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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO REQUIRE SIGN LANGUAGE  
TRAINING FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS.

1           WHEREAS, sign language has long been used as a tool to  
2 facilitate communication for children who are deaf or have a  
3 hearing impairment, and, in particular, research has shown that  
4 incorporating sign language into the instruction and training of  
5 children with oral-motor or developmental disabilities,  
6 including those with Down syndrome, autism, or cerebral palsy,  
7 can also have tremendous educational and developmental benefits;  
8 and

9  
10           WHEREAS, according to a 1998 article published by the  
11 Colorado Springs Down Syndrome Association, there are two forms  
12 of sign language: American Sign Language and "Signed English";  
13 and

14  
15           WHEREAS, American Sign Language is a visual manual language  
16 system with its own sentence structure and word order, and is  
17 suited for people who are deaf or have a hearing impairment; and

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19           WHEREAS, Signed English, suited for children with other  
20 disabilities, is a system in which words are signed and spoken  
21 at the same time, and in the same order as spoken English, such  
22 that coupling sign language with the spoken word increases  
23 language comprehension by presenting information visually as  
24 well as auditorily; and

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26           WHEREAS, the Department of Education has a duty to provide  
27 all exceptional children with instruction, special facilities,  
28 and special services for education, therapy, and training in  
29 order to enable them to live normal competitive lives; and

30  
31           WHEREAS, the Department of Education is required to  
32 accomplish that duty by establishing and administering  
33 instruction, special facilities, and special services for the  
34 education, therapy, and training of exceptional children, and



1 provide in connection therewith corrective therapy, together  
2 with academic, occupational, and related training; now,  
3 therefore,  
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5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third  
6 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006, the  
7 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
8 Education is requested to require sign language training for  
9 special education service providers; and  
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
12 requested to seek cooperation from the University of Hawaii in  
13 having the University of Hawaii include in its speech pathology  
14 curriculum a course in American Sign Language and dysphagia, or  
15 swallowing disorder, training; and  
16

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
18 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
19 Board of Education, the Superintendent of Education, and the  
20 Chairperson of the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii.  
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OFFERED BY:

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