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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD.

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

1       SECTION 1. The disability and communication access board  
2 shall conduct a study of the communication needs of individuals  
3 who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, and deaf-blind in health care  
4 settings. The study shall include consideration of:

5       (1) The availability in the State of sign language  
6           interpreters, tactile interpreters, and other services  
7           and auxiliary aids that serve the needs of the State's  
8           deaf, hard-of-hearing, and deaf-blind communities;

9       (2) The patients' preferences;

10      (3) Any special communication needs of in-patients in  
11          hospitals and skilled nursing facilities who are deaf,  
12          hard-of-hearing, and deaf-blind;

13      (4) The legal duty for health care providers to provide  
14          patients who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, or deaf-blind  
15          with auxiliary aids and services, including qualified  
16          sign language interpreters, to ensure effective  
17          communication; and



(5) Any recommended revisions to the current guidance for health care providers to ensure effective communication that better addresses the needs of patients who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, or deaf-blind.

SECTION 2. The disability and communication access board shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2027.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 28 2026



# H.B. NO. 2488

**Report Title:**

DCAB; Study; Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing, and Deaf-Blind; Effective Communication in Health Care Guidance; Report

**Description:**

Requires the Disability and Communication Access Board to study the health care communication needs of patients who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, or deaf-blind. Requires a report to the Legislature 20 days prior to the 2027 Regular Session.

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

