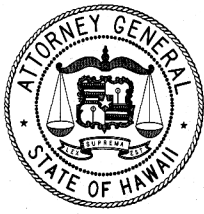


HB2727 HD1

Measure Title:	RELATING TO MOVIE THEATERS.
Report Title:	Motion Picture Theaters; Accommodation; Open Movie Captioning; Audio Description
Description:	Requires movie theaters to provide open movie captioning for at least two showings a week and audio descriptions upon request for all movies for which such accommodations are available and to provide public notice if such accommodations are not available for certain movies. (HB2727 HD1)
Companion:	
Package:	None
Current Referral:	CPH
Introducer(s):	TOKIOKA, CACHOLA, CREAGAN, CULLEN, DECOITE, EVANS, HAR, HASHEM, ING, ITO, JORDAN, KAWAKAMI, KEOHOKALOLE, KONG, C. LEE, LOPRESTI, LUKE, MCKELVEY, MIZUNO, MORIKAWA, RHOADS, SAY, SOUKI, TAKAYAMA, TSUJI, WARD, WOODSON, Nakashima, Onishi, Saiki, San Buenaventura



TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE, 2016

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 2727, H.D. 1, RELATING TO MOVIE THEATERS.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

DATE: Tuesday, March 29, 2016

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 229

TESTIFIER(S): Douglas S. Chin, Attorney General, or
Frances E. H. Lum, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides comments about this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to require a public accommodation that owns, leases, leases to, or operates a motion picture theater in more than two locations to provide open movie captioning.

In 2015, the Legislature passed a bill that is in substantially the same form as this bill. It became Act 39 and is codified as section 489-9, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). Section 489-9, HRS, will be repealed on January 1, 2018. As introduced, this bill had an effective date of January 1, 2017; this bill presently has an effective date of July 1, 2030. There is no sunset date in this bill.

Although there is no legal issue with having a gap in the law, we comment to make you aware of the possibility of having two separate sections with slightly different wording in the Hawaii Revised Statutes addressing the identical subject matter until section 489-9, HRS, is repealed, if an effective date prior to January 1, 2018, is inserted into this bill. In order to avoid such a situation and if it is the intent to have a law in place to address open movie captioning continuously and indefinitely, we recommend either: (1) section 489-9, HRS, be repealed before the effective date of this bill (if it is the Legislature's intent to have a gap) or to coincide with the effective date of this bill (if it is the Legislature's intent to have a law addressing open captioning in place continuously); OR (2) remove the contents of this bill and replace it with section 489-9, HRS, to include the technical, nonsubstantive amendments made to this bill and include an

amendment to section 3 of Act 39, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, as follows: "SECTION 3.
This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2016[, and shall be repealed on January 1, 2018]."

We request that this bill be amended in one of the two ways suggested above. Thank you
for the opportunity to comment.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 28, 2016

TO: The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

FROM: Rachael Wong, DrPH, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2727 HD1 - RELATING TO MOVIE THEATERS**
Hearing: Tuesday, March 29, 2016
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) and its Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) supports this measure.

PURPOSE: The measure requires movie theaters to provide open movie captioning for at least two showings a week and audio descriptions upon request for all movies for which such accommodations are available and to provide public notice if such accommodations are not available for certain movies.

The bill removes the sunset provisions of Act 39, passed in 2015, with the effective date of January 1, 2016. Act 39 (2015) is scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2018.

Passage of this measure means full inclusion. Removal of the sunset provisions of Act 39 (2015), in statute as section 489-9, Hawaii Revised Statutes, will continue to provide equal access to persons who are deaf, hard of hearing as well as persons who are blind or have low vision in accessing the recreational services afforded all citizens via the offerings from our various movie theaters.

The mission of DHS is to empower Hawaii's residents and to expand their capacity for self-sufficiency, self-determination and independence. The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation provides rehabilitation needs of persons with disabilities to secure employment and to lead full and productive lives. The underlying philosophy and goal of the DVR is that

through employment, individuals with disabilities are empowered toward economic self-sufficiency, independence, and inclusion and integration into society. The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation also supports the basic notion that with employment comes the opportunities to enjoy the fruits of one's labor. The removal of the sunset provision opens the door to full inclusion into society that was initiated by and continues with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended in 2014 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 as amended in 2008, and allows those the same opportunities to enjoy a good movie, such as the premiere of Star Wars – The Force Awakens, in December 2015 as enjoyed by all residents of Hawai'i.

