

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

3484

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 21 2014

RE: H.C.R. No. 238
S.D. 1

Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
President of the Senate
Twenty-Seventh State Legislature
Regular Session of 2014
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred
H.C.R. No. 238, S.D. 1, entitled:

"HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE SUPERINTENDENT OF
EDUCATION AND THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH TO FORM A WORKING GROUP
TO ASSESS WHETHER CHILDREN IN HAWAII WHO ARE DEAF OR SEVERELY
HARD OF HEARING AND WHO CHOOSE THE AURAL/ORAL ROUTE OF
COMMUNICATION RECEIVE PROPER TRAINING AND SUPPORT TO LEARN
SPOKEN LANGUAGE SKILLS, "

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to ensure that
proper training, support, and educational accommodations are
available for children in Hawaii who are deaf or severely hard of
hearing.

Specifically, this measure requests the Superintendent of
Education and the Director of Health to convene a working group to
assess whether deaf and severely hard of hearing children using
aural or oral communication receive proper training, support, and
educational accommodations required by federal law. This measure
also requests the working group to review the:

- (1) Transition process from the Department of Health to the
Department of Education for the purposes of following
the progress of deaf and severely hard of hearing
children;
- (2) Recruitment process for properly trained teachers;



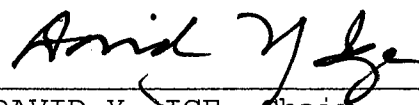
- (3) Possibility of hiring an experienced oral speech therapy teacher to fill the gap in training during the hiring process for permanent oral therapy teachers; and
- (4) Possibility of covering the insurance cost of families who use telehealth services to receive oral speech therapy lessons.

Your Committee received written comments in support of this measure from two individuals. Written comments in opposition to this measure were received from the Hawaii School for the Deaf and the Blind Alumni Club.

Your Committee finds that proper training for very young children with hearing problems who use hearing aids or cochlear implants can help these children develop normal hearing and speaking skills. However, there may be a shortage of resources available to provide the necessary spoken language training for children with auditory problems. Your Committee finds that establishing a working group to examine whether deaf or severely hard of hearing children are receiving the proper auditory training and educational accommodations is a necessary step in fulfilling federal health care and educational requirements for children who are deaf or severely hard of hearing.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Ways and Means that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of H.C.R. No. 238, S.D. 1, and recommends its adoption.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Ways and Means,



DAVID Y. IGE, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Seventh Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Ways and Means
WAM

Bill / Resolution No.:* HCR 238 SD1	Committee Referral: HTH/EDU, WAM	Date: 4-17-14		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
IGE, David Y. (C)	✓			
KIDANI, Michelle N. (VC)	✓			
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne	✓			
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M.	✓			
ENGLISH, J. Kalani	✓			
ESPERO, Will	✓			
KAHELE, Gilbert	✓			
KEITH-AGARAN, Gilbert S.C.	✓			
KOUCHI, Ronald D.	✓			
RUDERMAN, Russell E.	✓			
THIELEN, Laura H.	✓			
TOKUDA, Jill N.				✓
SLOM, Sam	✓			
	12	0	0	1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="text-align:center; font-family: cursive; font-size: 1.5em;">Michelle N. Kidani</div>				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes