Appropriates moneys for a grant to establish and operate a comprehensive service center.

Companion:

- Package: Deaf and Blind
- Current Referral: HMS, WAM
- Introducer(s): CHUN OAKLAND, Ihara



PATRICIA McMANAMAN DIRECTOR

BARBARA A. YAMASHITA DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES P. O. Box 339

Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

January 31, 2013

MEMORANDUM:

- TO: The Honorable Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair Senate Committee on Human Services
- FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: S.B. 308 – MAKING A GRANT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE CENTER

Hearing: Thursday, January, 31, 2013; 1:15 p.m. Conference Room 016, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds to the Department of

Human Services as a grant for the establishment and operation of a Comprehensive Service

Center for deaf, hard-of-hearing, and deaf-blind individuals in Hawaii.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)

formerly known as the Vocational Rehabilitation and Services to the Blind Division of the

Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of S.B. 308. We ask that if this bill

is passed that it does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive

Biennium Budget.

The DVR has worked closely with the deaf community throughout the years to

establish a Comprehensive Service Center (CSC) for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-

Blind and is committed to assist in the funding of vocational rehabilitation activities within the center.

The DVR does not have sufficient funds to support non-vocational rehabilitation related activities under the proposed center. The DVR is unable to support any further funding beyond the Governor's proposed budget if such additional funding will affect current priorities within the Governor's proposed budget.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony to this Committee.



TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE, 2013

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 308, RELATING TO MAKING A GRANT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE CENTER.

BEFORE THE: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

DATE:	Thursday, January 31, 2013	TIME:	1:15 p.m.
LOCATION:	State Capitol, Room 016		
TESTIFIER(S):	David M. Louie, Attorney General, or Candace J. Park, Deputy Attorney Gener	al	

Chair Chun Oakland and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments on this bill, the purpose of which is to provide grants for the establishment and operation of a comprehensive service center for the deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind community.

Sections 2 and 3 of this bill propose that grants be made pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), for the establishment and operation of a comprehensive service center, but do not specify the intended recipients of the grants. This poses a potential constitutional problem.

Article VII, section 4, of the State Constitution provides in part: "No grant of public money or property shall be made except pursuant to standards provided by law." Chapter 42F, HRS, provides the standards for grants made by the Legislature; "grant" is defined in section 42F-101 as "an award of state funds by the legislature, by an appropriation to a specified recipient, to support the activities of the recipient and permit the community to benefit from those activities."

In order to avoid the potential constitutional concern, we respectfully request that the Committee amend the bill by specifying the intended recipients of the grants.



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 101 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814 Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V/TDD) • Fax (808) 586-8129

January 31, 2013

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senate Bill 308 – Making a Grant for the Establishment and Operation of a Comprehensive Service Center

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports the intent of Senate Bill 308 - Making a Grant for the Establishment and Operation of a Comprehensive Service Center. This bill appropriates an unspecified amount of funds to the Department of Human Services as a grant to establish and operate a comprehensive service center for people who are deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind.

The Department of Human Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation is in the process of establishing a comprehensive service center for clients they serve. The center will offer a variety of classes to promote individual growth, social awareness and productivity. Members of the deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind community who are not clients of Vocational Rehabilitation would not be able to participate in center services. This grant would allow the center to serve the entire community of deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind people so that they may all benefit from the center.

DCAB defers to the Department of Human Services and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Advisory Board regarding the amount of an appropriation necessary for a comprehensive service center. However, there are amendments that we offer to clarify the intent of the bill:

- 1. On page 1, Line 11 of the purpose, add wording be added at the end so it will read "...establishment and operation of a comprehensive service center for the deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind."
- 2. Add the same wording to page 1, line 16 at the end of the sentence.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

BARBARA FISCHLOWITZ[•]LEONG Chairperson

Innune Wa

FRANCINE WAI Executive Director

SENATE BILL NO. 308 MAKING A GRANT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE DEAF CENTER

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 2013 AT 1:15 PM CONFERENCE ROOM 016

Aloha, I am Francine Mae Aona Kenyon and am representing the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Advisory Board (DHHAB) as the chair of Comprehensive Deaf Center (CDC)/Comprehensive Service Center (CSC) Ad Hoc Committee and Legislative Committee.

