

JAN 23 2015

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO INTERPRETER REFERRAL SERVICES.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Americans with  
2 Disabilities Act of 1990 requires that communication between a  
3 state, county, or private entity serving applicants, employees,  
4 participants, and members of the public who have disabilities be  
5 as effective as communication with individuals without  
6 disabilities. Providing appropriate auxiliary aids and services  
7 is one way to afford an individual with a disability an equal  
8 opportunity to participate in and enjoy the benefits of a  
9 program, service, or activity.

10           The Americans with Disabilities Act requires an entity to  
11 provide an opportunity for individuals with disabilities to  
12 request auxiliary aids and services of their choice. This  
13 expressed choice shall be given primary consideration by the  
14 entity and shall be honored unless the entity can demonstrate  
15 that another effective means of communication exists or the  
16 request is an undue burden. Auxiliary aids and services include  
17 qualified interpreters (in-person or remote), captioners and



1 notetakers, computer-aided transcription services, written  
2 materials, and other effective methods of making verbally  
3 delivered materials available to individuals who are deaf, hard  
4 of hearing, or deaf-blind. An interpreter referral service  
5 provider is an effective means to procure the services necessary  
6 to provide effective communication as required by the Americans  
7 with Disabilities Act.

8       The legislature further finds that the department of human  
9 services has provided interpreter referral services for the  
10 community for approximately thirty years via a request for  
11 proposal. Currently, it is difficult for the department of  
12 human services to maximize matching federal funds. The  
13 department's vocational rehabilitation program provides  
14 interpreter referral services to individuals even if the  
15 individuals are not participants of the vocational  
16 rehabilitation program.

17       The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to provide  
18 interpreter referral services for the community, including  
19 individuals and agencies that are not participants of the  
20 department of human services' vocational rehabilitation program,  
21 since supplemental funding is necessary to provide services for



1 individuals who are not participants of the vocational  
2 rehabilitation program.

3 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$45,000 or so much  
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the  
6 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
7 2016-2017 for an interpreter referral service for entities  
8 serving individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-  
9 blind, who are not participants of the department of human  
10 services' vocational rehabilitation program.

11 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
12 of human services for the purposes of this Act.

13 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

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INTRODUCED BY: Suzanne Chun Aaklan

**Report Title:**

Interpreter Referral Services; Appropriation

**Description:**

Makes an appropriation to the department of human services for an interpreter referral service for public and private entities serving individuals who are not participants of the department of human services' vocational rehabilitation program.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

