

MAR 13 2008

SENATE CONCURRENT 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 to
2 exceptional children, as provided for in section 302A-436,
3 Hawaii Revised Statutes; and
4

5 WHEREAS, exceptional children may include, in particular,
6 those children who have chromosomal disorders with speech
7 difficulties and autism and those who require a signed and
8 spoken language to enable them to live normal competitive lives,
9 yet the Department of Education does not recognize this critical
10 developmental and educational need of these exceptional
11 children; and
12

13 WHEREAS, exceptional children may include children who are
14 deaf or hard-of-hearing and who receive sign language
15 instruction and interpreter services to receive a free
16 appropriate public education; and
17

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
23

24 WHEREAS, exceptional children may include children who
25 desire to participate in the Hawaiian Language medium education
26 program; now, therefore,
27

28 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
29 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the
30 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
31 Education is urged to recognize:
32



- 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
- 5
- 6 (2) The developmental and educational implications of the
- 7 special needs of these exceptional children; and
- 8

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 Department of
 12 Health, Early Intervention Section, and the University of
 13 Hawaii's American Sign Language Interpreter Education program
 14 and College of Education, is also urged to develop:

- 15
- 16 (1) A definition for a signed and spoken language for
- 17 hearing exceptional children for immediate
- 18 consideration for the Department of Education's
- 19 current process of revising Hawaii Administrative
- 20 Rules related to students with disabilities and the
- 21 Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement
- 22 Act of 2004;
- 23
- 24 (2) A two-level credential, with consideration of pay
- 25 incentives, for sign language with speech instruction
- 26 for hearing exceptional children in all University of
- 27 Hawaii certificate and degree programs and pre-service
- 28 and in-service training for all subjects, including
- 29 substitute teacher training, related to the
- 30 development and education of children with
- 31 disabilities; and
- 32
- 33 (3) Home training and classroom training for all students,
- 34 faculty and related personnel, family and friends of
- 35 exceptional children who hear but have speech
- 36 difficulties, including the coordination of public
- 37 library resources, such as Signing Time! DVDs and
- 38 books; PBS Hawaii (Signing Time!, the award-winning
- 39 sign language educational program, currently airs on
- 40 Saturday mornings at 10:30 state-wide); Olelo TV; and
- 41 on-line sign language instruction resources, such as
- 42 the Michigan State University Communication Technology
- 43 Laboratory American Sign Language Browser; and
- 44



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
2 requested to submit a report of its findings and
3 recommendations, including any proposed legislation to update
4 the Hawaii Revised Statutes in accordance with federal special
5 education and disability-related laws, to the Legislature no
6 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
7 Session of 2009; and

8

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
10 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
11 Board of Education, the Superintendent of Education, the
12 President of the University of Hawaii, the Director of Health,
13 and the Chairperson of the Interdepartmental cluster for
14 services to children.

15

16

17

OFFERED BY:

Norman Sakuma

