

Honolulu, Hawaii
FEB 09 , 2026

RE: 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



HSR 122-26

Bill/Resolution No.: HB2005	Committee Referral: HED.LAB.FIN	Date: 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)
1. GARRETT, Andrew Takuya (C)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
2. AMATO, Terez (VC)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
3. EVSLIN, Luke A.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
4. KAPELA, Jeanne	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
5. KILA, Darius K.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
6. LA CHICA, Trish	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
7. OLDS, Ikaika	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
8. WOODSON, Justin H.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
9. MURAOKA, Christopher L.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
10. SOUZA, Kanani	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
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		