DHHAB was established in 1980 by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and is comprised of nine (9) deaf and hard of hearing members including four (4) from the neighboring islands who are either current/former VR consumers or doing the business for the Deaf community; parent of deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind child; two (2) special education teachers; and non-voting Vocational Rehabilitation staff and administrator. The purpose of the DHHAB is to oversee the effectiveness and efficiency of the services provided by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

On behalf of DHHAB, we strongly testify in support of Senate Bill No. 308, Making a Grant for the Establishment and Operation of a Comprehensive Deaf Center because of our top priorities as follows: 1) communication access; 2) information and referral service/outreach and 3) development of a centralized, coordinated and comprehensive center for improved access to services.

Based on four (4) studies, our mission is to provide a centralized, coordinated, and comprehensive service center to enable people who are deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind and their families to expand access to knowledge and communication through support, empowerment, education and enhancement of self-sufficiency.

Therefore, we seek for the additional funds from the state that would provide services at the CSC for non-DVR consumers or for non-employment related services for DVR consumers. The target population for the CSC are about 10% of 260,000 people who are deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind, according to the 2012 Disability Statistics Compendium in the State of Hawaii.

Again, we firmly urge you to passing the Senate Bill No. 308 to have the Comprehensive Service Center be established and operated to serve the entire Deaf community in the state.

Thank you very much for your support of this important bill on behalf of the Deaf community.

Sincerely,

Francine Mac Cono Kingon

Francine Mae Aona Kenyon Chair of CDC/CSC & Legislative Committee Deaf & Hard of Hearing Advisory Board

Lintenter

Lisa Ann Tom Chair Deaf & Hard of Hearing Advisory Board

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	HMS Testimony
Cc:	archerygal001@gmail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB308 on Jan 31, 2013 13:15PM
Date:	Tuesday, January 29, 2013 12:05:01 PM
Attachments:	PETITION PDF.pdf

Submitted on: 1/29/2013 Testimony for HMS on Jan 31, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
FRANCINE KENYON	Deaf Ala Moana Food Group	Support	No

Comments: This is the petition signed by the deaf group at Ala Moana Food Court where they regular gather for lunch on the weekends since there was no center for them to meet on regular basis as in the past. Thanks to Deborah Makahanaloa for her assistance.

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

M	PETITION IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL # 308 MAKING A GRANT TO ESTABLISH & OPERATE A COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE CENTER FOR						
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L	NAME	ADDRESS	EMAIL	WHY YOU NEED?			
1	Annie Yuen	3365-A Knan =+.*					
2	alma G.K. Hata Keyana	P.O. BOX 8300 Hon. 96830	hatalma @ hotmail. com	ан 1			
3	Roselyn Engleman	1270 Elm St. #8					
4	Score Cargo Jr.	1270 Elm st-\$		-			
5	Harriet Uyeno		- Mochi 39 Sprint				
6	PAUL TOMINAN	P.O. DOX 89380 MILLIN	Bar Eberry				
7	Ellen Kealohn	851245 Kapaekahist		2			
8	Kunupo Nakanino	1253 Matlock Ave \$ 54000.					
9	Debbie Makahanalo.	a 3151 Castle St #201	poolabe 53 @gmail.	i m			
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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov	
To:	HMS Testimony	
Cc:	sabinawilford@yahoo.com	
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB308 on Jan 31, 2013 13:15PM	
Date:	Wednesday, January 30, 2013 4:03:59 PM	

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for HMS on Jan 31, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sabina Wilford	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support the vision of a center that provides comprehensive services for the Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing, and Deaf/Blind community. However, I suggest beginning with services such as mental health education and treatment, substance abuse counseling, and domestic violence intervention rather than offering the proposed classes: reading, math, technology and sign language. Also, the location of the center is crucial. Ideally it would be a central location for everyone on the island as well as close to public transportation.

