

TESTIMONY OF
LEODOLOFF R. ASUNCION, JR.
CHAIR, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
STATE OF HAWAII

TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

April 4, 2023
10:30 a.m.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

MEASURE: H.B. No. 933, HD2, SD1

TITLE: RELATING TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH PRINT DISABILITIES.

DESCRIPTION: Appropriates funds to the Public Utilities Commission to provide free telecommunications access to certain information for individuals with a print disability. Effective 7/1/3000. (SD1)

POSITION:

The Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) offers the following comments for consideration.

COMMENTS:

The Commission appreciates the intent of this measure to help support individuals with print disabilities through provision of free telecommunications access to certain information.

The Commission appreciates the House Committee on Finance’s amendments that provide the Commission a blank appropriation from General Revenues as well as authorization to expend the funds equal to this appropriation. The Commission also appreciates the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection’s amendments that simplified the language of this measure.

Should this measure pass, the Commission would undertake a procurement process including issuing Request for Proposals ("RFP") to contract appropriate services as contemplated in this measure.

The Commission understands that the intent of this measure is to expand the Ho'opono services program to include local news and events, as well as to cover outreach and training for program participants. The Commission observes that another measure, HB870, HD2, SD1 is also advancing this session, but notes that HB870, HD2, SD1 would not provide funds to expand the current Ho'opono program to cover local news and events towards program participants on Oahu.

Should the Commission receive general revenue funds via this measure, the Commission will invite Department of Human Services ("DHS") representatives with procurement experience to help inform and guide the design of the desired program in any applicable RFPs, and will invite DHS representatives to voluntarily participate in bid evaluation given that the DHS' Division of Vocational Rehabilitation currently administers the Ho'opono services program.

Further, if the Legislature wishes to pass this measure, the Commission respectfully suggests it be provided an exact budget authorization to expend funds via an increase to its budget ceiling equal to the general revenues contemplated as granted in Senate Draft 1. The Commission believes, based upon input from stakeholders, that an appropriate placeholder value for the purposes of this program is \$120,000 per program year.

The Commission is willing to work with the Committee and stakeholders to further develop this measure in meeting the Legislature's intent.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
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DEAN I HAZAMA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR | KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday, April 4, 2023
10:30 a.m.
Conference Room 211**

**On the following measure:
H.B. 933, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, RELATING TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS FOR
INDIVIDUALS WITH PRINT DISABILITIES**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dean Nishina, and I am the Acting Executive Director for the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department) Division of Consumer Advocacy. The Department offers comments on this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds to the Public Utilities Commission to provide free telecommunications access to certain information for individuals with a print disability.

The Department supports the provision of affordable utility services, including basic telecommunications services for all customers, regardless of their status, condition, or location.

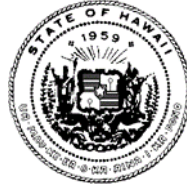
The Department appreciates the intent of this bill to assist individuals with print disabilities to have telecommunications access to certain types of information and fully

supports the amendments made by the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection to have such a program funded through a general fund appropriation rather than through utility rates.

As we have testified previously in the other Legislative committees, utility rates are regressive in nature where utility costs can often represent a significant portion of customers' household incomes, especially for elderly customers on fixed incomes and low-income households who are notably more vulnerable to increases in the cost of utilities. Accordingly, the Department's position is that utility rates should not be used as a source of funding for non-utility purposes due to the adverse impacts on utility customers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

April 3, 2023

TO: The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: [HB 933 HD2 SD1](#) – RELATING TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS FOR
INDIVIDUALS WITH PRINT DISABILITIES.

Hearing: April 4, 2023, 10:30 a.m.
Conference Room 211 & Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this bill, defers to the Public Utilities Commission, and provides comments.

PURPOSE: This bill appropriates funds to the public utilities commission to provide free telecommunications access to certain information for persons with a print disability.

Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (SD1)

The HD1 amended the measure by:

- (1) Providing explicit authorization for the Public Utilities Commission to use the Universal Service Fund to provide access for individuals with print disabilities, subject to a limit yet to be determined;
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

The HD2 amended the measure by:

- (1) Inserting an appropriation of an unspecified amount; and

- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

The SD 1 amended the measure by:

- (1) Deleting language that would have required the Public Utilities Commission to use funds from the Universal Service Fund to provide the services required by this measure;
- (2) Amending section 1 to reflect its amended purpose; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

The Department of Human Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), administers state-wide vocational rehabilitation services programs for persons with physical and mental disabilities, including the blind and deaf communities. These VR services include independent living rehabilitation services for persons with severe disabilities, general services for persons who are blind and visually impaired, and the disability determination of claims for Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income benefits issued by the Social Security Administration.

DVR recognizes the importance of providing timely and essential information to all community members, including those with print disabilities and those with print disabilities and limited English proficiency, in an accessible format. DVR appreciates that SD1 makes an appropriation out of general funds to be expended by the public utilities commission for the purposes of this Act.

Currently, DVR contracts with the National Federation of the Blind's (NFB) Newsline for this service. NFB Newsline provides news and other information from local and national newspapers and magazines via telephone, internet, or smartphone application. Anyone who is print-disabled, including those who are blind and visually impaired, physically unable to turn pages, or those with certain learning disabilities, is eligible for the NFB Newsline service. However, DHS understands that the current program needs to be expanded to include a more extensive variety of newspapers and periodicals.

DHS understands that once the measure passes, the Commission's formal proceedings to design the program may take additional time, and DHS respectfully requests an extended effective date. DHS will collaborate with the PUC to secure the program. DVR looks forward to

the day that Hawaii's residents with disabilities have additional resources to access real-time information and local and national news.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of this measure.

Written Statement of
Jeannine Souki
Senior Manager – Government & Regulatory Affairs

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

April 4, 2023, 10:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211, Videoconference

**COMMENTS FOR:
H.B. 933, HD2, SD1 – RELATING TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS FOR
INDIVIDUALS WITH PRINT DISABILITIES**

To: Senator Donavan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair
Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Testimony providing comments for HB 933, HD2, SD1

Aloha Honorable Chair, Vice-Chair, and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony for House Bill 933, HD2, SD1, to appropriate funds to the Public Utilities Commission (“PUC”) to provide free telecommunication access to information for individuals with print disabilities.

Hawaiian Telcom appreciates the intent of this bill and believes the provision of state general funds for this program is a more suitable means of support over the original language that proposed to utilize the State Universal Service Fund (“State USF”). The primary purpose of a State USF program should continue to be the provision of affordable and reasonable rates for basic residential telecommunications services. Hawaiian Telcom is unaware of any other jurisdiction using its State USF program for this purpose. Furthermore, the number of customers subscribing to landline phone services continues to decline each year, so adding another fee or charge to existing bills will cause customers to switch to alternate services. Therefore, state general funds are a more suitable source of revenue to provide free telecommunication access to information for individuals with print disabilities.

Hawaiian Telcom appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

Testimony of James Gashel
Submitted for National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)
Hawaii State Senate
Thirty-second Legislature, regular session of 2023

April 4, 2023, 10:30 AM, hearing on HB933, H.D. 2, S.D. 1

Good morning chair, vice chair, and members. I am James Gashel, representing National Federation of the Blind (NFB) of Hawaii, proudly supporting HB933, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, on behalf of people with print disabilities of all ages throughout our state. Mahalo to the Deaf and Blind Task Force for bringing this bill forward. Thank you for scheduling this bill for decision making.

As originally introduced, HB933 sought to require the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to use its universal service fund to support a telephonic information access service for persons with print disabilities, including state and local government information (including public notices) and other information (including current daily newspapers, magazines, emergency alerts, job opportunities, and other timely content) in accessible formats usable by persons unable to read ordinary print.

To their credit, rather than saying “no,” the PUC has responded to this bill by acknowledging the need and desirability of such a service and expressed a willingness to work with the legislature and stakeholders to develop this program. As amended in S.D. 1, HB933 seeks an appropriation from general funds since the state’s telecommunications universal service fund is not used for any purpose and has never been activated.

HB933 is all about making information more accessible to anyone with a print disability. Blindness, visual impairment, and learning disabilities, including dyslexia are among the most prevalent forms of print disability. Lack of timely access to information can be a real, day-in and day-out problem for several thousand residents of our state who can't see or use standard print as their primary form of communication, leaving them at an information deficit even to read the daily newspaper or to know what's on sale at the store. Disabilities, like vision loss, often go with aging and can happen to anyone.

