JAN 2 7 2021

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO STATEWIDE HEALTH PLANNING.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to establish a more
 coordinated and cost-effective statewide language access
 program.

4 SECTION 2. Section 321C-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended to read as follows:

6 "\$321C-6 Office of language access; established. There is
7 established within the department of health, for administrative
8 purposes only, the office of language access. The head of the
9 office [shall] may be known as the executive director of the
10 office of language access. The executive director [shall] may
11 be appointed by the governor without regard to chapter 76. The
12 executive director [shall:] may:

13 (1) Provide oversight, central coordination, and technical
14 assistance to state agencies in their implementation
15 of language access requirements under this chapter or
16 under any other law, regulation, or guidance;



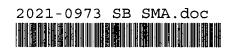
1	(2)	Provide technical assistance to covered entities in
2		their implementation of this chapter;
3	(3)	Review and monitor each state agency's language access
4		plan for compliance with this chapter;
5	(4)	Where reasonable access is not provided, endeavor to
6		eliminate the language access barrier using informal
7		methods, including conference, conciliation,
8		mediation, or persuasion. Where the language access
9		barrier cannot be eliminated by informal methods, the
10		executive director shall submit a written report with
11		the executive director's opinion and recommendation to
12		the state agency or the covered entity. The executive
13		director may request the state agency or the covered
14		entity to notify the executive director, within a
15		specified time, of any action taken on the executive
16		director's recommendation;
17	(5)	Consult with language access coordinators, the
18		language access advisory council, and state department
19		directors or their equivalent;
20	(6)	Subject to section 321C-3, create, distribute to the
21		State, and make available to covered entities,



1		mult:	ilingual signage in the more frequently		
2		encountered languages in the State, and other			
3		langu	lages as needed, informing individuals of their		
4		right	t to free oral language services and inviting them		
5		to io	dentify themselves as persons needing services;		
6	(7)	Adopt	t rules pursuant to chapter 91 to address the		
7		langu	age needs of limited English proficient persons;		
8	(8)	Admiı	nister a statewide language access resource center		
9		that	[shall:] <u>may:</u>		
10		(A)	Maintain a publicly available roster of language		
11			interpreters and translators, listing their		
12			qualifications and credentials based upon		
13			guidelines established by the office of language		
14			access in consultation with the language access		
15			advisory council;		
16		(B)	Train state and state-funded agencies on how to		
17			effectively obtain and utilize the services of		
18			language interpreters and translators;		
19		(C)	Support the recruitment and retention of language		
20			interpreters and translators providing services		
21			to state and state-funded agencies;		



1		(D)	Provide, coordinate, and publicize training
2			opportunities to increase the number and
3			availability of qualified language interpreters
4			and translators and further develop their
5			language interpretation and translation skills;
6			and
7		(E)	Work toward identifying or creating a process to
8			test and certify language interpreters and
9			translators and promote use of the process to
10			ensure the quality and accuracy of the language
11			interpretation and translation services; and
12	(9)	Have	the authority to hire personnel necessary to
13		staf	f the statewide language access resource center
14		and	to administer its multilingual website. The
15		staf	f, at a minimum, shall consist of one full-time
16		proj	ect coordinator, three full-time program
17		spec	ialists, and one full-time clerk. To the extent
18		poss	ible, the executive director [shall] <u>may</u> hire
19		bili	ngual personnel to staff the statewide language
20		acce	ss resource center and to administer its website."



4

S.B. NO. 1230

SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.

INTRODUCED BY:



Report Title: Office of Language Access; Statewide Language Access Reform

Description: Provides flexibility to deploy statewide language access programs and resources.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

