

MAR 18 2009

---

## SENATE RESOLUTION

---

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO USE CLOSED CAPTIONING AS A TEACHING AND LEARNING TOOL FOR PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS, AND TO ASSIST PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS OF ALL AGES WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES WHO MAY BENEFIT FROM CLOSED CAPTIONING.

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

10  
11 WHEREAS, in 1998, the National Education Association  
12 started the "Read Across America" program in an effort to  
13 motivate children to read instead of watching television or  
14 playing video games; and

15  
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  
22 hearing impaired, closed captioning also has the capability of  
23 helping 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



potential applications of closed captioning is its use as an educational tool."; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that closed captioning has the ability to enhance vocabulary, reading speed, word association, and spelling; and

WHEREAS, closed captioning is a free service provided by the television industry, and most televisions purchased after 1993 already have the capability to display closed captioning; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, that the Department of Education is urged to use closed captioning as a teaching and learning tool for public elementary and middle school students, and to assist public school students of all ages with learning disabilities who may benefit from closed captioning; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of Education and the Chair of the Board of Education.

OFFERED BY:

*Shianne Chun Aakalani*  
*Norman Sakamoto*

