STAND. COM. REP. NO. 3486

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 0 8 2026

RE: S.C.R. No. 63
S.D. 1

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

Sir:

Your Committee on Health and Human Services, to which was referred S.C.R. No. 63 entitled:

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD TO STUDY THE HEALTH CARE SETTING COMMUNICATION NEEDS OF, AND DEVELOP GUIDELINES FOR, INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE DEAF, HARD OF HEARING, OR DEAF-BLIND,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to request the Disability and Communication Access Board to study the communication needs of individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind in health care settings and make necessary revisions to the guidance for health care providers.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the State Health Planning and Development Agency, Hawaii Disability Rights Center, Aloha Independent Living Hawaii, and one individual.

Your Committee finds that effective communication in health care settings is essential for patients to make informed decisions, give consent, and stay safely in their homes and communities rather than in institutions. For deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind patients, lack of qualified interpreters and other auxiliary aids often leads to misunderstandings, delayed treatment, and discharge planning that ignores community-based

options. Your Committee further finds that given the limited availability of qualified interpreters and the variety of required and preferred interpretation services, additional guidance is needed to assist health care providers in communicating effectively with deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind patients. This measure's study of the communication needs of deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind patients provides policy direction and identifies current resources and service gaps.

Your Committee has amended this measure by making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health and Human Services that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.C.R. No. 63, as amended herein, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as S.C.R. No. 63, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Health and Human
Services,
Services,

JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, Chair

The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Health and Human Services
HHS

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:
SCR 63	HHS	3/30/2026

☐ The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.
If so, then the previous decision was to: _____

The Recommendation is:

☐ Pass, unamended 2312 ☑ Pass, with amendments 2311 ☐ Hold 2310 ☐ Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A. (C)	✓			
MCKELVEY, Angus L.K. (VC)	✓			
KANUHA, Dru Mamo	✓			
KEOHOKALOLE, Jarrett				✓
FEVELLA, Kurt	✓			
TOTAL	4	Ø	Ø	1

Recommendation: ☑ Adopted ☐ Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature:

Distribution: Original — File with Committee Report; Yellow — Committee; Pink — Drafting Agency

*Only one measure per Record of Votes

Revised: 01/21/26