
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO INFORMATION ACCESS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that thousands of Hawaii
2 residents experience disabilities such as visual impairments,
3 dyslexia, and physical impairments that prevent them from
4 directly accessing conventional print media. Many printed
5 materials are available through governmental and nonprofit
6 agencies in accessible formats such as braille, large print, or
7 audio recording. However, the legislature finds that it is
8 generally not practical to provide time-sensitive information
9 such as a local daily newspaper in these specialized formats.
10 The legislature also finds that even in a media environment
11 where information is frequently available in multiple formats
12 that are portable and widely accessible, telephone-based audible
13 information access remains an important service for many
14 individuals.

15 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to maintain
16 a telephone-based audible information access service.

17 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so



1 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 to
2 maintain a telephone-based audible information access service.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the vocational
4 rehabilitation and services for the blind division of the
5 department of human services for the purposes of this Act;
6 provided that the appropriations authorized under this Act shall
7 be expended on a contract for services with the Hawaii affiliate
8 of a national organization that:

- 9 (1) Has affiliates in all fifty states; and
- 10 (2) Provides electronic services that enables blind,
11 visually-impaired, or print-disabled persons to access
12 newspapers, magazines, and television listings twenty-
13 four hours a day, seven days a week, by means of a
14 touch-tone telephone, the Internet, or by downloading
15 the electronic information to a digital talking book
16 player or MP3 playing device.

17 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2012.

Report Title:

Telephone-based Audible Information Access Service;
Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for the vocational rehabilitation and services for the blind division of the department of human services to contract for a telephone-based service to provide access to timely print media. (SD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

