

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1475

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 30 2021

RE: S.C.R. No. 229
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2021
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Human Services, to which was referred
S.C.R. No. 229 entitled:

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE HAWAII HEALTH
SYSTEMS CORPORATION TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP BETTER
MISSION-DRIVEN HIRING AND TRAINING OF INTERPRETERS EMPLOYED
AT ITS FACILITIES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to request that the
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) convene a task force to
facilitate improved, mission-driven hiring and training of
culturally-accepted interpreters to assist non-English speaking
populations seeking care at HHSC facilities.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation and Office of Language Access.

Your Committee finds that the Hawaii Health Systems
Corporation provides high quality health care services to
residents and visitors throughout the State and serves as a vital
component of Hawai'i's system of health care. The HHSC consists of
a network of hospitals and clinics, some of which are located in
remote, rural, and low-populated areas, HHSC facilities often
provide safety-net services for neighbor island acute care and for
long-term care in the State, as they serve all people regardless
of whether an individual has health insurance or the ability to



pay for the health care service they receive. Your Committee further finds that HHSC's vision is to be recognized as a progressive model for an accessible, integrated, patient-centered, and fiscally responsible health care system focused on assuring high quality care to improve the health of Hawai'i's underserved communities.

Your Committee also finds that members of Hawai'i's non-English speaking populations are often reluctant and intimidated to seek medical care due to the lack of properly trained interpreters in HHSC medical facilities who are able to assist those seeking medical care, who may have language and cultural barriers. Your Committee believes that the scope of this measure should be expanded to include the involvement of the Department of Health and to request that the task force also create culturally-accepted educational materials on preventative care and early intervention to further assist non-English speaking clientele.

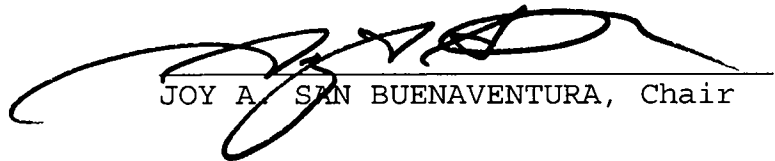
Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Requesting the Department of Health to serve as co-convenor of the task force;
- (2) Requesting the task force to create culturally-accepted educational materials on preventative care and early intervention to assist non-English speaking populations seeking care at Hawaii Health Systems Corporation facilities;
- (3) Clarifying that the Regional Chief Executive Officer of the East Hawaii Region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation is requested to serve as chairperson;
- (4) Urging that two members of a nonprofit Micronesian advocacy group serve as members of the task force;
- (5) Amending its title in accordance with its amended purpose; and
- (6) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.



As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Human Services that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.C.R. No. 229, as amended herein, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as S.C.R. No. 229, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Human Services,



JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, Chair



