

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 18 2016

RE: H.B. No. 2226
H.D. 2

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2016
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,
to which was referred H.B. No. 2226, H.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF LANGUAGE
ACCESS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to appropriate
funds for three full-time equivalent permanent positions within
the Office of Language Access.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Office of Language Access; Office of Language Access
Advisory Council; American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i; Asian
American Network for Cancer Awareness Research and Training;
Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights; Filipino American Citizens
League; Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights; National Federation of
Filipino American Associations, Region 12; Nursing Advocates and
Mentors, Inc.; Hawaii Filipino Lawyers Association; Catholic
Charities Hawai'i; and five individuals.

Your Committee finds that the Office of Language Access is
charged with providing oversight, central coordination, and
technical assistance to state and state-funded agencies in their
implementation of language access compliance, which is a civil
right under federal and state law. While the Office of Language
Access was initially able to provide much needed services and
guidance to agencies as the agencies worked toward compliance with



federal and state law, a reduction in staff has made it difficult for the Office of Language Access to provide adequate technical assistance and compliance monitoring that meet agencies' needs.

Your Committee further finds that in the last few years, there has been an increase in legal action and compliance monitoring from civil rights divisions of various federal agencies. Because there have been instances where state departments and county agencies have been subject to legal action for lack of compliance, your Committee finds that the services of the Office of Language Access in assisting state and state-funded agencies in understanding and meeting certain civil rights obligations to provide language access are critical in avoiding costly penalties and expenses or the loss of federal funding.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2226, H.D. 2, and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committees on Judiciary and Labor and Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Commerce, Consumer
Protection, and Health,




ROSALYN H. BAKER, Chair



The Senate
Twenty-Eighth Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
CPH

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:
HB 2226, HD2	CPH, JDL/WAM	3-15-16
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____		
The Recommendation is:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311	<input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)
Nay	Excused	
BAKER, Rosalyn H. (C)	/	
KIDANI, Michelle N. (VC)	/	
ESPERO, Will	/	
IHARA, Jr., Les		/
NISHIHARA, Clarence K.		/
RUDERMAN, Russell E.		/
SLOM, Sam	/	
TOTAL	4	3
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted		
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 		
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy		

*Only one measure per Record of Votes