

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 18 2011

RE: S.B. No. 893
S.D. 1

Honorable Shan S. Tsutsui
President of the Senate
Twenty-Sixth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2011
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, to which was referred S.B. No. 893 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INFORMATION ACCESS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to direct the Public Utilities Commission to establish and maintain a telephone-based information access service to provide access to periodical print media.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the League of Women Voters of Hawaii, NFB-Newsline, National Federation of the Blind of Hawai'i, NFB of Honolulu, and six private individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Human Services, the Disability and Communications Access Board, and the Public Utilities Commission.

Your Committee finds that timely access to periodical media is essential to enable blind and visually impaired persons to fully participate as literate and informed members of society. Your Committee notes that the National Federation for the Blind's Newsline service provides access to local and national daily newspapers, magazines, job listings, and government information. Your Committee further finds that Newsline listings of government information such as public hearings satisfy the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act for public information.



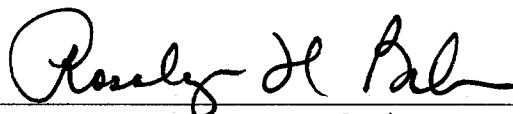
Your Committee also finds that after discussion on this measure with relevant government agencies and stakeholders, all parties are in agreement that the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and Services for the Blind of the Department of Human Services, which currently administers Newsline services, is the appropriate agency to continue to oversee that program.

Your Committee has amended this measure by deleting its contents and replacing them with provisions to:

- (1) Add a new section to chapter 347, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to codify the administration of Newsline services by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and Services for the Blind; and
- (2) Appropriate funds to the Vocational Rehabilitation and Services for the Blind Division of the Department of Human Services, for expenditure pursuant to the authority granted by section 347-10, Hawaii Revised Statutes, known as "the Ho'opono fund" to contract to provide Newsline services in the State.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 893, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 893, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Commerce and
Consumer Protection,

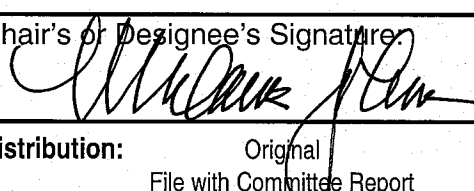


ROSALYN H. BAKER, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Sixth Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
CPN

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB893	CPN, WAM	2-17-11		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311	<input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310		
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
BAKER, Rosalyn H. (C)	✓			
TANIGUCHI, Brian T. (VC)				✓
GALUTERIA, Brickwood	✓			
GREEN, M.D., Josh	✓			
NISHIHARA, Clarence K.	✓			
SOLOMON, Malama	✓			
SLOM, Sam				✓
TOTAL	5	0	0	2
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted		<input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted		
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution:				
Original	Yellow	Pink	Goldenrod	
File with Committee Report	Clerk's Office	Drafting Agency	Committee File Copy	

*Only one measure per Record of Votes