

---

# SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP BETTER MISSION-DRIVEN HIRING AND TRAINING OF CULTURALLY-ACCEPTED INTERPRETERS EMPLOYED AT HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS FACILITIES AND TO CREATE CULTURALLY-ACCEPTED EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS ON PREVENTATIVE CARE AND EARLY INTERVENTION TO ASSIST NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING POPULATIONS SEEKING CARE AT HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION 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



1 the basis of race, color, ancestry, national origin, religion,  
2 age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, or marital status; and  
3

4 WHEREAS, the unique island populations served by the HHSC  
5 speak a wide range of languages in their homes other than  
6 English, including but not limited to Burmese, Cambodian,  
7 Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), Chuukese, Hawaiian,  
8 Ilocano, Japanese, Korean, Kosraean, Lao, Marshallese,  
9 Pohnpeian, Samoan, Spanish, Tagalog, Thai, Tongan, and  
10 Vietnamese; and  
11

12 WHEREAS, members of Hawai'i's unique non-English speaking  
13 populations are often reluctant and intimidated to seek medical  
14 care due to the lack of properly trained interpreters in HHSC  
15 medical facilities who are able to assist those seeking medical  
16 care because of language and cultural barriers; now, therefore,  
17

18 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
19 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,  
20 that the Hawaii Health Services Corporation and the Department  
21 of Health are requested to convene a task force to facilitate  
22 improved, mission-driven hiring and training of culturally-  
23 accepted interpreters and to create culturally-accepted  
24 educational materials on preventative care and early  
25 intervention to assist non-English speaking populations seeking  
26 care at Hawaii Health Systems Corporation facilities; and  
27

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is urged that the task force  
29 include the following as members:  
30

- 31 (1) The Regional Chief Executive Officer of the East  
32 Hawaii Region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, to  
33 serve as chairperson;
- 34
- 35 (2) The Director of Health, or the Director's designee;
- 36
- 37 (3) One representative from the Office of Language Access;
- 38
- 39 (4) Two members of the Senate, to be appointed by the  
40 President of the Senate;
- 41



- 1 (5) Two members of the House of Representatives, to be
- 2 appointed by the Speaker of the House of
- 3 Representatives;
- 4
- 5 (6) Two members of the language interpreter and translator
- 6 community;
- 7
- 8 (7) Two community health workers; and
- 9
- 10 (8) Two members of a nonprofit Micronesian advocacy group;
- 11 and
- 12

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force, with the  
14 assistance of the HHSC and the Department of Health, is  
15 requested to submit a written report of its findings and  
16 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
17 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
18 the Regular Session of 2023; and

19  
20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be dissolved on  
21 June 30, 2024; and

22  
23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
24 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Health,  
25 Regional Chief Executive Officer of the East Hawaii Region of  
26 Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, and Executive Director of the  
27 Office of Language Access.

