

Honolulu, Hawaii

, 2026
FEB 09RE: H.B. No. 2005
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Higher Education, to which was referred H.B. No. 2005 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO LANGUAGE ACCESS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to establish a statewide language access education and workforce development program at the University of Hawaii.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the University of Hawai'i System; Department of Labor and Industrial Relations; State Health Planning and Development Agency; Office of Language Access; Tinalak Filipino Education Council; Waipahu Safe Haven Immigrant/Migrant Resource Center; Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights; The Legal Clinic; Kaibigan ng Lāhaina; AlohaCare; and numerous individuals.

Your Committee finds that Hawaii's large and linguistically diverse population requires reliable, culturally competent language services to ensure equitable access to essential services and public programs. This measure establishes a statewide program to develop a qualified language access workforce and strengthen service delivery across essential public systems.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:



- (1) Changing the number of positions to an unspecified amount; and
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion.

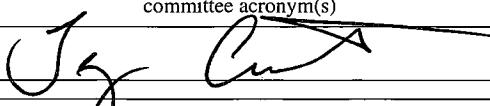
As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Higher Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2005, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2005, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Labor.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Higher Education,


ANDREW TAKUYA GARRETT, Chair



Record of Votes of the Committee on Higher Education

Bill/Resolution No.:	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HB2005	HED, LAB, FIN	2-4-2026		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
HED Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. GARRETT, Andrew Takuya (C)	✓			
2. AMATO, Terez (VC)	✓			
3. EVSLIN, Luke A.	✓			
4. KAPELA, Jeanne	✓			
5. KILA, Darius K.	✓			
6. LA CHICA, Trish	✓			
7. OLDS, Ikaika	✓			
8. WOODSON, Justin H.	✓			
9. MURAOKA, Christopher L.	✓			
10. SOUZA, Kanani	✓			
TOTAL (10)	10			
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: 				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee		Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office	Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO	