

JAN 22 2016

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LANGUAGE ACCESS.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. Act 217, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013,  
2 appropriated funds for the establishment of a statewide language  
3 access resource center within the office of language access to  
4 allow state agencies and covered entities to provide  
5 interpretation and translation services to limited English  
6 proficient individuals. Act 217 also appropriated funds for the  
7 establishment of a multilingual website pilot project within the  
8 office of language access to enable limited English proficient  
9 individuals to obtain information about government services in  
10 their language.

11           The statewide language access resource center and the  
12 multilingual website pilot project provide meaningful access to  
13 important state and state-funded benefits and services to  
14 persons who have a limited ability to read, write, speak, or  
15 understand English. Both resources have also helped reduce  
16 barriers for limited English proficient persons in various  
17 areas, including understanding and exercising important rights,



1 complying with applicable responsibilities, and understanding  
2 other information provided by state-funded programs and  
3 activities.

4       The legislature finds that while Act 217 appropriated  
5 funding to establish the statewide language access resource  
6 center and the multilingual website pilot project, more funding  
7 is necessary to maintain and continue the services of the center  
8 and project. Despite advance preparation by the office of  
9 language access, implementation of the pilot project was delayed  
10 due to unforeseen challenges associated with the transfer of the  
11 office of language access as an administrative attachment of the  
12 department of labor and industrial relations to the department  
13 of health.

14       However, the legislature finds that despite funding and  
15 staffing challenges, the office of language access used its  
16 limited resources creatively to get the statewide language  
17 access resource center off to a firm start. By contracting with  
18 a public vendor and working with volunteer members of the  
19 language access advisory council, the publicly available roster  
20 of language service providers is almost complete. An outside  
21 vendor is also beginning work on the multilingual website



1 project. The legislature recognizes the need for permanent  
2 staffing and funding to support the statewide language access  
3 resource center's opening and operation so that the center can  
4 build on the work it has started.

5 The purpose of this Act is to support ongoing efforts to  
6 improve access to government services and programs for limited  
7 English proficient individuals by appropriating funds to further  
8 develop the statewide language access resource center and  
9 multilingual website pilot project.

10 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$300,000 or so much  
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 to operate  
13 the statewide language access resource center within the office  
14 of language access to allow state agencies and covered entities  
15 to provide interpretation and translation services to limited  
16 English proficient individuals in accordance with Hawaii's  
17 language access laws.

18 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
19 health for the purposes of this Act.

20 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$150,000 or so much



# S.B. NO. 2285

1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 to operate  
2 the multilingual website pilot project within the office of  
3 language access to enable limited English proficient individuals  
4 to obtain information about government services in their own  
5 language.

6 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
7 health for the purposes of this Act.

8 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

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INTRODUCED BY: *Sharonne Chun Oakland*

*Amely H. Bala*



# S.B. NO. 2285

**Report Title:**

Office of Language Access; Statewide Language Access Resource Center; Multilingual Website Pilot Project; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to continue the operations of the Statewide Language Access Resource Center and Multilingual Website Pilot Project within the Office of Language Access.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

