

ACT 270

H.B. NO. 375

A Bill for an Act Relating to the Hawaii State Coordinating Council on Deafness.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. Section 347D-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

“§347D-1 Hawaii state coordinating council on deafness; establishment. (a) There is established a Hawaii state coordinating council on deafness within the department of health for administrative purposes. The council shall consist of:

- (1) Seven representatives of state [agencies, including the departments of health, education, labor and industrial relations, human services, personnel services, the University of Hawaii, and the office of the governor;] or county agencies;
- (2) Seven members who are [hearing impaired] deaf, hard-of-hearing, or deaf-blind, or who are immediate family members of [hearing impaired] deaf, hard-of-hearing, or deaf-blind persons[.], of which two may be certified or locally screened interpreters; and
- (3) Seven members of the public who have an interest in [hearing impaired] deaf, hard-of-hearing, or deaf-blind persons[.], of which two may be certified or locally screened interpreters.

(b) Members shall be appointed by the governor without the necessity of the advice and consent of the senate and shall serve at the pleasure of the governor.

(c) Members shall elect the officers of the council.

(d) Members shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses, including travel expenses, necessary for the performance of their duties.

(e) Interpreters who serve as voting council members shall not be hired to interpret at any council meetings.”

SECTION 2. Section 347D-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

“[[§347D-2]] General duties. In addition to the duties regarding interpreter services under this chapter, the council shall [compile]:

- (1) Compile information on the [hearing impaired] deaf, hard-of-hearing, or deaf-blind population[, advocate];
- (2) Advocate for the [hearing impaired, develop] deaf, hard-of-hearing, or deaf-blind;
- (3) Develop and monitor programs for [hearing impaired] deaf, hard-of-hearing, or deaf-blind persons[.]; and [act]
- (4) Act to establish better communication and coordination among public and private agencies concerning access to services by [hearing impaired] deaf, hard-of-hearing, or deaf-blind persons.”

SECTION 3. Section 347D-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

“~~[[§347D-3]]~~ **Responsibility of council for interpreter services.** The council shall establish guidelines for the utilization of interpreter services by [hearing impaired] deaf, hard-of-hearing, or deaf-blind persons in state programs and activities, including the qualifications of persons who may receive the services, the qualifications of interpreters who may provide services, and the amount of payments to interpreters. The guidelines shall be consistent with Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Public Law 93-112, as amended, for state programs and activities [which] that receive federal financial assistance.”

SECTION 4. Section 347D-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

“**§347D-4 Responsibility of council for payment of interpreter services.** The council, subject to legislative appropriations, shall coordinate the payment of interpreter services for [hearing impaired] deaf, hard-of-hearing, or deaf-blind persons [when] participating in the programs and activities of [the State and its political subdivisions] tax exempt organizations qualified under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, which do not receive federal financial assistance. For the purposes of this section, payment of interpreter services may include transportation and per diem.”

SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval; provided that section 4 shall take effect on July 1, 1992.

(Approved June 17, 1991.)