

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

504

Honolulu, Hawaii

February 15, 2013

RE: H.B. No. 266  
H.D. 1

Honorable Joseph M. Souki  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Twenty-Seventh State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2013  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred H.B. No. 266  
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO LANGUAGE ACCESS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to enhance language access in  
Hawaii for those individuals whose primary language is not  
English. Specifically, this bill:

- (1) Requires the Office of Language Access, in collaboration  
with other state agencies, to implement a Multilingual  
Website Pilot Project that will improve language access  
to information provided online for limited English  
proficient persons seeking information about government  
and government-funded services in the State of Hawaii;
- (2) Requires the Executive Director of the Office of  
Language Access to administer a Statewide Language  
Access Resource Center that will address the  
interpretation and translation needs of the state; and
- (3) Provides appropriations for the Statewide Language  
Access Resource Center and the Multilingual Website  
pilot project.



The Hawaii Public Housing Authority, Department of Human Resources Development, Hawaii Civil Rights Commission, Catholic Charities Hawaii, Congress of Visayan Organizations, and a few concerned individuals testified in support of this bill. The Office of Language Access and Hawaii Interpreter Action Network testified in support with amendments. The Department of Health and the Office of Information Management and Technology provided comments.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Clarifying that the roster of available language interpreters and translators maintained by a Statewide Language Access Resource Center list any of the qualifications and credentials of interpreters or translators;
- (2) Changing its effective date to July 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 266, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 266, H.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Health,



DELLA AU BELATTI, Chair



