

MAR 18 2009

## SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AGENCIES TO ENCOURAGE THEIR PARENT  
CLIENTS TO TURN ON CLOSED CAPTIONING WHEN THEIR CHILDREN  
WATCH TELEVISION.

1 WHEREAS, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation, two-  
2 thirds of infants, toddlers, and children under the age of six  
3 watch an average of two hours of television while kids and teens  
4 from seven to eighteen years old spend nearly four hours a day  
5 in front of a television screen; and  
6

7 WHEREAS, television has replaced the time children spend  
8 reading books, causing agencies such as the National Education  
9 Association to take action; and  
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11 WHEREAS, in 1998 the National Education Association started  
12 the "Read Across America" program in an effort to motivate  
13 children to read instead of watching television or playing video  
14 games; and  
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16 WHEREAS, while television opens up new worlds of  
17 entertainment and information to children with pictures and  
18 sound capturing their attention, the absence of a reading  
19 component restricts this medium as a learning tool; and  
20

21 WHEREAS, while originally developed for the deaf and hard  
22 of hearing, closed captioning also has the capability of helping  
23 anyone learn by bringing reading to television; and  
24

25 WHEREAS, in 1986, researchers Koskinen, Wilson, and Jensema  
26 noted:  
27

28 "Captions are reading material. They can turn television  
29 into a moving story book, a steady stream of written  
30 language presented with both video and audio reinforcement.  
31 Viewers can see words on the screen, hear them spoken, and  
32 see them put into visual context. One of the most exciting  
33 potential applications of closed captioning is its use as  
34 an educational tool."; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, research has shown that closed captioning has the  
3 ability to enhance vocabulary, reading speed, word association,  
4 and spelling; and  
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6 WHEREAS, closed captioning is a free service provided by  
7 the television industry, and most televisions purchased after  
8 1993 already have the capability to display closed captioning;  
9 now, therefore,  
10

11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth  
12 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009,  
13 that the Legislature urges all public and private agencies to  
14 encourage their parent clients to turn on closed captioning  
15 while their children watch television; and  
16

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
18 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Superintendent of  
19 Education, Director of Health, Director of Human Services,  
20 Chairperson of Child and Family Service, Chairperson of Catholic  
21 Charities Hawaii, Chairperson of the Partners in Development  
22 Foundation, Chairperson of Parents and Children Together,  
23 President of Hawaii Literacy, and the Executive Director of the  
24 American Association of Retired Persons.  
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