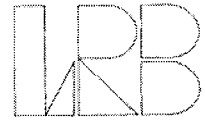


**SCR 11**

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LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU  
State of Hawaii  
State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 446  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

## Written Testimony

### SCR11

## REQUESTING A STUDY ON THE AVAILABILITY OF AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS

Testimony by the Legislative Reference Bureau  
Ken H. Takayama, Director

Presented to the Senate Committee on Human Services

Tuesday, February 16, 2010, 1:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 016

Chair Chun Oakland and Members of the Committee:

Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 11, which requests the Legislative Reference Bureau to do a study on the availability of American sign language interpreters.

The Bureau takes no position either for or against the measure, but submits the following comments and concerns:

- (1) The first "Resolved" clause requesting the study is worded in a manner that appears to be biased. The wording of the Resolved clause appears to assume that barriers exist to securing more ASL community interpreting hours. We do not believe that the proponents of the measure intended the resolution to be biased and believe this can be fixed with a relatively minor amendment;
- (2) It is not clear whether the resolution is requesting that ASL interpreters working in Hawaii be surveyed. The resolution does not actually request a survey--it simply asks the Disability Communication Access Board and Hawaii Interpreting Services, LLC to assist the Bureau in conducting one;
- (3) Otherwise, the parameters of the study appear to be manageable.

If this measure is to pass, we respectfully recommend that it be amended to clarify the issues mentioned above.

Finally, the Bureau stands ready to assist this Committee with any draft or report you may require on this measure.

ART FRANK  
86-363 KAWILI ST  
WAIANAE, HI 96792-2941  
16 FEBRUARY 2010

SCR 11 & SR 21 REQUESTING A STUDY ON THE AVAILABILITY OF AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES SENATOR SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, CHAIR, SENATOR LES IHARA, JR., VICE-CHAIR

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2010 1:15p.m.-2:00p.m., Conference Room 016

My name is Art Frank from the Waianae Coast and I have been deaf for thirty-two (32) years. I have been very active in the deaf community for over 30 years and as long as I can remember we have always had problems of not enough Sign Language Interpreters in Hawaii to support the needs of our deaf community. If it wasn't for the many Sign Language Interpreters who move to Hawaii from the mainland permanently or for a few years, our deaf community would be worse off than we are today.

Consequently, I definitely support SCR 11 & SR 21 because I want to know what exactly is our problem here in Hawaii, and what exactly can we do about it. As a deaf consumer I would appreciate your support of both SCR 11 and SR 21,

Mahalo nui loa.

ART FRANK,  
DEAF CONSUMER