
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT SIGN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION BE COORDINATED.

1 WHEREAS, some children may require augmentative
2 communication, especially when speech is not an effective mode
3 of communication for the child; and
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5 WHEREAS, American Sign Language is a beautiful
6 visual-spatial language that provides many benefits to those who
7 are deaf and hard of hearing as well as for hearing children;
8 and
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10 WHEREAS, American Sign Language provides another avenue of
11 communication for children with special needs such as Down
12 Syndrome, Autism, speech delays, and other physical and mental
13 developmental defects; and
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15 WHEREAS, meeting the nutritional needs of an infant or
16 young child is an integral part of caring for their growth and
17 development; and
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19 WHEREAS, oral-motor mechanisms are involved in the feeding,
20 sensory integration, postural tone, and overall health of the
21 child, which is sometimes a challenge for children with
22 oral-motor deficits, or swallowing disorders; and
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24 WHEREAS, one of the primary goals of oral-motor treatment
25 for children with oral-motor deficits is efficient and safe oral
26 feeding for nutrition and the prevention of aspiration, as well
27 as the development of coordinated movements for communication;
28 and
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30 WHEREAS, the American Speech-Language Hearing Association
31 certification requirements recommend mandatory training for
32 speech-language students in dysphagia or swallowing disorder
33 therapy, as well as sign language instruction to benefit
34 communication and services for the development and education of
35 children who use sign language; now, therefore,



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2 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third
3 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006, the
4 House of Representatives concurring, that the University of
5 Hawaii, the Department of Education, and the Department of
6 Health are requested to coordinate sign language instruction
7 within the University's special education, early childhood
8 education, early intervention, and medical degree and
9 certificate programs, with service providers and programs; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii is
12 requested to continue the progress made with the cooperation of
13 Kapiolani Community College's sign language interpreter
14 education program and the University's Speech-Language and
15 Pathology Departments; and

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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
18 requested to authorize funds to expand Teleschool, especially
19 for eligible preschool special education students who need time
20 to develop at home in addition to receiving special education
21 services; and

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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education
24 provide video programs and curriculum such as Signing Time! to
25 teach sign language with videos geared toward infants, toddlers,
26 and young children, their families, and professionals; and

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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
29 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
30 University of Hawaii, the Superintendent of Education, and the
31 Director of Health.

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OFFERED BY: *Maunaloa Chun*

