

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 04 2016

RE: S.B. No. 2476
S.D. 2

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2016
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred S.B. No. 2476, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to provide assistance to children who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind by:

- (1) Establishing within the Department of Health an early language acquisition program for children up to three years of age;
- (2) Requiring the Department of Health, Department of Education, and the Executive Office on Early Learning to establish a working group on age-appropriate language development for children up to five years of age; and
- (3) Appropriating funds to staff the early language acquisition program.

Your Committee received written comments in support of this measure from the School Community Council for the Hawaii School for the Deaf and the Blind, Disability and Communication Access Board, Aloha State Association of the Deaf, and twelve individuals.



Your Committee received written comments on this measure from the Department of Health, Department of Education, and Executive Office on Early Learning.

Your Committee finds that early language acquisition is a key component in a child's social and educational development. Most children who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind do not develop language in the same way that hearing children do, because most have had hearing parents who do not know how to communicate with a child who does not hear. Your Committee therefore finds that it is imperative that a child who is deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind develop language, in some form, as soon as possible.

Your Committee requests the agencies involved to provide subsequent committees that hear this measure with realistic costs and staffing needs to implement this measure.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2050, to facilitate further discussion on the matter; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and style;

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 is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2476, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2476, S.D. 2.

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

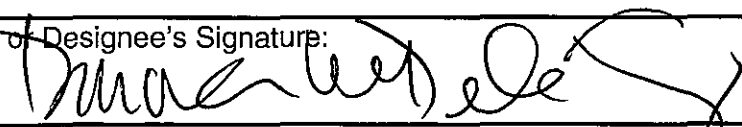


JILL N. TOKUDA, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Eighth Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Ways and Means
WAM

| | | | | |
|---|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------|
| Bill / Resolution No.:* | Committee Referral: | Date: | | |
| SB 2476, SD1 | CPH/EDU, WAM | 3 / 1 / 16 | | |
| <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 type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended <small>2312</small> | | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments <small>2311</small> | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <small>2310</small> | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit <small>2313</small> | | | | |
| Members | Aye | Aye (WR) | Nay | Excused |
| TOKUDA, Jill N. (C) | / | | | |
| DELA CRUZ, Donovan M. (VC) | / | | | |
| CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne | / | | | |
| ENGLISH, J. Kalani | / | | | |
| GALUTERIA, Brickwood | / | | | |
| HARIMOTO, Breene | / | | | |
| INOUYE, Lorraine R. | / | | | |
| RIVIERE, Gil | / | | | |
| TANIGUCHI, Brian T. | | | | / |
| WAKAI, Glenn | / | | | |
| SLOM, Sam | / | | | |
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| TOTAL | 10 | | | 1 |
| Recommendation: | | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted | | | | |
| Chair's or Designee's Signature: | | | | |
|  | | | | |
| Distribution: | | | | |
| Original | Yellow | Pink | Goldenrod | |
| File with Committee Report | Clerk's Office | Drafting Agency | Committee File Copy | |

*Only one measure per Record of Votes