Let Hawai'i be the role model for others to follow.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
919 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD, ROOM 113
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
March 29, 2016

The Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection,
and Health
Twenty-Eighth Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Baker and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: HB 2727 HD1 - Relating to Movie Theaters


The State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS HB 2727 HD1**. The bill requires a public accommodation that owns, leases, leases to, or operates a motion picture theater in more than two locations in the State to provide open movie captioning during at least two showings per week of each motion picture that is produced and offered with open movie captioning, and requires a public accommodation that owns, leases, leases to, or operates a motion picture theater in the State to provide, upon request, audio description of any motion picture that is produced and offered with audio description.

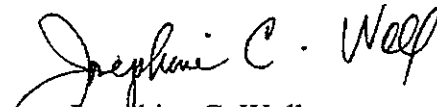
Open movie captioning provides a display of text on a screen or other visual display that provides additional or interpretive information of what is being presented. Star Wars: The Force Awakens movie was the first official premiere of open movie captioning on December 30, 2015. The overwhelming response of individuals attending the movie with open captioning was evident of the positive benefits of providing access for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to enjoy movies in a similar manner as those who do not require open movie captioning.

Act 39, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, mirrors the provisions of this bill. However, Act 39 also included a repeal date of January 1, 2018. The passage of HB 2727 HD1 would provide permanency in providing motion picture theater accommodations, such as open movie captioning.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **supporting HB 2727 HD1**.

Sincerely,


Wyanette K.Y. Cabral, MSW
Executive Administrator


Josephine C. Woll
Chair



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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

March 29, 2016

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

House Bill 2727, HD1 – Relating to Movie Theaters

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports House Bill 2727, HD1 - Relating to Movie Theaters. In 2015, Act 39 was passed and became effective on January 1, 2016. Hawaii Revised Statutes §489-9 provides for open captioning at movie theaters during at least two showings per week of each motion picture that is produced and offered with open captioning and also requires movie theaters to provide audio description, upon request of any motion picture produced and offered with audio description.

Feedback from people who are deaf and hard of hearing has been very positive about being able to attend open captioned movies. We have also received comments from people who are older indicating that the captions are helpful and appreciated. One commercial theater chain began offering open captioned movies prior to January 1, 2016 and has been very responsive to audiences who are Deaf and hard of hearing by including the notation "OPEN CAPTIONS" on movie advertisements in the newspaper.

The Hawaii Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) has enforcement authority over prohibition of discrimination under Hawaii's public accommodation law has submitted testimony with a suggested amendment. The main purpose of this bill is to repeal the sunset date of Act 39, and we concur with HCRC's amendment regarding only removing Section 3 of Act 39 in the 2015 Session Laws to remove only the sunset date. This bill was passed to improve accessibility of moviegoers who are Deaf and hard of hearing, but its implications have a far-reaching effect by providing effective or enhanced communication for the entire community.

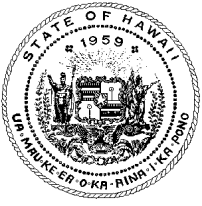
With the amendment suggested by the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission, we humbly request you pass this bill out of Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

BARBARA FISCHLOWITZ-LEONG
Chairperson
Legislative Committee

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director



HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

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

March 29, 2016
Rm. 229, 9:00 a.m.

To: The Honorable Rosalind H. Baker, Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

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

Re: H.B. No. 2727, H.D.1

The Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) has enforcement jurisdiction over Hawai‘i’s laws prohibiting discrimination in public accommodations, HRS chapter 489, including the newly enacted and codified § 489-9, which requires movie theaters to provide open captioning during at least two showings per week of each motion picture that is produced and offered with open captioning, and also requires movie theaters to provide audio description upon request of any motion picture that is produced and offered with open captioning.

The new HRS §489-9 was added to chapter 489 by the 2015 enactment of Act 39, effective January 1, 2016. Section 3 of Act 39 includes a “drop dead” or “sunset” provision that provides for the repeal of the Act on January 1, 2018.

