
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO STATEWIDE HEALTH PLANNING.

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

1 SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to establish a more
2 coordinated and cost-effective statewide language access
3 program.

4 SECTION 2. Section 321C-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended to read as follows:

6 "**§321C-6 Office of language access; established.** There is
7 established within the department of health, for administrative
8 purposes only, the office of language access. The head of the
9 office shall be known as the executive director of the office of
10 language access. The executive director shall be appointed by
11 the governor without regard to chapter 76. The executive
12 director shall:

13 (1) Provide oversight, central coordination, and technical
14 assistance to state agencies in their implementation
15 of language access requirements under this chapter or
16 under any other law, regulation, or guidance;



- 1 (2) Provide technical assistance to covered entities in
2 their implementation of this chapter;
- 3 (3) Review and monitor each state agency's language access
4 plan for compliance with this chapter;
- 5 (4) Where reasonable access is not provided, endeavor to
6 eliminate the language access barrier using informal
7 methods, including conference, conciliation,
8 mediation, or persuasion. Where the language access
9 barrier cannot be eliminated by informal methods, the
10 executive director shall submit a written report with
11 the executive director's opinion and recommendation to
12 the state agency or the covered entity. The executive
13 director may request the state agency or the covered
14 entity to notify the executive director, within a
15 specified time, of any action taken on the executive
16 director's recommendation;
- 17 (5) Consult with language access coordinators, the
18 language access advisory council, and state department
19 directors or their equivalent;
- 20 (6) Subject to section 321C-3, create, distribute to the
21 State, and make available to covered entities,



- 1 multilingual signage in the more frequently
2 encountered languages in the State, and other
3 languages as needed, informing individuals of their
4 right to free oral language services and inviting them
5 to identify themselves as persons needing services;
- 6 (7) Adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 to address the
7 language needs of limited English proficient persons;
- 8 (8) Administer a statewide language access resource center
9 that ~~shall~~ may:
- 10 (A) Maintain a publicly available roster of language
11 interpreters and translators, listing their
12 qualifications and credentials based upon
13 guidelines established by the office of language
14 access in consultation with the language access
15 advisory council;
- 16 (B) Train state and state-funded agencies on how to
17 effectively obtain and utilize the services of
18 language interpreters and translators;
- 19 (C) Support the recruitment and retention of language
20 interpreters and translators providing services
21 to state and state-funded agencies;



- 1 (D) Provide, coordinate, and publicize training
- 2 opportunities to increase the number and
- 3 availability of qualified language interpreters
- 4 and translators and further develop their
- 5 language interpretation and translation skills;
- 6 [and]
- 7 (E) Work toward identifying or creating a process to
- 8 test and certify language interpreters and
- 9 translators and promote use of the process to
- 10 ensure the quality and accuracy of the language
- 11 interpretation and translation services; and
- 12 (F) Accept any federal grant-in-aid or other federal
- 13 allotment of money or private money for the
- 14 purposes of administering the statewide language
- 15 access resource center; and
- 16 (9) Have the authority to hire personnel necessary to
- 17 staff the statewide language access resource center
- 18 and to administer its multilingual website. The
- 19 [~~staff, at a minimum, shall~~] staff may consist of one
- 20 full-time project coordinator, three full-time program
- 21 specialists, and one full-time clerk. To the extent



1 possible, the executive director shall hire bilingual
2 personnel to staff the statewide language access
3 resource center and to administer its website."

4 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
5 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2060.



H.B. NO. 728
H.D. 1

Report Title:

Office of Language Access; Statewide Language Access Resource Center

Description:

Provides flexibility in the administering of the statewide language access resource center. Effective 7/1/2060. (HD1)

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

2021-1635 HB728 HD1 HMSO

