REPORT TO THE TWENTY-FOURTH HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE 2008

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF ACT 213, PART III, SECTION 16 SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII (SLH) 2007

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND SERVICES FOR THE BLIND DIVISION DECEMBER 2007

FY 2007 REPORT ON THE STATEWIDE INTERPRETER REFERRAL SERVICE FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AGENCIES AND FOR PERSONS WHO ARE DEAF, HARD OF HEARING, OR DEAF-BLIND

Act 213, Part III, Section 16, SLH 2007, provides general fund appropriations for the Vocational Rehabilitation and Services for the Blind Division (VRSBD) for FY 2008 and FY 2009 to establish and maintain a statewide interpreter referral service for public and private agencies and for persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind and provide a suitably accessible website. The Department of Human Services is required to submit a report detailing the status of such interpreter referral service and website.

VRSBD has contracted with Hawaii Interpreting Services to establish and operate a web-based interpreter referral service. The contract began on July 1, 2007 and provides for American Sign Language Interpreter and Captioner referral services.

The interpreter referral service is a web-based service providing services statewide. The website address is: www.interpretinghawaii.com.

Public education and training has been provided to deaf consumers and agencies on how to use the interpreter referral system. Interpreters and captioners have also been educated on how to access the system and check for jobs.

Hawaii Interpreting Services is using a system called Gridcheck that was developed specifically for use with American Sign Language interpreters. Once people have been educated on the Gridcheck system, it is very consumer friendly. The HIS staff have been very responsive to the deaf community and to others using the system.

Hawaii Interpreting Services received a total of 1,625 requests for interpreters and certified court reporters from July 1, 2007 to November 30, 2007.