



GOV. MSG. NO. 686

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR

May 22, 2009

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President  
and Members of the Senate  
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

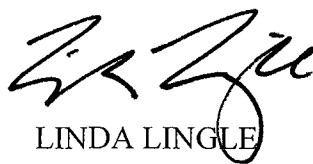
Dear Madam President and Members of the Senate:

This is to inform you that on May 22, 2009, the following bill was signed into law:

HB813 HD1 SD1 CD1

A BILL FOR AN ACT  
RELATING TO LANGUAGE ACCESS.  
**ACT 069 (09)**

Sincerely,



LINDA LINGLE

Approved by the Governor

on MAY 22 2009

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE, 2009  
STATE OF HAWAII

RECEIVED  
SENATE  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

**ACT 069**

**H.B. NO.**

813  
H.D. 1  
S.D. 1  
C.D. 1

9 MAY 22 A10:38

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LANGUAGE ACCESS.

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

1 SECTION 1. Hawaii is a melting pot of diverse  
2 nationalities and cultures. Diversity defines Hawaii's  
3 residents and makes this State a unique place to live.

4 According to the 2000 United States Census, over twelve per  
5 cent of the State's residents speak English "less than very  
6 well." These residents face daily challenges, whether it is  
7 struggling to consult with a school counselor about their  
8 child's performance at school or to understand a notice  
9 regarding public housing benefits.

10 In a movement to reinforce Title VI of the 1964 Civil  
11 Rights Act barring discrimination on the basis of race, color,  
12 or national origin, President Clinton issued an executive order  
13 on August 11, 2000, directing all federal agencies to publish  
14 written policies on how recipients can provide access to persons  
15 of limited English proficiency and improve language  
16 accessibility to its programs.

17 The legislature finds that as one of only four states to  
18 enact a statewide law on language access, Hawaii is on the

HB813 CD1 HMS 2009-4028



1 leading edge of breaking down language barriers to enable its  
2 diverse population, particularly persons who are limited in  
3 their English language proficiency, to gain equal access to  
4 much-needed government services at no extra charge. Whether the  
5 State provides access to its services and programs through an  
6 interpreter or translates key documents needed to access its  
7 services, residents with limited English proficiency benefit by  
8 being able to fully participate in the community as self-  
9 sufficient and productive members of the community. Ongoing  
10 education and efforts are needed to ensure that language access  
11 becomes the norm in the provision of government services.

12 The purpose of this Act is to designate the month of August  
13 as "Language Access Month" to promote awareness of language  
14 access for government services and emphasize the importance of  
15 and need for language access in Hawaii's diverse society.

16 SECTION 2. Chapter 8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended  
17 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to  
18 read as follows:

19 "§8- Language access month. The month of August shall  
20 be known and designated as "Language Access Month" to promote  
21 awareness of language access for government services and  
22 emphasize the importance of and need for language access in



1 Hawaii's diverse society. This month is not and shall not be  
2 construed as a state holiday."

3 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

4 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

APPROVED this 22 day of MAY, 2009



GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

