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**S.B. 2504 RELATING TO PARKING FOR PERSONS WITH  
DISABILITIES. Requires the State to reimburse counties for issuing  
parking placards to persons with disabilities.**

My name is Art Frank and I am a deaf quadriplegic from the Waianae Coast. Since 1981 I've spent many sessions at this state capitol talking story with legislators and staff, as well as testifying at many committee hearings. My original focus was providing communications for the deaf to participate in the process of governm. In the 1980's I camped in this building during every session from the early morning hours to late at night educating myself on how this circus works, and knocking on doors making friends for my cause.. It was very frustrating and very difficult because of my multi-disabilities, but I was determined to make this capitol of ours open to all people with disabilities. Back then we didn't have sign language interpreters, nor did we have a Telecommunications Relay Service(TRS) like we do today to help us to communicate with, and participate in the process of government. It took 8 years to pass a bill through the legislature to establish the first TRS, plus another year to work with Hawaiian Tel and the Public Utilities Commission writing the rules and regulations before implementation. I'm not sure exactly, but I think providing sign language interpreters took 4 or 5 years. In the last three decades I've testified on many, many bills, but I'm positive I've testified on more Disabled Parking bills than all the rest of the bills put together. There's always a disabled parking bill coming down the pike somewhere.

S.B. 2504 I call a simple bill, a nothing bill just changing words around to emphasize what the county will do. Presently the counties have wiggle room so they can squeeze one elephant through the crack. This bill will close that crack so no elephant can get through. I believe this bill works in tandem with S.B. 3272 which is the Disabled Parking bill requesting appropriations. We need to support both bills because they work together. Of course I'm no expert on this subject so I could be wrong.. I'm just the user, but Francine Wai from the Discrimination, Communications Access Board (DCAB) is **SUPPOSE TO BE OUR EXPERT**, so if you have any questions ask her.

Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to testify on S.B. 2504.