It is our understanding that H.B. No. 2727, H.D.1, is intended to repeal and eliminate the “sunset” provision of Act 39. This makes sense, because the state law requirements go beyond those provided in the pending proposed federal rules that are going through the U.S. Department of Justice rulemaking process. For this reason, HRS § 489-9 will continue to provide meaningful accessibility requirements, even after final approval of the proposed federal rules.

The HCRC supports H.B. No. 2727, H.D.1, but suggests that rather than re-enacting the entirety of Act 39, the sunset provision can be repealed through a simple amendment of Section 3 of Act 39 in the 2015 Session Laws.

The HCRC suggests that H.B. No. 2727, H.D.1, be amended by deleting Sections 1 and 2 of the bill, and adding this suggested language:

SECTION 1. Act 39, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, is amended by amending section 3 to read as follows:

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2016~~, and shall be repealed on January 1, 2018~~].

SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed.

With this suggested amendment, the HCRC urges your favorable consideration of H.B. No. 2727, H.D.1.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Cc: louis@hawaiidisabilityrights.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2727 on Mar 29, 2016 09:00AM*
Date: Thursday, March 24, 2016 10:47:49 PM

HB2727

Submitted on: 3/24/2016

Testimony for CPH on Mar 29, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Louis Erteschik	Hawaii Disability Rights Center	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Cc: CANtheCANT@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2727 on Mar 29, 2016 09:00AM*
Date: Sunday, March 20, 2016 9:10:35 PM

HB2727

Submitted on: 3/20/2016

Testimony for CPH on Mar 29, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hawaii Deaf Surfriders Association	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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March 28, 2016

HB2727 HD1 TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE,
CONSUMER PROTECTION, and HEALTH

Senator Rosalyn Baker
Chair, Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Hawaii State Capitol
Room #230
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Baker,

My name is Christine Holmes. I am writing this testimony in support of HB2727 HD1. I have enjoyed watching open captioning movies. The experience of not wearing special devices has helped me to appreciate the film. I did not have to wait for the cashier to get the special device.

I am pleased of the fact that we are the first state to provide open-captioned films in all movie theaters instead of having to wear closed captioning devices such as glasses, or a rear-view plastic panel mounted on a flexible stalk to view the captioning, and other types of closed captioning devices. I would like to go to a movie theater with open captioning displayed on the screen without a device.

The Deaf and Hard of Hearing should not be forced to wear or use special equipment to read the captioning ever again. Open captioning provides equal access to watching movies just like hearing people watch movies with audio.

Hearing people are not required to wear or use special devices to listen and watch the movie. The passage of House Bill 2727 HD1 will provide equal access to movie theaters for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. I also support equal access for the Blind to movies theaters.

Sincerely,

Christine Holmes
418 N. Vineyard Blvd. #C-11
Honolulu, HI 96817

March 29, 2016

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

RE: House Bill 2727 – Relating to Movie Theaters

Dear Chair Baker:

My name is Colin Whited and I am a resident of Hawai'i's 10th Senatorial District. I am submitting this testimony to urge you to lend support to HB 2727 and vote for it.

Over time, legal efforts and their effects made movie theaters increasingly accessible for the deaf and hard of hearing. However, instead of providing open caption display, many theaters nowadays choose to make captioning available via the use of various assistive devices. Examples include portable screens held up by stands placed in cup holders, and special – not to mention bulky – glasses that may be worn throughout the film. While some consider these devices to be effective, the reality is that they are neither comfortable nor easily usable for many deaf and hard of hearing people. This means such devices fail to achieve the “effective communication” standard set forth by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Moreover, most theaters provide just one form of access, and often do so without consulting the local deaf and hard of hearing community.

I often remind myself how far we've come in terms of disability access, yet we have farther to go in order to achieve full accessibility. Those who are deaf or hard of hearing deserve to enjoy their movie theater experience as much as the next person. Instead, many find their experience diminished and feel shortchanged when left with no choice but to take in movies with flawed assistive devices. The deaf and hard of hearing deserve better. The first step towards fully accessible motion picture theaters lies in this very measure, which will require regular open captioned showings. Please accept my unwavering support of this bill. It is my hope that you are compelled to do the same.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Colin Whited

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Cc: canthecant@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2727 on Mar 29, 2016 09:00AM
Date: Sunday, March 27, 2016 12:39:16 PM

