April 2, 2019

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Tuesday, April 2, 2019 at 10:10 A.M.

Conference Room 016, State Capitol

RE: HOUSE BILL 1009 RELATING TO MOVIE THEATERS

Dear Chair Rhoads:

I am submitting this testimony in support of House Bill 1009, which will permanently require open captioning at movie theaters in Hawaii.

In 2015, Hawaii became the first state in the U.S. to require open captioning at movie theaters. That allowed me to enjoy full and equal access to movies. However, in 2017, the law changed to allow “lightweight eyewear” to be offered instead of open captioning. This had a negative impact on my experience at movie theaters. The glasses are uncomfortable to wear, and I am not able to fully understand movies when using the device.

[Add any additional comments about open captioning, including your personal experiences]

House Bill 1009 will correct Hawaii’s open captioning law and make it permanent, ensuring that individuals in Hawaii who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind have full and equal access at movie theaters. Please vote in support of this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[City, State]