

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 13 2007

RE: S.B. No. 625

S.D. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
President of the Senate
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2007
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Judiciary and Labor, to which was referred
S.B. No. 625 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO COURT INTERPRETERS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to require the Judiciary to
implement a certification program and to appoint and use certified
court interpreters in legal proceedings.

Presently, federal law requires states to provide language
interpretation services to court users with limited English
proficiency. However, Hawaii is one of three states that have yet
to implement court interpreter certification in any language. As
a result, anyone can become a registered interpreter with the
Judiciary merely by obtaining a general excise tax license and
submitting a court interpreter application form, regardless of
language ability and interpreting skills. Such a situation
invites an applicant pool of untrained and untested interpreters
which can compromise the judicial process and creates
inefficiency. More importantly, it jeopardizes the constitutional
and civil rights of non-English speaking individuals.

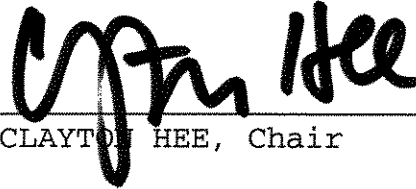
Your Committee received testimonies from 23 individuals,
mostly court interpreters in support of the bill. Your Committee
also received one testimony from a representative of the Judiciary
in opposition to the bill. He testified that the Judiciary has
been working to implement a certification program and updated the
Committee with the progress of the Judiciary program.



Your Committee concurred that there is a need for a certification program and that the Judiciary proceed with their plans in establishing the program. Your Committee amended the bill with the language submitted by the Judiciary which would allow for the certification program to be implemented in accordance with court rules created by the Judiciary.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary and Labor that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 625, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 625, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary and
Labor,



CLAYTON HEE, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Fourth Legislature
 State of Hawaii

Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
JDL

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 625	Committee Referral: JDL, WAM	Date: 2/12/07
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The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.
 If so, then the previous decision was to: _____

The Recommendation is:

Pass, unamended 2312
 Pass, with amendments 2311
 Hold 2310
 Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
HEE, Clayton (C)	/			
KOKUBUN, Russell S. (VC)	/			
INOUYE, Lorraine R.	/			
NISHIHARA, Clarence K.	/			
GABBARD, Mike	/			
TOTAL	5			0

Recommendation:
 Adopted
 Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature:


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*Only one measure per Record of Votes