



GOV. MSG. NO. 1311

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

July 5, 2024

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate,
and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty-Second State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on July 5, 2024, the following bill was signed into law:

HB2107 HD2 SD1 CD1

RELATED TO DISASTER SERVICES.
ACT 210

Sincerely,

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawai'i

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2024
STATE OF HAWAII

H.B. NO. 2107
H.D. 2
S.D. 1
C.D. 1

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATED TO DISASTER SERVICES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that one out of nine
2 people living in Hawaii is limited English proficient. These
3 individuals often encounter disproportionate risks before,
4 during, and after disasters. These risks include an inability
5 to understand evacuation orders and procedures and information
6 from emergency relief providers and impediments that slow access
7 to emergency medical care, sheltering assistance, and other
8 forms of emergency relief. Moreover, in the aftermath of a
9 disaster, many limited English proficient persons encounter
10 barriers to obtaining relief when applying for state or county
11 programs, including financial, medical, housing, and food
12 assistance programs.

13 The legislature also finds that in the immediate aftermath
14 of the August 8, 2023, Maui wildfires, language interpreters and
15 sign language interpreters were not present at the shelters, nor
16 was any provision made to assist individuals through remote
17 interpretation. In the absence of a planned coordinated



1 response from the Hawaii emergency management agency and the
2 Maui emergency management agency, Hawaii's professional and
3 community interpreters stepped in to fill the void. Non-profit
4 organizations adjusted their budgets and strategic and
5 contractual obligations to meet the needs of the Maui community
6 and continue to provide services as needed.

7 The legislature further finds that in addition to state and
8 federal language access laws and regulations, section 308 of the
9 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Act (Stafford
10 Act, P.L. 93-288, as amended) specifically requires entities
11 receiving funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency
12 to identify limited English proficient populations to ensure
13 that they are incorporated into the disaster management planning
14 process, ensure that such populations can access disaster relief
15 information, and develop and maintain a database identifying
16 qualified language assistance programs that could be activated
17 in an emergency.

18 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the
19 Hawaii emergency management agency for the establishment of a
20 limited English proficiency language access coordinator and



1 programming support for limited English proficiency community
2 projects.

3 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$200,000 or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 as
6 follows:

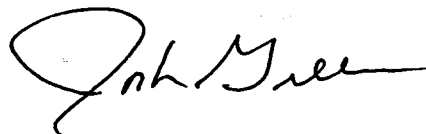
7 (1) \$100,000 for the establishment of one full-time
8 equivalent (1.0 FTE) limited English proficiency
9 language access coordinator position, which shall be
10 exempt from chapter 76, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
11 within the Hawaii emergency management agency; and

12 (2) \$100,000 for programming support for limited English
13 proficiency community projects, such as public service
14 announcements, translation services, and other program
15 projects and support.

16 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii
17 emergency management agency for the purposes of this Act.

18 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

APPROVED this 5th day of July , 2024



GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII



HB No. 2107, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1

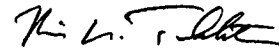
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: May 1, 2024
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024.



Scott K. Saiki
Speaker
House of Representatives





Brian L. Takeshita
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives

THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I

Date: May 1, 2024
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawai‘i, Regular Session of 2024.


President of the Senate


Clerk of the Senate