
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 \$80,000 or so much



1 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 appropriation 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. (CD1)

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