By way of full disclosure, NFB of Hawaii presently fulfills a contract with the Department of Human Services (DHS), providing many of the services described in HB933. This has been a very successful program in Hawaii for several years. However, providing information services

for persons with print disabilities is also a legitimate responsibility of the PUC, analogous to support for telecommunications services for people who are Deaf.

Working with other states, NFB affiliates have thirty years' experience providing many of the information services described in HB933. Based on this experience, we estimate an annual operating cost of \$120,000, used to acquire content, promote the service, and train new users.

If HB933 is enacted, the PUC will have a proceeding to better define the scope of service and costs. As we're advised by the PUC, this cannot happen without specific authorization by the legislature, which HB933 would provide. Forty-five other states on the mainland have services like those described in HB933, with example laws from Texas, Georgia, and Maine attached. Exact public funding arrangements used vary from state to state.

Mahalo for considering HB933, H.D. 2, S.D. 1. Members of the NFB of Hawaii strongly support this bill and hope you will do so too.

ATTACHMENTS

Texas:

Tex. Util. Code § 56.301

Section 56.301 - Audio Newspaper Assistance Program

The commission by rule shall establish a program to provide from the universal service fund financial assistance for a free telephone service for blind and visually impaired persons that offers the text of newspapers using synthetic speech. The commission may adopt rules to implement the program.

Tex. Util. Code § 56.301

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., 2nd C.S., Ch. 2 (S.B. 5), Sec. 17, eff. September 7, 2005.

Georgia:

Section 46-5-30. Establishment, administration, and operation of state-wide dual-party relay service and audible universal information access service

(a) The General Assembly finds and declares that it is in the public interest to provide basic telecommunications services to all citizens of this state who, because of physical impairments, particularly hearing and speech impairments, cannot otherwise communicate over the telephone. It is further in the public interest to take advantage of innovative technological uses of basic telecommunications services to allow for universal access to information by blind and otherwise print-disabled citizens of this state.

(f.1) The commission shall select the service provider which will provide and manage the audible universal information access service and shall award the contract for this service to the offeror whose proposal is the most advantageous to the state, considering the price, the interests of the blind and print disabled community in having access to a high quality and technologically advanced interactive audible universal information access system, the maintenance of such system, the training provided on the use of such service, outreach efforts, and all other factors listed in the commission's request for proposals.

Maine:

MRS Title 27, §40. ACCESSIBLE ELECTRONIC INFORMATION SERVICES

§40. Accessible electronic information services

- Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.
 - "Accessible electronic information service" means news and other information, including but not limited to newspapers, provided to eligible individuals from a multistate service center using high-speed computers and telecommunications technology for interstate acquisition of content and rapid distribution in a form appropriate for use by such individuals. [PL 2005, c. 651, §1 (NEW).]
 - "Eligible individuals" means blind, visually impaired or disabled individuals who are eligible for library loan services through the Library of Congress and the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped pursuant to 36 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 701.10(b). [PL 2005, c. 651, §1 (NEW).]
 - "Qualified entity" means an agency, instrumentality or political subdivision of the State or a nonprofit organization that:
 - Provides interstate access for eligible individuals to read daily newspapers through producing audio or Braille editions by computer.

- Obtains electronic news text either over the Internet or through direct transfer arrangements made with participating news organizations; and
- Provides a means of program administration and reader registration on the Internet.

[PL2005, c. 651, §1 (NEW).] [PL 2005, c. 651, §1 (NEW).]

- Provision of service. The State Librarian may enter into an agreement with a qualified entity to provide an accessible electronic information service for eligible individuals. If an agreement is entered into, the State Librarian may make use of federal and other funds available for this purpose. [PL 2005, c. 651, §1 (NEW).]

- Telecommunications education access fund. The State Librarian or the Commissioner of Education may enter into contracts or order services on behalf of schools and libraries in connection with the telecommunications education access fund pursuant to Title 35-A, section 7104-B. The State Librarian or the Commissioner of Education may take advantage of any discounts available pursuant to the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996. [PL 2009, c. 274, §17 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2005, c. 651, §1 (NEW). PL 2009, c. 274, §17 (AMD).

HB-933-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 8:16:42 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stan Young	Testifying for Hawaii State Committee of Blind Vendors	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To function in society in today's world, everyone, including those of us who are print disabled, must be able to access news and information. There are many in Hawaii who are print disabled, including the blind and visually impaired, students from elementary school to high school and college who have reading disabilities, and the elderly, a great portion who have print disability. To deny this legislation is to deny a large group of our population the ability to readily receive and digest news and information; to use information for school, for planning finance and budgets, to function in society.

