STAND. COM. REP. NO. 653 -08

Honolulu, Hawaii

Fe 915, 2008

RE: H.B. No. 2575 H.D. 2

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say Speaker, House of Representatives Twenty-Fourth State Legislature Regular Session of 2008 State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Human Services & Housing, to which was referred H.B. No. 2575, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO LANGUAGE ACCESS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this bill is to make government more easily accessible to individuals with limited English proficiency by:

- (1) Clarifying and expanding definitions in Hawaii's language access law;
- (2) Expanding the membership of the Language Access Advisory Council (LAAC) to include a member from each county in the state; and
- (3) Appropriating \$189,500 for the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to establish a statewide language access bank to ensure access to services.

The Office of Language Access, Congress of Visayan Organizations, Big Island Filipino Community Council, Filipino American Citizens League, National Federation of Filipino American Associations Region XII, Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc., Oahu Filipino Community Council, Philippine Nurses Association-Hawaii, United Filipino Council of Hawaii, and Filipino Coalition for Solidarity testified in support of this bill. The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supported the intent of this

measure. The Hawaii Interpreter Action Network supported this bill with amendments.

Your Committee respectfully urges stakeholders to work together to discuss the possibility and feasibility of including American Sign Language as a language covered by the Office of Language Access for those individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Your Committee has amended this bill by:

- (1) Changing the term "language access bank" to "language resource coordinating center";
- (2) Adding a DCAB representative as an ex-officio member of LAAC; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Human Services & Housing that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2575, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it be referred to the Committee on Finance in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2575, H.D. 2.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Human Services & Housing,

MAILE SHIMABUKURO, Chair

HB2575 HD2 HSCR HSH HMS 2008-2215



State of Hawaii House of Representatives The Twenty-fourth Legislature

Record of Votes of the Committee on Human Services & Housing

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 2575 HD1	Committee Ref	erral: HSH , F	IN Dat	le: February	14, 2008
☐ The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.					
The recommendation is to: Pass, unamended (as is) Pass, with amendments (HD) Hold Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)					
HSH Members		Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. SHIMABUKURO, Maile S. L. (C	()	Χ	·		
2. RHOADS, Karl (VC)			X		
3. AWANA, Karen Leinani		Х			
4. BELATTI, Della Au		X			
		×			
5. BERTRAM, Joe, III		X			
6. CABANILLA, Rida T.R.		X			
CREW I I MP					
7. GREEN, Josh, M.D.					
8. MIZUNO, John	- Si	X	114		
			** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** **		
9. TOKIOKA, James Kunane		X			
					24,00
10. WARD, Gene, Ph.D.					
		-	·		
TOTAL (10)		9		0	0
The recommendation is: Adopted If joint referral, did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)					
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:					
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office					