
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATED TO ELECTRONIC INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Lahaina
2 community faces many challenges in the aftermath of the
3 August 8, 2023, Maui wildfires. With its unique demographic
4 composition, Lahaina witnessed specific difficulties during the
5 crisis due to language barriers, including challenges in
6 receiving timely and accurate information and assistance.
7 Notably, thirty-two per cent of Lahaina's 9,118 residents are
8 foreign-born, a statistically significant difference compared to
9 the 18.8 per cent statewide average. Furthermore, thirty-six
10 per cent of individuals aged five years and older in Lahaina
11 speak a language other than English at home, a significant
12 difference compared to the 25.9 per cent statewide average.

13 The legislature further finds that electronic information
14 technology developed, purchased, used, modified, or provided by
15 a state entity must be made accessible to persons with limited
16 English proficiency as provided by title VI of the Civil Rights
17 Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d); Executive Order No. 13166;



1 Executive Order No. 14031; and chapter 321C, Hawaii Revised
2 Statutes. Electronic information is rapidly replacing print
3 media, and all residents need access to technology to work and
4 participate fully in state programs, services, and activities.

5 The purpose of this Act is to address language barriers and
6 ensure equitable access to information and assistance for all
7 residents, especially those with limited English proficiency.

8 SECTION 2. Chapter 27, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
9 by adding a new section to part VII to be appropriately
10 designated and to read as follows:

11 "§27- Multilingual accessibility standards. (a) The
12 office of enterprise technology services, in consultation with
13 the office of language access, shall develop multilingual
14 accessibility standards to provide technical guidance to state
15 entities regarding public access to vital information and
16 documents. These multilingual accessibility standards shall:

17 (1) Encourage state entities to implement language
18 accessibility cost-effectively, taking into
19 consideration the unique challenges and circumstances
20 of each state entity;



- 1 (2) Include functional performance criteria and technical
2 requirements for multilingual accessibility standards;
- 3 (3) Provide recommendations for procurement provisions
4 that can be incorporated into existing state
5 procurement processes to conform to multilingual
6 accessibility standards;
- 7 (4) Offer other guidance for planning, reporting, and
8 monitoring to ensure that state entities implement the
9 multilingual accessibility standards without impeding
10 modernization efforts; and
- 11 (5) Apply to electronic information technology developed,
12 purchased, used, modified, or provided by a state
13 entity to assure access to language services as
14 required by federal and state law, rules, and
15 regulations.
- 16 The office of enterprise technology services, in consultation
17 with the office of language access, shall review the
18 multilingual accessibility standards every three years, or more
19 frequently if the chief information officer deems it necessary,
20 and amend the standards to reflect advances or changes in



1 electronic information technology rules or superseding federal
2 rules, regulations, and guidance.

3 (b) As used in this section:

4 "Access" or "accessibility" means to be informed of,
5 participate in, and benefit from the services, programs, and
6 activities offered by a state entity.

7 "State entity" means the executive, legislative, or
8 judicial branch of state government or any department, office,
9 commission, board, or other agency of the executive,
10 legislative, or judicial branches of state government."

11 SECTION 3. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of
12 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,
13 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the
14 appropriations contained in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023,
15 and this Act will cause the state general fund expenditure
16 ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by
17 \$ or per cent. This current declaration takes
18 into account general fund appropriations authorized for fiscal
19 year 2024-2025 in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023, and this Act
20 only. The reasons for exceeding the general fund expenditure
21 ceiling are that:



- 1 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to
- 2 serve the public interest; and
- 3 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs
- 4 addressed by this Act.

5 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 to
8 establish full-time equivalent (FTE) permanent program
9 manager position for the office of enterprise technology
10 services.

11 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
12 accounting and general services for the purposes of this Act.

13 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

14 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



S.B. NO. 2782
S.D. 2
H.D. 2

Report Title:

Filipino Caucus; Office of Enterprise Technology Services;
English Interpretations; Appropriation; Expenditure Ceiling

Description:

Requires the Office of Enterprise Technology Services to develop multilingual accessibility standards. Appropriates funds to establish an unspecified number of positions to develop multilingual accessibility standards within the Office of Enterprise Technology Services. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)

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