

MAR 15 2006

SENATE 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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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third
 2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006,
 3 that the University of Hawaii, the Department of Education, and
 4 the Department of Health are requested to coordinate sign
 5 language instruction within the University's special education,
 6 early childhood education, early intervention, and medical
 7 degree and certificate programs, with service providers and
 8 programs; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii is
 11 requested to continue the progress made with the cooperation of
 12 Kapiolani Community College's sign language interpreter
 13 education program and the University's Speech-Language and
 14 Pathology Departments; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
 17 requested to authorize funds to expand Teleschool, especially
 18 for eligible preschool special education students who need time
 19 to develop at home in addition to receiving special education
 20 services; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education
 23 provide video programs and curriculum such as Signing Time! to
 24 teach sign language with videos geared toward infants, toddlers,
 25 and young children, their families, and professionals; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 28 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the University of
 29 Hawaii, the Superintendent of Education, and the Director of
 30 Health.
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OFFERED BY: *Theranne Chun O'Alana*