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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO RECOGNIZE THE SIMULTANEOUS  
USAGE OF SIGN LANGUAGE AND SPEECH IN PROVIDING FOR THE  
EDUCATION OF HEARING EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN.

1           WHEREAS, the Department of Education has a duty toward  
2 exceptional children, as provided for in Chapter 302A, Hawaii  
3 Revised Statutes.

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5           WHEREAS, exceptional children may include children, in  
6 particular, those who have chromosomal disorders with speech  
7 difficulties and autism, who require a signed and spoken  
8 language to enable them to live normal competitive lives, yet  
9 the Department of Education does not recognize this critical  
10 developmental and educational need of these exceptional  
11 children;

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13           WHEREAS, exceptional children may include children who are  
14 deaf or hard-of-hearing who receive sign language instruction  
15 and interpreter services to receive a free appropriate public  
16 education;

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18           WHEREAS, exceptional children may include children whose  
19 native language is other than English and receive English  
20 Language Learners intensive language instruction through the  
21 public school system to succeed in their educational programs;

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23           WHEREAS, exceptional children may include children who  
24 desire to participate in the Hawaiian language medium education  
25 program; now, therefore,

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27           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
28 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
29 Session of 2008, that the Department of Education is urged to  
30 recognize:

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- 1 (1) The simultaneous usage of sign language and speech in
- 2 providing for the education of exceptional children
- 3 who hear but may have speech difficulties, such as
- 4 children with Trisomy 21/Down Syndrome or autism; and
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- 6 (2) The developmental and educational implications of the
- 7 special needs of these exceptional children; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education,  
10 including the Special Education and Adult and Community  
11 Education Programs, in coordination with the Early Intervention  
12 Section of the Department of Health, and the American Sign  
13 Language Interpreter Education Program and College of Education  
14 of the University of Hawaii, is urged to develop:

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- 16 (1) A definition for immediate consideration for the
- 17 Department of Education's current process of revising
- 18 the Hawaii Administrative Rules related to students
- 19 with disabilities and the Individuals with
- 20 Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004;
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- 22 (2) A two-level credential, with consideration of pay
- 23 incentives, for sign language with speech instruction
- 24 for hearing exceptional children in all University of
- 25 Hawaii certificate and degree programs, pre-service,
- 26 and in-service training for all subjects, including
- 27 substitute teacher training, related to the
- 28 development and education of children with
- 29 disabilities;
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- 31 (3) Home training and classroom training for all students,
- 32 faculty and related personnel, family, and friends of
- 33 exceptional children who hear but have speech
- 34 difficulties, including the coordination of:
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- 36 (A) Public library resources, such as "Signing
- 37 Time!", DVD's, and books;
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- 39 (B) Public Broadcasting Service-Hawaii;
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- 41 (C) Olelo; and



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(D) On-line sign language instruction resources, such as the Michigan State University Communication Technology Laboratory American Sign Language Browser; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2009; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, President of the University of Hawaii, Director of Health, and the Chairperson of the Interdepartmental Cluster for Services to Children.

OFFERED BY: 

MAR 12 2008