

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.

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