HB-933-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2023 12:19:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cards Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,
I support this bill.
Mahalo nui,
Cards Pintor

Brandon Young

4/2/2023

Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Hawaii State Senate

Thirty-second Legislature, regular session of 2023

April 4, 2023, 10:30 AM, hearing on HB933, H.D. 2, S.D. 1

Dear Sen. Dela Cruz and other committee members,

My name is Brandon Young and I am a member of the National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii. I am submitting testimony in behalf of HB 933 HD2 SD1. This bill would help many blind and visually impaired people here in Hawaii. I would wish that your committee would pass this bill and support the program that it would support.

The program that this bill would support is a telephone services that provides blind and visually impaired people in Hawaii access to the newspaper and other magazines that they currently do not have access to. The service known as NFB Newsline currently has over 400 newspapers and other news sources. It also has several magazines from across the country. It has commercial ads from Target and other local businesses. This program is very helpful to those who are blind and visually impaired in our state. If this program were to be supported, it would allow many blind and visually impaired people access to newspapers and other news sources from around the world. I want to thank you for taking on our bill for your committee. Again, I would suggest that you pass this bill. Have a wonderful day.

HB-933-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 7:04:54 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann Lemke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Committee Members,

I am a retired blind person and having timely and full access to the electronic or digital form of printed media is vital for me and other print-disabled people to be fully able to make informed decisions as we participate in our communities. I fully support the position of the National Federation of the Blind as eloquently set forth by Mr. James Gashel.

Testimony of Hoku Burrows

Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Hawaii State Senate

Thirty-second Legislature, regular session of 2023

April 4, 2023, 10:30 AM, hearing on HB933, H.D. 2, S.D. 1

Good morning chair, vice chair, and members. I am Hoku burrows, a blind woman and member of the National Federation of the Blind of Hawai'i. I am in strong support of HB933, H.D. 2, S.D. 1. Much mahalo for scheduling this bill for decision making today.

As a local blind kupuna, passing this bill into law is very personal to my staying informed and involved in my community. Using the telephonic service to gain and access information is critical to my staying on top of local and national announcements, emergency alerts, news that keeps me involved in my world that otherwise I would be isolated from.

I stand in strong support of the testimony submitted by the National Federation of the Blind of Hawai'i.

Please take our testimony and cry for access seriously as you decide to vote yes to HB933, H.D. 2, S.D. 1. Mahalo nui loa!

Testimony of Virgil Stinnett

Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Hawaii State Senate

Thirty-second Legislature, regular session of 2023

April 4, 2023, 10:30 AM, hearing on HB933, H.D. 2, S.D. 1

Good morning chair, vice chair, and members. My name is Virgil Stinnett, President of the National Federation of the Blind of Hawai'i and a local blind businessman. I am in full support of HB933, H.D. 2, S.D. 1. Mahalo for scheduling this bill for decision making today.

Critical to my participation locally and nationally, I am able to use a telephonic service which gives me access to important business journals, breaking news, otherwise not available to me in traditional formats. Local events, political information, engage equally with my business peers, community service, and so much more, including receipt of critical emergency and weather alerts otherwise not always accessible or available to me and others who are blind and print disabled.

HB933, H.D. 2, S.D. 1. is very personal to me and my continued access to information in my community. I stand in strong support of testimony submitted by The National Federation of the Blind of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your support and consideration of passing this bill, an important and vital step to ensure the continuation of accessible telephonic services in Hawai'i.

Testimony of Katie Keim

Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Hawaii State Senate

Thirty-second Legislature, regular session of 2023

April 4, 2023, 10:30 AM, hearing on HB933, H.D. 2, S.D. 1

Good morning chair, vice chair, and members. My name is Katie Keim, a member and leader in the National Federation of the Blind of Hawai'i and a local blind professional. I fully support HB933, H.D. 2, S.D. 1. Mahalo for scheduling this bill for decision making today.

As a blind professional woman residing in Honolulu, I use accessible telephonic service as my access to local events, information that otherwise requires reading print or digital material not accessible to me. Through a variety of devices that are accessible to the blind, I am able to stay abreast of political, community and other important information that allows me to fully participate in my community equally with my sighted colleagues.

HB933, H.D. 2, S.D. 1 is very personal and critical to my staying on top of information otherwise not available to me and my ability to continue to be fully engaged equally in my community.

I stand in full support of testimony submitted by The National Federation of the Blind of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your support and serious consideration of a yes vote to pass this bill that is vital to myself and my peers who are blind and print disabled enabling us to stay abreast of community information not otherwise accessible to us.

HB-933-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 11:59:38 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tabatha Mitchell	Testifying for National Organization of Parents of Blind Children Hawaii Representative	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

April 4, 2023, 10:30 AM

Conference Room 211

HB933.HD2.SD1 – RELATING TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH PRINT DISABILITIES

To: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Testimony providing comments for HB 933, HD2, SD1

Aloha Honorable Chair, Vice-Chair, and Committee Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony for House Bill 933, HD2, SD1.

HB933 is about timely & effective access to information for anyone that has a print disability. HB933 is important to me and the parents of blind keiki throughout Hawaii.

My youngest daughter is blind. I serve my blind ohana throughout Hawaii through the National Organization of Parents of Blind Children. My daughter is now a blind honors student in public school on the windward side of Oahu. It is my kuleana to help those parents of blind keiki that come into the world of blindness after me.

Blindness, visual impairment, and learning disabilities, including dyslexia, are among the most prevalent forms of print disability. Lack of access to timely information is a very real problem for this group of people.

HB933 addresses this situation. HB933 has been amended to authorize the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to support a telephone service for persons with print disabilities that will offer state and local government information along with newspapers & magazines in accessible formats. Accessible formats provide persons with print disabilities access to information that is equivalent to access for a person without a disability.

The bill as amended in S.D. 1 seeks a general fund appropriation for this program. In submitting this testimony, I am supporting the position of the National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii. I have raised a blind child that has used this service. She started calling up the weather on her big button Braille phone when she was 3. She's now a Jr in high school taking her ACT college entrance exam today. Make no mistake - her learning capability was directly impacted by the program HB933 seeks to fund.

Her access to information started on the landline telephone when she was very young. She could not see TV, or billboards, or road signs, or the cereal boxes on her table. Her information came through a receiver held to her ear. It included the weather and other local and National events. I urge you to provide the specific authorization to move HB933, H.D. 2, S.D. 1. forward. It matters.

Mahalo nui for considering this bill that brings information to those with print disabilities throughout Hawaii - as soon as they can hold a phone to their ear.

Testimony of Donald Sakamoto
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)
Hawaii State Senate
Thirty-second Legislature, regular session of 2023
April 4, 2023, 10:30 AM, hearing on HB933, H.D. 2, S.D. 1

Good morning chair, vice chair, and members. I am Donald Sakamoto, a member of the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) of Hawaii, strongly supporting HB933 H.D.2, S.D. 1 for those individuals who are experiencing with print disabilities of all ages in our state. In fact , to address this situation, HB933 has been amended to authorize the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to use Universal Service Fund moneys to provide free telecommunications access to certain information for individuals with print disabilities

In July 1990 The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was passed by both bipartisan parties of the U. S. House and Senate and was signed into law on July 26, 1990 some 32 years ago by our President and in which the law requires effective communication with people who have disabilities, including print disabilities, blind and visually impaired. The goal is to ensure that communication with people with disabilities is equally effective as communication with those people without disabilities. This bill would make time-sensitive information, including but not limited to, state and local government information, public notices, job opportunities, and daily newspapers, more accessible to individuals with print disabilities, such as the blind or visually impaired.

My group and I appreciate the Public Utilities Commission’s help with authorizing language now in HB933 H.D.2, S.D.1, and the Commission’s willingness to work with the legislature and other stakeholders to insure this new section. Now is the time to prepare to have this bill proceed on to have better access for those individuals who are experiencing print disabilities. Famous “by failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail” by Benjamin Franklin.

Mahalo for considering HB933 H.D. 2, S.D.1 and I kindly urge you all to prepare and do the right thing, and to have this bill to proceed on.

HB-933-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 10:08:15 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emerie Mitchell-Butler	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good morning chair, vice chair, and members. My name is Emerie Mitchell-Butler, and I am in strong support of Hb933. I am a blind resident of Hawaii.

If a person is print disabled, they might struggle to access critical community information. It is important that everyone has the information they need, no matter how readable print is to them. This bill makes sure we can get it.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Hb933.

Emerie MitchellButler