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

SENATE BILL NO. 308 MAKING A GRANT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE DEAF CENTER

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 2013 AT 1:15 PM CONFERENCE ROOM 016

Aloha, I am Natasha M.K. Otani. I am a Deaf VR client and do receive the services from the Vocational Rehabilitation. At first, I took a training class in cooking at Lanikala Pacific where I started working. Then I got the job at Safeway as the bagging clerk and stock clerk through the help of VR for ten (10) months before working at Dave & Busters as dishwasher and laundry cleaner where I now work.

I strongly testify in support of Senate Bill No. 308, Making a Grant for the Establishment and Operation of a Comprehensive Deaf Center because Vocational Rehabilitation helped me in many ways. Without the help from VR, I would not have gotten the jobs. Since I now work at Dave and Buster, I couldn't get the continued financial assistance from VR so I could go back to school to study to becoming a cartoonist for the newspaper because I now work part-time at Dave and Busters, trying to save for my further study.

Therefore, I feel the additional funds from the state may help me get whatever I need to further my training for the job that I want to be someday.

Again, I firmly urge you to passing the Senate Bill No. 308 to have the Comprehensive Service Center be established and operated to serve the entire Deaf community in the state.

Thank you very much for your support of this important bill on behalf of the Deaf community.

Sincerely,

A.

Natashi M.K. Otani Deaf Consumer 3151 Castle Street, Apt. 201 Honolulu, HI 96815 notani23@gmail.com TESTIMONY OF RODERICK J. MACDONALD

SUBMITTED TO THE HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE HAWAII STATE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES SENATOR SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, CHAIR

RELATING TO SB 308 "MAKING A GRANT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE CENTER."

> THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 2013 1:45 p.m, CONFERENCE ROOM 016 HAWAII STATE CAPITOL

Madam Chair, my name is Roderick Macdonald. I am originally from New England but have lived here in Hawaii for the past 14 years.

I have been blind since I was three years old, and have been profoundly deaf for most of my life. These are significant obstacles to getting ahead in life, but I have been very fortunate to have had a good education, good training and good support that enabled me to achieve most of my goals in life.

I am retired now, but for 30-odd years I worked as a Computer Specialist, Management Analyst, Policy Analyst, Rehabilitation Teacher for the Blind, and instructor at the Community College and University levels. I could never have done that without being taught to read without sight, listen without hearing and use a computer without either sight or hearing. I've been there, done that, and it would never have come to pass without the skills I learned along the way.

This brings me to the here-and-now: I am here to support, as strongly as I am able, the adoption of Senate Bill 308 for the establishment of a Comprehensive Service Center for Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing and Deaf-Blind individuals. I do not represent any agency or organization; I represent only me, myself and I. However, I am a consumer who has had the opportunity to benefit from the types of services this Center will be providing, and I cannot stress too strongly how important these training opportunities have been to me in the past.

Hawaii is a very special place. I use the word "special" as both a superlative and as a challenge, but I would like to focus on the challenging aspect of being a person with a disability in Hawaii.

When I taught my first class here in Hawaii, I had eight students from eight ethnic backgrounds; everyone was a minority of one. Each of these eight students came from a unique cultural background that influenced the individual's approach to learning, about disability and, most of all, about being a person.

I'd like to tell you about one of these students. She was 68 years old, very intelligent and with two advanced degrees from a Mainland university. She lost her eyesight as an adult, and whenever she visited her mother, the family expected her to enter the house through the back door, because they were embarrassed to have people seeing a blind person using a cane enter their front door.

Another of my students had been a school principal on one of the pacific islands who also lost his vision as an adult. He was very quiet during class and always said "yes" if i asked him if he understood the lesson. But I could tell he wasn't getting it, so we had a chat. He explained to me that he had been brought up to be quiet, respectful and never question authority. I in turn explained to him that I need him to participate in the learning experience by asking questions when he needed answers. We came to an agreement and when this man went home, one of the first things he did was to send me an email on his very new computer to thank me for helping him acquire the skills that enabled him to use a computer.

