
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 section 302A-436,
3 Hawaii Revised Statutes; and
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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; and
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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; and
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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;
22 and
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24 WHEREAS, exceptional children may include children who
25 desire to participate in the Hawaiian Language medium education
26 program; now, therefore,
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28 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
29 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
30 Session 2008, that the Department of Education is urged to
31 recognize:



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- (1) The simultaneous usage of sign language and speech in providing for the education of exceptional children who hear but may have speech difficulties, such as children with Trisomy 21/Down syndrome, or autism; and
- (2) The developmental and educational implications of the special needs of these exceptional children; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education, including the Special Education and Adult and Community education programs, in coordination with the Department of Health, Early Intervention Section, and the University of Hawaii's American Sign Language Interpreter Education program and College of Education, is also urged to develop:

- (1) A definition for immediate consideration for the Department of Education's current process of revising Hawaii Administrative Rules related to students with disabilities and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004;
- (2) A two-level credential, with consideration of pay incentives, for sign language with speech instruction for hearing exceptional children in all UH certificate and degree programs, pre-service and in-service training for all subjects, including substitute teacher training, related to the development and education of children with disabilities; and
- (3) Home training and classroom training for all students, faculty and related personnel, family and friends of exceptional children who hear but have speech difficulties, including the coordination of public library resources, such as Signing Time! DVDs and books; PBS Hawaii (Signing Time!, the award-winning sign language educational program, currently airs on Saturday mornings at 10:30 state-wide); Olelo TV; and on-line sign language instruction resources, such as the Michigan State University Communication Technology Laboratory American Sign Language Browser; and

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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 update the Hawaii Revised Statutes in accordance with federal special education and disability-related laws, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the Regular Session of 2009; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, President of the University of Hawaii, Director of Health, and the Chair of the Interdepartmental cluster for services to children pursuant to section 321D-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

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