Researchers from the Center on Disability Studies (CDS) at the University of Hawai‘i, Manoa, will team with teachers across twelve public high schools on O‘ahu. The team will implement the text-to-speech software, Kurzweil 3000®, as an intervention tool in classrooms. Use of the software will be integrated with reading tasks in teachers’ existing curriculum.

Various reading skills will be measured at the beginning and end of a one-semester period. In the previous phase one stage of the study, participating students were found to increase their overall reading by around two grade levels. The project will be funded for a total of three years.
Did you know?

- Reading difficulties experienced in the K-12 system often persist into adulthood; researchers estimate that approximately 23% of U.S. adult population meets only basic reading proficiency levels (NCES, 2004; Pressley & Harris, 2006).

- Research has shown that students with learning disabilities identify and correct more errors in their compositions when they use text-to-speech for proofreading (Higgins & Raskind, 1995).

- In 2008, about 50% of the 2008 Hawai‘i Public School graduates attending UH Community Colleges enrolled in remedial or developmental English classes.

- Student reading difficulties are associated with dropping out of school (Denti & Guerin, 1999).

**t2s project aims**

- to improve the overall reading levels of 9th grade students at risk or receiving special education services.

- to test the effectiveness of text-to-speech software in increasing overall reading ability.

- to assess the impact of improved reading skills on overall student attitudes and post-high school aspirations.

**What is involved in this research project?**

O‘ahu high schools are partnering with the Center on Disability Studies, UH Manoa to implement text-to-speech software as a reading intervention in classrooms. Text-to-speech’s effectiveness in improving student reading skills & overall academic aspiration will be evaluated. Technical support will be provided throughout the process.

**How will the project benefit you as a teacher?**

This project will allow you to gain valuable exposure to using text-to-speech software as a part of differentiated teaching tool in providing an intervention to improve your students’ reading abilities.

**How will the project benefit your students?**

Your students may find improvement in their reading comprehension, reading fluency rate, and vocabulary as well as in their overall academic performance and aspirations.