

---

---

# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A STUDY REGARDING PROFESSIONAL  
LICENSURE OF AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS AND  
REGULATION OF INTERPRETER REFERRAL AGENCIES.

1           WHEREAS, there is an increased need statewide for  
2 communication access provided by American Sign Language  
3 interpreters as reflected in the number of requests made to  
4 local interpreter referral agencies; and

5  
6           WHEREAS, the increased need for interpreters by the deaf  
7 community, government agencies, private agencies, and employers  
8 has created a need for all consumers of American Sign Language  
9 interpreting services to be assured that the services they  
10 receive are provided by qualified interpreters who follow  
11 professional standards; and

12  
13           WHEREAS, the Disability and Communication Access Board  
14 currently tests and credentials American Sign Language  
15 interpreters at the state level, and the Registry of  
16 Interpreters for the Deaf certifies American Sign Language  
17 interpreters at the national level; and

18  
19           WHEREAS, American Sign Language interpreters establish  
20 their own business in Hawaii and obtain a general excise tax  
21 license to provide services, and many accept assignments from an  
22 agency directly or from local American Sign Language interpreter  
23 referral agencies; and

24  
25           WHEREAS, the Disability and Communication Access Board is  
26 not an enforcement agency and does not regulate professional  
27 interpreters or interpreter referral agencies; and

28  
29           WHEREAS, in 2015, the Pacific Disabilities Center (formerly  
30 known as the Pacific Basin Rehabilitation Research and Training  
31 Center) compiled nationwide information in a report titled



1 "Status of State Licensure of American Sign Language  
2 Interpreters"; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, the report indicates that sixteen states license  
5 American Sign Language interpreters with a variety of fees  
6 charged and differing requirements for licensure; and

7  
8 WHEREAS, the report does not include information regarding  
9 the impact that the licensure of American Sign Language  
10 interpreters has had in those states; and

11  
12 WHEREAS, more information is necessary to determine the  
13 impact that licensure of American Sign Language interpreters and  
14 regulation of interpreter referral agencies would have in Hawaii  
15 related to the fees charged for services, credentialing,  
16 professional development for interpreters, disciplinary action,  
17 and penalties for unprofessional conduct; and

18  
19 WHEREAS, the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs  
20 regulates and licenses professionals as well as investigates  
21 complaints of fraudulent and unfair business practices; and

22  
23 WHEREAS, section 26H-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires  
24 new measures that, if enacted, would subject unregulated  
25 professions and vocations to licensing or other regulatory  
26 controls, to be referred to the Auditor for analysis; now,  
27 therefore,

28  
29 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
30 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
31 of 2017, the Senate concurring, that the Auditor is requested to  
32 conduct a sunrise review of the probable effects of licensure of  
33 American Sign Language interpreters and regulation of  
34 interpreter referral agencies as proposed by S.B. No. and  
35 S.B. No. , Regular Session of 2017; and

36  
37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study analyze the sixteen  
38 states that have licensure requirements and include information  
39 about:

- 40  
41 (1) The impact licensure has had on interpreter services  
42 and customer satisfaction;



- 1
- 2 (2) Procedures for filing a complaint and the review
- 3 process for handling complaints;
- 4
- 5 (3) Types of infractions reviewed;
- 6
- 7 (4) Grounds for establishing licensure; and
- 8
- 9 (5) Disciplinary sanctions imposed and the reasons for
- 10 imposing disciplinary sanctions; and
- 11

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to  
 13 consult with critical stakeholders in conducting the sunrise  
 14 review and submitting its findings and recommendations; and  
 15

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study include information  
 17 about the responsibility of an American Sign Language  
 18 interpreter referral agency to:  
 19

- 20 (1) Recruit the most qualified interpreters;
- 21
- 22 (2) Assess customer satisfaction for deaf and hearing
- 23 customers;
- 24
- 25 (3) Provide a complaint or grievance process; and
- 26
- 27 (4) Inform interpreters and all agencies served about the
- 28 quality of interpreter services; and
- 29

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is further  
 31 requested to complete the study and submit findings and  
 32 recommendations, including any proposed legislation and a  
 33 recommendation as to whether Hawaii should require licensure of  
 34 American Sign Language interpreters and regulation of  
 35 interpreter referral agencies, to the Legislature no later than  
 36 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
 37 2018; and  
 38

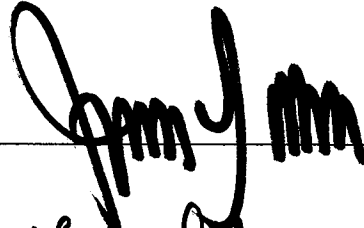
39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 40 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor, Director of  
 41 Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Executive Director of the  
 42 Disability and Communication Access Board, Director of the



# H.C.R. NO. 43

1 Pacific Disabilities Center, President of the Hawaii Registry of  
 2 Interpreters for the Deaf, President of the Aloha State  
 3 Association of the Deaf, Owner of Hawaii Interpreting Services,  
 4 and President of Isle Interpret.  
 5  
 6  
 7

OFFERED BY:



Linda Chiniqua



Tom B



Calvin K. King

Rich L. Lusk



James S. King

K. A.

