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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO ESTABLISH THE OFFICE OF LANGUAGE  
ACCESS.

1           WHEREAS, during the Regular Session of 2006, the  
2 Legislature passed a measure that was signed into law by the  
3 Governor and became Act 290, which establishes the Office of  
4 Language Access and provides funding for the office in fiscal  
5 year 2006-2007; and

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7           WHEREAS, Title VI of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964  
8 requires all entities receiving federal funds to provide  
9 language accessible services to limited English proficient  
10 persons; and

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12           WHEREAS, twenty-six per cent of Hawaii residents report  
13 that they speak in a language other than English at home, and  
14 five per cent of Hawaii residents report that they do not speak  
15 English at all or do not speak it well; and

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17           WHEREAS, testimony in support of the measure that became  
18 Act 290 indicated that the State had failed at providing  
19 language accessible services and cited specific cases where  
20 persons with limited English proficiency were wrongfully denied  
21 access to public benefits, suffered wrongful emergency  
22 commitment to psychiatric facilities, unknowingly agreed to  
23 "voluntarily" place their children with the Department of Human  
24 Services, were compelled to attend English-only court-ordered  
25 rehabilitative programs, were told to provide their own  
26 interpreters when accessing state services, had teeth extracted  
27 without having given one's informed consent, and faced  
28 substantial delays in accessing basic government services,  
29 including the children's health insurance program, medicare,  
30 medicaid, and the temporary assistance for needy families and  
31 temporary assistance to other needy families programs; and

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33           WHEREAS, Act 290 was enacted to ensure state compliance  
34 with Title VI by having the Office of Language Access assist the  
35 Judiciary and all state departments in developing individualized