HB2727

Submitted on: 3/27/2016

Testimony for CPH on Mar 29, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Darlene Ewan	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: March 27, 2016 HB2727 HD1 TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, and HEALT Senator Roslyn Baker Chair, Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health Hawaii State Capitol Room #230 415 South Beretania Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Dear Senator Baker, My name is Darlene Ewan. I am writing this testimony in support of HB2727 HD1. I have enjoyed watching open captioning movies. The experience of not wearing special devices have helped me to appreciate the film. I did not have to wait for the cashier to get the special device. I am pleased of the fact that we are the first state to provide open-captioned films in all movie theaters instead of having to wear closed captioning devices such as glasses, or a rear-view plastic panel mounted on a flexible stalk to view the captioning, and other types of closed captioning devices. I would like to go to a movie theater with open captioning displayed on the screen without a device. The Deaf and Hard of Hearing should not be forced to wear or use special equipment to read the captioning ever again. Open captioning provides equal access to watching movies just like hearing people watch movies with audio. Hearing people are not required to wear or use special devices to listen and watch the movie. The passage of House Bill 2727 HD1 will provide equal access to movie theaters for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. I also support equal access for the Blind to movies theaters. Sincerely, Darlene Ewan Honolulu, Hawaii

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From: [Eileen Chiwa](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Cc: [Eileen Chiwa](#)
Subject: Fwd: Submitted testimony for HB2727 on Mar 29, 2016 09:00AM
Date: Sunday, March 20, 2016 6:32:02 AM

See correction under Comments.

Mahalo,
Eileen

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Date: Sun, Mar 20, 2016 at 5:40 AM
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2727 on Mar 29, 2016 09:00AM
To: CPHtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov
Cc: echiwa@gmail.com

HB2727

Submitted on: 3/20/2016

Testimony for CPH on Mar 29, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eileen Chiwa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please change the date in Section 3 to "upon approval." Thank you very much!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Cc: echiwa@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2727 on Mar 29, 2016 09:00AM
Date: Sunday, March 20, 2016 5:40:37 AM

HB2727

Submitted on: 3/20/2016

Testimony for CPH on Mar 29, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eileen Chiwa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please change the date to "upon approval." Thank you very much!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Cc: heather.interpreter@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2727 on Mar 29, 2016 09:00AM
Date: Sunday, March 20, 2016 10:59:31 AM

HB2727

Submitted on: 3/20/2016

Testimony for CPH on Mar 29, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Heather Benjamin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: For HB2727 The Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health. Aloha Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, I want open captions on movies to continue after January 1, 2018. I am greatly appreciative of the opportunity to watch movies in the theater with open captions. My husband is Deaf and we can now enjoy watching movies in the theater together. Please change the date in Section 3 to "upon approval." Mahalo, Heather Benjamin

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Cc: jrlcjc@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2727 on Mar 29, 2016 09:00AM
Date: Sunday, March 20, 2016 11:16:09 AM

HB2727

Submitted on: 3/20/2016

Testimony for CPH on Mar 29, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joel Matusof	Individual	Support	No

Comments: For HB2727 The Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health. Aloha Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, I want open captions on movies to continue after January 1, 2018. I am Deaf and enjoy getting out of the house and seeing a movie in the theater. The movie theater offers an experience you can not get at home; the popcorn, the people, the environment. I can not hear but I can feel the sound, I can feel the vibration of the movie in the seats, in the floor. Plus seeing the captions on a large screen is very easy to read and see. Not small and hard to see. I appreciate being able to see the movie when everyone else (hearing people) can see the movie. When there is no captions you have to wait until the movie comes out on DVD and then rent the movie. By then, everyone has already seen it and talked about it and experienced it. Deaf people are behind and now we are more equal, we can watch the movie on the opening day with everyone else and enjoy the experience with other hearing people. I also enjoy going to the theater with my family and having special family time. Sometimes my sons will go see movie without me because no captions. Then later, when I want to rent movie and watch my sons say they already watch that and don't want to see it again. I feel sad and frustrated because I wish I could watch with them in the theater. Please change the date in Section 3 to "upon approval." Mahalo, Joel Matusof

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Cc: SAAC96814@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2727 on Mar 29, 2016 09:00AM
Date: Monday, March 21, 2016 10:12:22 AM

