
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. Notably, thirty-two per cent
6 of Lahaina's 9,118 residents are foreign-born, a statistically
7 significant difference compared to the statewide average of 18.8
8 per cent. Furthermore, thirty-six per cent of individuals aged
9 five years and older in Lahaina speak a language other than
10 English at home, a significant difference compared to the 25.9
11 per cent statewide average.

12 The legislature further finds that electronic information
13 technology developed, purchased, used, modified, or provided by
14 a state entity must be made accessible to persons with limited
15 English proficiency as provided by title VI of the Civil Rights
16 Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d); Executive Order No. 13166;
17 Executive Order No. 14031; and chapter 321C, Hawaii Revised



1 Statutes. Electronic information is rapidly replacing print
2 media, and all residents need access to technology to work and
3 participate fully in state programs, services, and activities.

4 The legislature also finds that many residents of Lahaina,
5 a community significantly affected by the August 8, 2023, Maui
6 wildfires, face challenges in receiving timely and accurate
7 information and assistance due to language barriers.

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

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

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

20 (1) Encourage state entities to implement language
21 accessibility cost-effectively, taking into



1 consideration the unique challenges and circumstances
2 of each entity;

3 (2) Include functional performance criteria and technical
4 requirements for multilingual accessibility standards;

5 (3) Provide recommendations for procurement language that
6 can be incorporated into existing state procurement
7 processes to conform to multilingual accessibility
8 standards;

9 (4) Offer other guidance for planning, reporting, and
10 monitoring to ensure that state entities implement the
11 multilingual accessibility standards without impeding
12 modernization efforts; and

13 (5) Apply to electronic information technology developed,
14 purchased, used, modified, or provided by a state
15 entity to assure access to language services as
16 required by state and federal law, rules, and
17 regulations.

18 The office of enterprise technology services, in consultation
19 with the office of language access, shall review the
20 multilingual accessibility standards every three years, or more
21 frequently if the chief information officer deems it necessary,



1 and amend the standards to reflect advances or changes in
2 electronic information technology rules or superseding federal
3 rules, regulations, and guidance.

4 (b) For the purposes of this section:

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

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

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



1 only. The reasons for exceeding the general fund expenditure
2 ceiling are that:

3 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to
4 serve the public interest; and

5 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs
6 addressed by this Act.

7 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 to
10 establish one full-time equivalent (1.00 FTE) permanent program
11 manager position for the office of enterprise technology
12 services.

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

15 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

16 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

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

Description:

Requires the Office of Enterprise Technology Services to develop multilingual accessibility standards. Appropriates funds to establish 1 full-time position (1.0 FTE) to develop multilingual accessibility standards within the Office of Enterprise Technology Services. Declares that the appropriation exceeds the state general fund expenditure ceiling for 2024-2025. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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