Yet another of my students told me that her upbringing taught her that a disability was punishment for sins committed in a past life. Another told me that it had been a major decision just to come to the agency seeking help, because her tradition held that it was the family that was responsible for "problems", not public agencies.

The challenges I have mentioned were encountered when I worked as a Rehabilitation Teacher for the Blind at Ho'opono, Hawaii's specialized training facility for the blind. Blindness is Ho'opono's specialty, but they have neither the understanding nor the expertise to deal with hearing loss. Yet the "other" sensory loss affects more people and can be every bit as much of an obstacle to participation and achievement. It was once observed that with blindness, one tends to miss things; but with deafness one tends to miss people.

Many people do not understand that hearing loss is often an "invisible" barrier. If you pass a deaf person on the street and say, "Good morning!, and the other person does not reply, you might well feel the person was rude in not returning your greetings. But the other person is deaf, did not hear your greeting, and very possibly may not have the ability to speak orally. I was once standing on a street corner preparing to cross when a man came up beside me and asked me a question. I did not even know he had asked me a question - I just continued watching the traffic. He became angry and hit me on the shoulder. When I turned to him he started pointing down the street, obviously asking something. I told him I was deaf and could not understand him, and then crossed the street.

Many people "assume" that deaf people can read lips. Some can, but most deaf people find lip reading difficult, at best. For most deaf people communication is via American Sign Language, a unique language separate from English that does not have a written form, so even communicating via written notes can be confusing at times. And because English for most deaf people is a second language they have never heard, simple tasks like reading the instructions printed in English may not be quite so simple.

In many situations when a deaf person must interact with hearing individuals - situations that of necessity happen every day - the assistance of a sign language interpreter is needed. One might think that having a third party facilitate the communication between two languages is a great solution, and most of the time it is: The hearing person can speak as usual and the deaf person can "listen" as usual while following American Sign Language, and when it is the deaf person's turn to say something he or she can use ASL, the interpreter repeats the communication in spoken English, and we are all on the same page.

Unfortunately it doesn't always work as planned. While I was working at Ho'opono we had a case meeting to discuss braille instruction for a young deaf woman who was losing her vision. The young woman sat on one side of a long table while her interpreter sat opposite. Everything was fine until one of the staff, sitting beside the deaf woman, became annoyed that she was not looking at him - she kept watching her interpreter. He finally reached out and shook her by the shoulder, saying "Look at me when I am talking to you!" This was a well-trained professional; he knew quite a bit about vision loss, including the specific eye condition the young woman had, but he did not understand deafness. After that meeting the young woman decided she did not want braille instruction, yet that instruction would have been very useful to her as her progressive vision loss impaired her ability to read printed materials.

So how are deaf people to acquire the skills to work, learn and prosper? How are deaf people to learn to overcome stereotypes and prejudices that prevail in a hearing society? How do deaf people learn to write an effective resume in a language that is not their own? How do deaf people learn to feel positive about themselves, and how do deaf people help their family members overcome that embarrassment and even shame?

Ladies and Gentlemen, I suggest that you have the answer in front of you with the proposal to establish a Comprehensive Service Center to address these issues. Please accept my very strong support of this bill.

Submitted on: 1/25/2013 Testimony for HMS on Jan 31, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lucy Miller	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Deaf people in Hawaii are largely underemployed due to language access difficulties. A comprehensive service center will offer language and communication training to bridge the gap to help equalize their opportunities to become more fully contributing citizens.

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

SENATE BILL NO. 308 MAKING A GRANT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE CENTER

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 2013 AT 1:15 PM CONFERENCE ROOM 016

Aloha and Good Afternoon to Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland, my name is Henry Gosebrink.

I, am testifying in support of Senate Bill No. 308 to create a Grant for the Establishment and Operation of a Comprehensive Service Center because it is a place where the Deaf community can go when they really need service like social services, getting sign language interpreters, expand the employment opportunities for themselves and training. This will empower them to become independent. This will give deaf people an opportunity to collaborate with other people with Disabilities.

Again, I enthusiastically urge you to support the Senate Bill No. 308 to establish the Comprehensive Service Center so people in the Deaf community. We can use their services more.

