

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

143

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 08 2013

RE: S.B. No. 58

S.D. 1

Honorable Donna Mercado Kim  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Seventh State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2013  
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Human Services, to which was referred S.B. No. 58 entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to establish and provide appropriations for a statewide language access resource center and multilingual website pilot project to be administered by the Office of Language Access.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Human Resources Development, Office of Language Access, Hawaii Public Housing Authority, Hawaii Civil Rights Commission, Catholic Charities Hawaii, Congress of Visayan Organizations, Hawaii Hispanic News, Latin Chamber of Commerce, Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Hawaii Interpreter Action Network, Maui Learning LLC, and twenty-two individuals.

Your Committee finds that despite the inception of Hawaii's language access law and the Office of Language Access, there are still major challenges in Hawaii regarding agency compliance, such as the lack of a comprehensive and centralized system or structure in Hawaii to identify qualified language interpreters and translators and the lack of multilingual websites that can help limited English proficient persons access needed information from state agencies in their own language. Ironically, Hawaii has a dearth of competent language interpreters and translators

2013-1118 SSCR SMA-1.doc



available to assist limited English proficient individuals. Your Committee further finds that a language access resource center will benefit agencies, interpreters, translators, and the limited English proficient population alike since it addresses the problem of supply and demand of interpreters and translators, increases and improves the number and quality of language service providers, and provides Hawaii's limited English proficient population a better means to access state and state-funded services.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Including updated statistics regarding limited English proficient persons;
- (2) Broadening the credentials and qualifications of language interpreters and translators that must be listed on a publicly available roster;
- (3) Inserting an appropriation amount of \$400,000 to establish a statewide language access resource center and \$190,000 to establish a multilingual website pilot project;
- (4) Inserting an end date of June 30, 2016, for the multilingual website pilot project;
- (5) Requiring the Office of Language Access to submit a report regarding the pilot project to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2017; and
- (6) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Human Services that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 58, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 58, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.



Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Human Services,

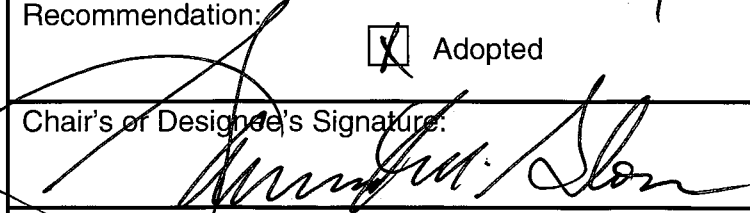
*Suzanne Chun Oakland*

SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, Chair



The Senate  
 Twenty-Seventh Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Human Services**  
**HMS**

|  |  |                         |          |          |
|--|--|-------------------------|----------|----------|
| Bill / Resolution No.:*<br><b>SB 58</b>  | Committee Referral:<br><b>HMS, WAM</b> | Date:<br><b>1/31/13</b> |          |          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.<br>If so, then the previous decision was to: _____  |  |                         |          |          |
| The Recommendation is:<br><input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313         |  |                         |          |          |
| Members  | Aye                                    | Aye (WR)                | Nay      | Excused  |
| CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne (C)  | <del>X</del>                           |                         |          |          |
| GREEN, Josh (VC)   | <del>X</del>                           |                         |          |          |
| KIDANI, Michelle N.  | <del>X</del>                           |                         |          |          |
| TANIGUCHI, Brian T.  |  |                         |          | X        |
| SLOM, Sam  | X                                      |                         |          |          |
|  |  |                         |          |          |
|  |  |                         |          |          |
|  |  |                         |          |          |
|  |  |                         |          |          |
|  |  |                         |          |          |
|  |  |                         |          |          |
|  |  |                         |          |          |
|  |  |                         |          |          |
|  |  |                         |          |          |
|  |  |                         |          |          |
|  |  |                         |          |          |
|  |  |                         |          |          |
|  |  |                         |          |          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>4</b>                               | <b>0</b>                | <b>0</b> | <b>1</b> |
| Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted   |  |                         |          |          |
| Chair's or Designee's Signature:<br>  |  |                         |          |          |
| <b>Distribution:</b> Original                      Yellow                      Pink                      Goldenrod<br>File with Committee Report    Clerk's Office            Drafting Agency        Committee File Copy |  |                         |          |          |

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes