

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 12 2015

RE: S.B. No. 266

Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
President of the Senate
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2015
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred S.B. No. 266
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF LANGUAGE
ACCESS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Appropriate funds to further develop the language access resource center and multilingual website pilot project; and
- (2) Authorize the hiring of necessary personnel to staff the resource center and administer the multilingual website.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Office of Language Access, Hawaii Interpreter Action Network, and one individual.

Your Committee finds that according to the United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey of 2009-2011, twenty-four percent of Hawaii's population speak a language other than English at home. This includes nearly 281,607 persons who speak an Asian or Pacific Island language. According to the same studies, out of those who speak a language other than English at home, forty-six percent are limited English proficient.

Your Committee therefore recognizes that English is not the primary language for a significant portion of Hawaii's residents.



These people have only a limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand English. Language barriers often prohibit many residents from fully participating in the community. Despite personal, family, community, and government efforts to make those with limited English proficiency more self-sufficient and productive, these efforts are often undermined by lack of access to essential government and government-funded services due to the language restrictions of Hawaii's limited English proficient population.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 266 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Health,



JOSH GREEN, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Eighth Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Health
HTH

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 260	Committee Referral: HTH, WAM	Date: 2/4/15
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The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.
 If so, then the previous decision was to: _____

The Recommendation is:

Pass, unamended 2312 Pass, with amendments 2311 Hold 2310 Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
GREEN, Josh (C)	X			
WAKAI, Glenn (VC)				X
BAKER, Rosalyn H.				X
GABBARD, Mike	X			
RIVIERE, Gil	X			
RUDERMAN, Russell E.	X			
SLOM, Sam	X	X		
TOTAL	4	1	0	2

Recommendation: Adopted Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature:

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*Only one measure per Record of Votes