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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



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

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

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

11

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.*

