

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1931-08

Honolulu, Hawaii

Aug 21, 2008

RE: S.C.R. No. 67  
S.D. 1

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.C.R. No. 67, S.D. 1, entitled:

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE LEGISLATURE TO DECLARE SEPTEMBER AS LANGUAGE ACCESS MONTH AND REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF LANGUAGE ACCESS TO CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY STUDY ON ESTABLISHING A STATEWIDE CENTRALIZED LANGUAGE ACCESS RESOURCE CENTER,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is designate September 2008 as Language Access Month to raise awareness of the language access laws and the provision of equal access to state and state-funded government services.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Office of Language Access, Filipino American Citizens League, Filipino-American Historical Society of Hawaii, Filipino Coalition for Solidarity, Hawaii Interpreter Action Network, National Federation of Filipino American Associations, Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc., Oahu Filipino Community Council, Philippine Nurses Association-Hawaii, and United Filipino Council of Hawaii.

According to the 2000 Census, 290,000 of Hawaii's 1,200,000 people, or approximately twenty-four per cent of the population, speak a language other than English at home, including over 250,000 persons who speak an Asian or Pacific Island language.

SCR67 SD1 HSCR .doc

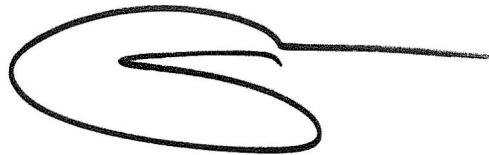


For this portion of Hawaii's population for whom English is not their primary language and who have identified themselves as having limited English proficiency ("LEP"), language is a barrier that often prohibits them from fully participating in the community and undermines their efforts to become self-sufficient and productive.

In 2006, the Legislature recognized and acknowledged that language is a barrier for LEP individuals living in Hawaii and enacted Hawaii's language access law. As a result of Hawaii's language access law, the Office of Language Access was established to promote equal access and full participation for persons with limited English proficiency through oversight, coordination, and technical assistance to state and state-funded entities and by reviewing and monitoring language access plans. The Office of Language Access indicated in testimony that the feasibility study can be funded from existing resources.

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 concurs with the intent and purpose of S.C.R. No. 67, S.D. 1, and recommends its adoption.

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

HSCR 1931-08

**Record of Votes of the Committee on Labor & Public Employment**

<b>Bill/Resolution No.:</b> SCR 67, SD1	<b>Committee Referral:</b> LAB	<b>Date:</b> 4/17/08		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
<b>The recommendation is to:</b> <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)	✓			
2. NAKASONE, Bob (VC)				✓
3. EVANS, Cindy	✓			
4. HAR, Sharon E.	✓			
5. LEE, Marilyn B.	✓			
6. LUKE, Sylvia				✓
7. McKELVEY, Angus L.K.	✓			
8. NISHIMOTO, Scott Y.	✓			
9. SOUKI, Joseph M.	✓			
10. TAKAMINE, Dwight Y.				✓
11. TAKUMI, Roy M.	✓			
12. MEYER, Colleen Rose				✓
13. PINE, Kymberly Marcos	✓			
<b>TOTAL (13)</b>	<b>9</b>			<b>4</b>
<b>The recommendation is:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. _____ committee acronym(s)				
<b>Vice Chair's or designee's signature:</b> _____ 				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office				