

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1350 -08

Honolulu, Hawaii

March 20, 2008

RE: S.B. No. 2395
S.D. 2

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2008
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Labor & Public Employment, to which was referred S.B. No. 2395, S.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO LANGUAGE ACCESS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this bill is to make government more easily accessible to individuals with limited English proficiency by:

- (1) Clarifying and expanding definitions in Hawaii's language access law;
- (2) Adding the definitions of "purchase-of-service contract" and "written language services" to Hawaii's language access law;
- (3) Expanding the membership of the Language Access Advisory Council (LAAC) to include a member from each county in the state who has an interest in language access as well as a representative of the Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) as an ex-officio member; and
- (4) Clarifying that the Executive Director of the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission or an authorized representative shall serve as an ex-officio member of LAAC.




The Office of Language Access, Congress of Visayan Organizations, DCAB, and a concerned individual testified in support of this bill. The Hawaii Interpreter Action Network supported this bill with amendments. The Hawaii Civil Rights Commission provided comments.

Persons who do not speak English as a primary language are a significant portion of Hawaii's population. However, many individuals with limited English proficiency sometimes have difficulty obtaining services from state agencies because of their limited ability in the English language. As a result of this need, the Legislature passed Act 290, Session Laws of Hawaii 2006, which began to address the language access needs of limited English proficient persons.

Your Committee finds that we must continue to ensure that all residents of Hawaii, including non-English speakers and limited-English speakers, enjoy full access to and participate in the life of our community and that this measure continues to work toward that goal.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Labor & Public Employment that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2395, S.D. 2, and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Labor & Public
Employment,



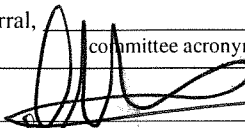
ALEX M. SONSON, Chair



State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
The Twenty-fourth Legislature

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Record of Votes of the Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Bill/Resolution No.: SB 2395, SD2	Committee Referral: LAB, FIN	Date: 03-4-08		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
LAB Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. SONSON, Alex M. (C)	Y			
2. NAKASONE, Bob (VC)				Y
3. EVANS, Cindy	Y			
4. HAR, Sharon E.				Y
5. LEE, Marilyn B.	Y			
6. LUKE, Sylvia				Y
7. McKELVEY, Angus L.K.	Y			
8. NISHIMOTO, Scott Y.				Y
9. SOUKI, Joseph M.	Y			
10. TAKAMINE, Dwight Y.	Y			
11. TAKUMI, Roy M.	Y			
12. MEYER, Colleen Rose				Y
13. PINE, Kymberly Marcos				Y
TOTAL (13)	7	0	0	6
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. _____ committee acronym(s)				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: 				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office				