

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAY 01 2026

RE: S.B. No. 3238
S.D. 1
H.D. 1
C.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

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

Sir and Madam:

Your Committee on Conference on the disagreeing vote of the Senate to the amendments proposed by the House of Representatives in S.B. No. 3238, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, entitled:

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

having met, and after full and free discussion, has agreed to recommend and does recommend to the respective Houses the final passage of this bill in an amended form.

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish a Language Access Education and Workforce Development Program at the University of Hawaii; and
- (2) Appropriate funds.

Your Committee on Conference finds that Hawaii is suffering from a critical shortage of trained, culturally competent translators and interpreters able to serve the State's linguistically diverse communities. This shortage infringes on equity, civil rights compliance, and public trust by impeding

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language access. This measure supports the establishment of a sustainable statewide translator training pathway, therefore fostering economic self-sufficiency, civic engagement, and improved service delivery to local immigrant, English-second language, and other multilingual communities.

Your Committee on Conference has amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting an appropriation amount of \$375,000 to establish a Language Access Education and Workforce Development Program at the University of Hawaii, with:
 - (A) \$225,000 allocated for the establishment of three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) positions; provided that Leeward Community College, Kapiolani Community College, and the University of Hawaii at Manoa shall each host one position; and
 - (B) \$150,000 allocated to implement the Program, divided equally between Leeward Community College, Kapiolani Community College, and the University of Hawaii at Manoa;
- (2) Making it effective on July 1, 2026; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the managers of your Committee on Conference that is attached to this report, your Committee on Conference is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 3238, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Final Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 3238, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, C.D. 1.



Respectfully submitted on behalf
of the managers:

ON THE PART OF THE HOUSE



ANDREW TAKUYA GARRETT
Co-Chair



TYSON K. MIYAKE
Co-Chair

ON THE PART OF THE SENATE



DONNA MERCADO KIM
Chair



TROY N. HASHIMOTO
Co-Chair



Hawai'i State Legislature

Record of Votes of a Conference Committee

CEC 209-26

Bill / Concurrent Resolution No.: SB 3238, SD 1, HD 1					Date/Time: 5/1/24 5:56pm				
☒ The recommendation of the House and Senate managers is to pass with amendments (CD).									
☐ The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision.									
☐ The recommendation of the Senate Manager(s) is to AGREE to the House amendments made to the Senate Measure					☐ The recommendation of the House Manager(s) is to AGREE to the Senate amendments made to the House Measure.				
Senate Managers	A	WR	N	E	House Managers	A	WR	N	E
KIM, Donna Mercado, Chr.	/				GARRETT, Andrew Takuya, Co-Chr.	/			
HASHIMOTO, Troy N., Co-Chr.	/				MIYAKE, Tyson K., Co-Chr.	/			
DECORTE, Samantha	/				AMATO, Terez	/			
					KAPELA, Jeanne	/			
					SOUZA, Kanani	/			
TOTAL	3	0	0	0	TOTAL	5	0	0	0
A = Aye		WR = Aye with Reservations			N = Nay		E = Excused		
Senate Recommendation is:					House Recommendation is:				
☒ Adopted ☐ Not Adopted					☒ Adopted ☐ Not Adopted				
Senate Lead Chair's or Designee's Signature:					House Lead Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
									
Distribution: Original					Yellow Pink Goldenrod				
File with Conference Committee Report					House Clerk's Office Senate Clerk's Office Drafting Agency				