

MAR 12 2021

S.R. NO. 189

---

---

## SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION TO CONVENE A  
TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP BETTER MISSION-DRIVEN HIRING AND  
TRAINING OF INTERPRETERS EMPLOYED AT ITS FACILITIES.

1           WHEREAS, the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC)  
2 provides high quality health care services to residents and  
3 visitors throughout the State and serves as a vital component of  
4 Hawai'i's system of health care; and

5  
6           WHEREAS, HHSC consists of a network of hospitals and  
7 clinics, some of which are located in remote, rural, and low-  
8 populated areas; and

9  
10           WHEREAS, HHSC facilities provide safety-net services for  
11 neighbor island acute care and for long-term care in the State  
12 as they serve all people, regardless of whether an individual  
13 has health insurance or the ability to pay for the health care  
14 service they receive; and

15  
16           WHEREAS, HHSC's mission is to provide accessible, high  
17 quality, cost-effective services that address the health care  
18 needs of Hawai'i's unique island communities; and

19  
20           WHEREAS, HHSC's vision is to be recognized as a progressive  
21 model for an accessible, integrated, patient-centered, and  
22 fiscally responsible health care system focused on assuring high  
23 quality care to improve the health of Hawai'i's underserved  
24 communities; and

25  
26           WHEREAS, HHSC facilities comply with applicable federal,  
27 state, and local civil rights laws and do not discriminate on  
28 the basis of race, color, ancestry, national origin, religion,  
29 age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, or marital status; and

30  
31           WHEREAS, the unique island populations served by the HHSC  
32 speak a wide range of languages in their homes other than  
33 English, including but not limited to Burmese, Cambodian,  
34 Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), Chuukese, Hawaiian,  
35 Ilocano, Japanese, Korean, Kosraean, Lao, Marshallese,



1 Pohnpeian, Samoan, Spanish, Tagalog, Thai, Tongan, and  
2 Vietnamese; and  
3

4 WHEREAS, members of Hawai'i's unique non-English speaking  
5 populations are often reluctant and intimidated to seek medical  
6 care due to the lack of properly trained interpreters in HHSC  
7 medical facilities who are able to assist those seeking medical  
8 care because of language and cultural barriers; now, therefore,  
9

10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
11 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,  
12 that the HHSC is requested to convene a task force to facilitate  
13 improved, mission-driven hiring and training of culturally-  
14 accepted interpreters to assist non-English speaking populations  
15 seeking care at HHSC facilities; and  
16

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is urged that the task force  
18 include the following as members:  
19

- 20 (1) The Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Health  
21 Systems Corporation, to serve as chairperson;  
22
- 23 (2) The Director of Health, or the Director's designee;  
24
- 25 (3) One representative from the Office of Language Access;  
26
- 27 (4) Two members of the Senate, to be appointed by the  
28 President of the Senate;  
29
- 30 (5) Two members of the House of Representatives, to be  
31 appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
32 Representatives;  
33
- 34 (6) Two members of the language interpreters and  
35 translator community; and  
36
- 37 (7) Two community health workers; and  
38

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force, with the  
40 assistance of the HHSC, is requested to submit a written report  
41 of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed



# S.R. NO. 189

1 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior  
2 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2023; and

3  
4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be dissolved on  
5 June 30, 2024; and

6  
7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
8 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Health,  
9 Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Health Systems  
10 Corporation, and Executive Director of the Office of Language  
11 Access.

12  
13  
14

OFFERED BY: DK

