

Honolulu, Hawaii
February 9, 2016

RE: H.B. No. 2727

Honorable Joseph M. Souki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2016
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Economic Development & Business, to which was referred H.B. No. 2727 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MOVIE THEATERS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to remove communication barriers at motion picture theaters for individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, or have low vision. Specifically, this measure requires a public accommodation that owns, leases, leases to, or operates a motion picture theater in more than two locations in the State to provide open movie captioning and descriptive narration, for movies that are offered with such formats, during at least two showings per week of each motion picture that is offered for viewing.

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Disability and Communications Access Board, Aloha State Association for the Deaf, Isle Interpret, LLC, Hawaii Deaf Surfriders Association, Maui Deaf Friends, and numerous concerned individuals testified in support of this measure. The Hawaii Civil Rights Commission testified in support of the intent of this bill. A concerned individual testified in opposition to this measure. Regal Entertainment Group and Consolidated Entertainment, Inc., provided comments.

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, or have poor vision often have difficulty enjoying motion pictures. While movie theaters may make captioning available via the use of

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various assistive devices, these devices are uncomfortable and often difficult to use. Open captioning, which refers to captioning that is seen on the screen by all viewers, would provide equal access to enjoy movies for all theater patrons.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Economic Development & Business that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2727 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Economic
Development & Business,



DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, Chair



State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
The Twenty-eighth Legislature

HSCR 124-14

Record of Votes of the Committee on Economic Development & Business

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 2727	Committee Referral: EDB, Jud, Fin	Date: 5 Feb 16		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
EDB Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. KAWAKAMI, Derek S.K. (C)	✓			
2. KONG, Sam Satoru (VC)	✓			
3. BROWER, Tom	✓			
4. CACHOLA, Romy M.	✓			
5. CHOY, Isaac W.	✓			
6. DeCOITE, Lynn	✓			
7. ITO, Ken				✓
8. OHNO, Takashi	✓			
9. ONISHI, Richard H.K.	✓			
10. TOKIOKA, James Kunane	✓			
11. TSUJI, Clift	✓			
12. WOODSON, Justin H.	✓			
13. MATSUMOTO, Lauren Kealohilani	✓			
14. WARD, Gene	✓			
TOTAL (14)	13			1
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <div style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">committee acronym(s)</div>				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: _____ <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">James S. King</div>				
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