HB2727

Submitted on: 3/21/2016

Testimony for CPH on Mar 29, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lynda Micham	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: My brother, Stephen P. Kelley, was born profoundly deaf. He would love to enjoy the movie theater experience with open caption (the caption box is not easy to use). All individuals who are deaf should be able to access this simple pleasure with ease of understanding. Thank you and aloha for supporting the passage of HB2727 HD1

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Cc: olavv1@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2727 on Mar 29, 2016 09:00AM
Date: Sunday, March 27, 2016 12:40:32 PM

HB2727

Submitted on: 3/27/2016

Testimony for CPH on Mar 29, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Olaf Axelsen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: March 27, 2016 HB2727 HD1 TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, and HEALT Senator Roslyn Baker Chair, Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health Hawaii State Capitol Room #230 415 South Beretania Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Dear Senator Baker, My name is Olaf Axelsen. I am writing this testimony in support of HB2727 HD1. I have enjoyed watching open captioning movies. The experience of not wearing special devices have helped me to appreciate the film. I did not have to wait for the cashier to get the special device. I am pleased of the fact that we are the first state to provide open-captioned films in all movie theaters instead of having to wear closed captioning devices such as glasses, or a rear-view plastic panel mounted on a flexible stalk to view the captioning, and other types of closed captioning devices. I would like to go to a movie theater with open captioning displayed on the screen without a device. The Deaf and Hard of Hearing should not be forced to wear or use special equipment to read the captioning ever again. Open captioning provides equal access to watching movies just like hearing people watch movies with audio. Hearing people are not required to wear or use special devices to listen and watch the movie. The passage of House Bill 2727 HD1 will provide equal access to movie theaters for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. I also support equal access for the Blind to movies theaters. Sincerely, Olaf Axelsen Honolulu, Hawaii

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March 27, 2016

HB2727 HDI TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, and HEALTH

Senator Rosalyn Baker
Chair, Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Hawaii State Capitol
Room #230
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Senator Baker,

My name is Steve Laracuento. I am Deaf and I am writing this testimony in support of HB2727 HDI. My wife Margaret, who is also Deaf, and I have enjoyed watching open captioning movies. It is nice not to have to wear special devices to appreciate a film in the movie theatre. My wife and I have been watching captions on TV at home since the late 1970's.

It makes sense to us that the most natural way for us to enjoy the movies is with Open Captions. We would like to continue watching Open Captions in the movies indefinitely. We did not appreciate having to exchange our IDs, sign a form and then wait for the cashier or manager to get the special device, or have to deal with not enough devices for our group of friends, or malfunctions of the device (dead battery or the device difficult to adjust).

I am pleased and proud of the fact that Hawaii is the first state in the nation to provide open-captioned films in all movie theaters instead of having to wear closed captioning devices such as glasses, or a rear-view plastic panel mounted on a flexible stalk to view the captioning, and other types of closed captioning devices. Open captioning provides equal access to watching movies just like hearing people watch movies with audio.

Hearing people are not required to wear or use special devices to listen and watch the movie. The passage of House Bill 2727 HDI will provide equal access to movie theaters for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. I also support equal access for the Blind to movies theaters.

Mahalo,

Stephen G. Laracuento

Margaret M. Laracuento

Honolulu, Hawaii 96818

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Cc: tabraham08@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2727 on Mar 29, 2016 09:00AM*
Date: Friday, March 18, 2016 6:34:44 PM

HB2727

Submitted on: 3/18/2016

Testimony for CPH on Mar 29, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Troy Abraham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Cc: lkakatsu@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2727 on Mar 29, 2016 09:00AM
Date: Friday, March 18, 2016 3:21:55 PM

HB2727

Submitted on: 3/18/2016

Testimony for CPH on Mar 29, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments: I would like to have HB 2727 return to its original intent of removing the sunset date of the current state law. The open captioning has been a great improvement over the close captioning format that many of hearing impaired friends have told me. It is like watching a Korean or Japanese shows on TV with the open captioning without the appliances to use in the cup and then having to go back and forth looking at the appliance and the screen. By that time, you've several scenes just trying to read the statements on the appliance. I appreciate the opportunity to provide this written testimony. Lynn Murakami-Akatsuka

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, 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.

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