

## Legislative Achievements

From its inception, the Hawaii Association of the Blind has been actively involved in the legislative arena. They have sponsored and supported various legislative actions dealing with the blind, and they firmly opposed many disturbing bills in the legislature. The following are highlights of the organization's legislative accomplishments:

- 1969: Passage of a State House Resolution called for a team from the National Federation of the Blind to survey all State services to the blind in Hawaii.
- 1972: Passage of the Hawaii Model White Cane Law which deals with the right of the blind to travel freely with a cane or guide dog, and it secures civil service employment rights for the blind.
- 1972 and 1975: Successfully opposed proposed legislation which would have opened the Vending Stand Program for the Blind to all other physically handicapped persons.
- 1974-1975: Successfully thwarted efforts by the State Administration to change the name of the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, to the Library for the Handicapped. The blind would have lost its identity with this institution which projects a positive image in society.
- 1976: Passage of Civil Rights for the Handicapped legislation. This legislation parallels all existing statutes eliminating race and sex discrimination.
- 1976: Successfully amended insurance industry regulation, forbidding insurance companies from discriminating against the blind in the issuance of life insurance policies.
- 1979: Passage of the Adoption Bill. This legislation eliminates discrimination against blind and physically handicapped applicants by public agencies in the adoption of children.
- 1981: Passage of Mini Randolph-Sheppard Vending Stand legislation. This law enlarged and strengthened the Hawaii Blind Vending Stand Program.
- 1982: Successfully opposed legislation to repeal Mini Randolph-Sheppard Act.
- 1982-1991: Successfully opposed repeated attempts to exempt guide dogs from Hawaii's Quarantine Laws.
- 1991: Passage of Section 347-12.5 Hawaii Revised Statutes ("Randolph-Sheppard Revolving Account").
- 1992 and 1993: Successfully opposed attempts to amend Mini Randolph-Sheppard Act to permit non-profit corporations to qualify.