

MAR 18 2009

---

## SENATE 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  
5

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  
11

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  
17

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  
22

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  
28

29           WHEREAS, the absence of state standards for evaluating  
30 educational interpreters, educators, and paraprofessionals who  
31 teach students with disabilities in need of augmentative and  
32 alternative communication, including sign language, allows for



1 inconsistencies in the delivery of educational information to  
2 students who are in need of these services; now, therefore,

3  
4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth  
5 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009,  
6 that the Department of Education, in coordination with the  
7 Special Education Advisory Council and the University of Hawaii,  
8 is urged to establish reasonable standards and performance  
9 assessments, and to provide for professional development for  
10 persons employed in the Hawaii public schools as educational  
11 interpreters, educators, and paraprofessionals who work with  
12 students in need of augmentative and alternative communication,  
13 including hearing students with disabilities who benefit from  
14 the simultaneous usage of sign language and the spoken word; and  
15

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
17 requested to submit a report of its findings and  
18 recommendations, including any proposed legislation in  
19 compliance with the reauthorized Individuals with Disabilities  
20 Education Act (IDEA), Public Law 108-446, to the Legislature no  
21 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular  
22 Session of 2010; and  
23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
25 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
26 Education, Superintendent of Education, President of the  
27 University of Hawaii, Special Education Advisory Council,  
28 Chairperson of the Charter School Review Panel, and Executive  
29 Director of the Charter School Administrative Office.  
30  
31  
32

OFFERED BY: Norman Sakomfy

*Theranne Chun Oshiro*  
*Michelle N. Kikani*

