
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LANGUAGE ACCESS.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 128, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:
4 "§128- Civil defense emergency warnings; multiple
5 languages. All messages and updates from the governor, the
6 department of defense, or the civil defense division to the
7 general public warning of a civil defense emergency or natural
8 disaster or advising the public during a civil defense emergency
9 or natural disaster shall be prepared for broadcast in multiple
10 languages recommended in the United States Department of Justice
11 limited english proficiency guidance and determined to reach as
12 many residents and visitors as possible. If these messages and
13 updates are to be broadcast to the public, then they shall be
14 distributed to the appropriate media outlets."

15 SECTION 2. Chapter 371, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
16 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
17 and to read as follows:



1 "§371- Emergency communications. Each appropriate state
2 agency and covered entity shall translate emergency
3 communications and updates into the languages specified in the
4 United States Department of Justice limited english proficiency
5 guidance. If the emergency communications and updates are
6 broadcast, then they shall be broadcast in each of the languages
7 specified in the United States Department of Justice limited
8 english proficiency guidance."

9 SECTION 3. Section 371-36, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
10 amended to read as follows:

11 "~~§371-36~~ **Executive director of the office of**
12 **language access; duties.** There is established within the
13 department of labor and industrial relations, for administrative
14 purposes only, an office of language access. The head of the
15 office shall be known as the executive director of the office of
16 language access, hereinafter referred to as executive director.
17 The executive director shall be appointed by the governor
18 without regard to chapter 76. The executive director shall:

- 19 (1) Provide oversight, central coordination, and technical
- 20 assistance to state agencies in their implementation
- 21 of language access requirements under this part or
- 22 under any other law, regulation, or guidance;



- 1 (2) Provide technical assistance to covered entities in
2 their implementation of this part;
- 3 (3) Review and monitor each state agency's language access
4 plan for compliance with this part;
- 5 (4) Where reasonable access is not provided, endeavor to
6 eliminate the barrier using informal methods such as
7 conference, conciliation, mediation, or persuasion.
8 Where the language access barrier cannot be eliminated
9 by informal methods, the executive director shall
10 submit a written report with the executive director's
11 opinion and recommendation to the state agency or the
12 covered entity. The executive director may request
13 the state agency or the covered entity to notify the
14 executive director, within a specified time, of any
15 action taken on the executive director's
16 recommendation;
- 17 (5) Consult with language access coordinators, the
18 language access advisory council, and department
19 directors or their equivalent;
- 20 (6) Collaborate with all necessary agencies and parties to
21 implement translation, distribution, and broadcast of



Report Title:

Language Access

Description:

Provides for emergency communications and updates from the State to be translated and broadcast in additional languages.

