

MAR 18 2009

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH REASONABLE
STANDARDS AND PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS, AND TO PROVIDE FOR
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR PERSONS EMPLOYED IN THE HAWAII
PUBLIC SCHOOLS AS EDUCATIONAL INTERPRETERS, EDUCATORS, AND
PARAPROFESSIONALS WHO WORK WITH STUDENTS IN NEED OF
AUGMENTATIVE AND ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION.

1 WHEREAS, a student with disabilities may require
2 augmentative and alternative communication, including sign
3 language, especially when speech is not an effective mode of
4 communication for the student; and
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6 WHEREAS, many people assume that sign language is only for
7 the hearing impaired community, yet other populations benefit
8 from sign language including those with autism, Down Syndrome,
9 developmental apraxia of speech, cochlear implants, and
10 oral-motor weakness; and
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12 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that interpreting services
13 in Hawaii public schools for students who are deaf, hard of
14 hearing, deaf-blind, or for hearing students when speech is
15 extremely difficult to understand, would benefit from
16 improvements; and
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18 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that educational
19 interpreters not only must interpret the spoken word but also
20 must convey concepts and facilitate the student's understanding
21 of the educational material; and
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23 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that among the many factors
24 that influence student success, there is a correlation between
25 the academic achievements of deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind,
26 and hearing students who require sign language, and the
27 competency of their interpreters; and
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1 WHEREAS, the absence of state standards for evaluating
 2 educational interpreters, educators, and paraprofessionals who
 3 teach students with disabilities in need of augmentative and
 4 alternative communication, including sign language, allows for
 5 inconsistencies in the delivery of educational information to
 6 students who are in need of these services; now, therefore,
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8 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
 9 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the
 10 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
 11 Education, in coordination with the Special Education Advisory
 12 Council and the University of Hawaii, is urged to establish
 13 reasonable standards and performance assessments, and to provide
 14 for professional development for persons employed in the Hawaii
 15 public schools as educational interpreters, educators, and
 16 paraprofessionals who work with students in need of augmentative
 17 and alternative communication, including hearing students with
 18 disabilities who benefit from the simultaneous usage of sign
 19 language and the spoken word; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
 22 requested to submit a report of its findings and
 23 recommendations, including any proposed legislation in
 24 compliance with the reauthorized Individuals with Disabilities
 25 Education Act (IDEA), Public Law 108-446, to the Legislature no
 26 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
 27 Session of 2010; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 30 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
 31 Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, President of
 32 the University of Hawaii, Special Education Advisory Council,
 33 Chairperson of the Charter School Review Panel, and Executive
 34 Director of the Charter School Administrative Office.
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 37

OFFERED BY: Norman Salschaf

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