Thank you very much for your support of this important bill on behalf of the Deaf community.

Sincerely,

Henry Gosebrink 2834 Kaimuki Street #2

Honolulu, HI 96816

SENATE BILL NO. 308 MAKING A GRANT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE DEAF CENTER

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 2013 AT 1:15 PM CONFERENCE ROOM 016

Aloha, my name is Douglas Tong. I am a Deaf Vocational Rehabilitation client and a 2004 graduate of Kapiolani Community College with Associate of Arts in Marketing Business with Vocational Rehabilitation assistance. I attended the Honolulu Community College to study to become a licensed pilot, again with the VR assistance, as VR client but postpone it until futher notice.

I strongly testify in support of Senate Bill No. 308, Making a Grant for the Establishment and Operation of a Comprehensive Deaf Center because of (1) my experience with Vocational Rehabilitation; (2) concerns; and, (3) a need for a comprehensive service center.

I get lots of support from the VR and appreciate the VR assistance for my schooling. VR helped me a lot to get more schooling that I need but want to see more services and programs to be available to those deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind to have the same opportunity like me.

What about those who are not VR clients? Will VR help them in the same way VR does help me as VR client? If not, who will help those non-VR clients to get better services and attend the same programs I go to? Like my friend who wanted to join me in taking the licensed pilot schooling, he couldn't get the VR assistance because he was not VR client like me. He had to pay for his piloting license out of his own pocket but he did not have a steady job.

Therefore, I feel the additional funds from the state that will help my friends, who are not VR clients, get whatever they need more training or services such as counseling help, math, reading, etc. There is a great need to establish and operate a comprehensive service center for deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind in the state.

Again, I firmly urge you to passing the Senate Bill No. 308 to have the Comprehensive Service Center be established and operated to serve the entire Deaf community in the state.

Thank you very much for your support of this important bill on behalf of the Deaf community.

Sincerely,

Touglas Im

Douglas ¥ong Deaf Consumer 3726 Manini Way Honolulu, HI 96816 deafpilothawaii@gmail.com

SENATE BILL NO. 308 MAKING A GRANT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE DEAF CENTER

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 2013 AT 1:15 PM CONFERENCE ROOM 016

Aloha, I am Deborah T. Makahanaloa. I am a Deaf consumer working as a clerk at Fort Shafter Army Base. Prior to working at Fort Shafter, I was a former Vocational Rehabilitation client seeking a job placement. VR helped me find the federal job. I first worked at the Pearl Harbor, then was transferred to Fort Shafter Army Base where I now work as the contracting clerk for almost 20 years.

I strongly testify in support of Senate Bill No. 308, Making a Grant for the Establishment and Operation of a Comprehensive Deaf Center because of my experience with the Vocational Rehabilitation services. After I got my steady job, my case with VR was closed; however, I am not able to continue getting some assistance from VR. When I want to go back to school to get better job training, I do not get any services from Vocational Rehabilitation as I used to.

Therefore, I feel the additional funds from the state may help me get whatever I need to further my training for the career ladder that I never have any opportunity to move up to the administrative level.

Again, I firmly urge you to passing the Senate Bill No. 308 to have the Comprehensive Service Center be established and operated to serve the entire Deaf community in the state.

Thank you very much for your support of this important bill on behalf of the Deaf community.

Sincerely,

Sebarah J. Melcaharabra

Deborah T. Makahanaloa Deaf Consumer 3151 Castle Street, Apt. 201 Honolulu, HI 96815 poohbabe53@gmail.com

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
То:	HMS Testimony
Cc:	alohaspiritkauai@gmail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB308 on Jan 31, 2013 13:15PM
Date:	Monday, January 28, 2013 10:44:19 AM

Submitted on: 1/28/2013 Testimony for HMS on Jan 31, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Angenette Molina	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, My name is M. Angenette M. Molina. I am Hard of Hearing and am representing Kauai for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Advisory Board and working together to establish the Comprehensive Service Center. enclose is my letter and please support the Comprehensive Deaf Service. Mahalo, Angenette M. Molina

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