

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

3813

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 23 2018

RE: H.C.R. No. 108

H.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2018  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Government Operations, to which was referred H.C.R. No. 108, H.D. 1, entitled:

"HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE TO ADDRESS THE LACK OF LANGUAGE SUPPORT IN SERVICES, PROGRAMS, AND ACTIVITIES OFFERED BY STATE GOVERNMENT FOR PERSONS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to urge the State to address the lack of language support for persons with limited English proficiency in services, programs, and activities offered by state government.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Office of Language Access, Hawaii Friends of Civil Rights, O'ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, Filipina Advocacy Network, Volunteer Legal Services Hawai'i, Filipino American Citizens League, American Immigration Council, and four individuals.

Your Committee finds that for persons with limited English proficiency, language can be a barrier to accessing important benefits or services, understanding and exercising important rights, complying with applicable responsibilities, or understanding information. Your Committee also finds that Hawaii is home to a large number of persons with limited English



proficiency who do not speak English as their primary language and self-identify as having a limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand English. Therefore, your Committee finds that the State should prioritize ensuring meaningful access to services, programs, and activities for all persons in the State. Moreover, your Committee finds that the State should promote the hiring of bilingual and multilingual persons in the State's workforce, expand the functional and active use of languages commonly spoken in the State by persons in the workforce, recognize language skills as critical workforce skills that are essential to the State, and promote workplace training, public service campaigns, and educational programs that address bias and discrimination with respect to using languages other than English. Further, your Committee finds that the State should promote study of languages other than English and an environment of aloha where the use of languages other than English in public settings is welcomed and valued.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Government Operations that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of H.C.R. No. 108, H.D. 1, and recommends its adoption.

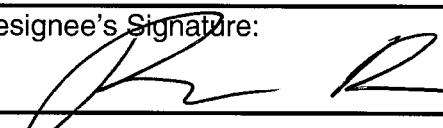
Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Government  
Operations,

  
DONNA MERCADO KIM, Chair



The Senate  
 Twenty-Ninth Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Government Operations**  
**GVO**

|  |                                   |                         |          |          |
|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------|----------|
| Bill / Resolution No.:*<br><i>HCR 108 HD1</i>  | Committee Referral:<br><i>GVO</i> | Date:<br><i>4/20/18</i> |          |          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.<br>If so, then the previous decision was to: _____  |                                   |                         |          |          |
| The Recommendation is:<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313             |                                   |                         |          |          |
| Members  | Aye                               | Aye (WR)                | Nay      | Excused  |
| KIM, Donna Mercado (C)   | <i>X</i>                          |                         |          |          |
| RUDERMAN, Russell E. (VC)  | <i>X</i>                          |                         |          |          |
| GALUTERIA, Brickwood   |                                   |                         |          | <i>X</i> |
| KEITH-AGARAN, Gilbert S.C.   |                                   |                         |          | <i>X</i> |
| RHOADS, Karl   | <i>X</i>                          |                         |          |          |
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| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <i>3</i>                          | <i>0</i>                | <i>0</i> | <i>2</i> |
| Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted   |                                   |                         |          |          |
| Chair's or Designee's Signature:<br>  |                                   |                         |          |          |
| <b>Distribution:</b> Original                      Yellow                      Pink                      Goldenrod<br>File with Committee Report    Clerk's Office            Drafting Agency            Committee File Copy |                                   |                         |          |          |

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes