

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **679**-26

Honolulu, Hawaii

**FEB 20**, 2026

RE: H.B. No. 2005  
H.D. 2

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

Madame:

Your Committee on Labor, to which was referred H.B. No. 2005,  
H.D. 1, 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 Department of Labor and Industrial Relations; University  
of Hawai'i System; State Health Planning and Development Agency;  
Office of Language Access; Hawaii State Commission on the Status  
of Women; The Legal Clinic; Waipahu Safe Haven Immigrant/Migrant  
Resource Center; AlohaCare; Pacific Gateway Center; Hawai'i  
Coalition for Immigrant Rights; Roots Reborn; and numerous  
individuals.

Your Committee finds that Hawaii's multilingual communities  
rely heavily on access to culturally competent translation and  
interpretation services to navigate education, healthcare, legal  
systems, and other essential government programs. Your Committee  
further finds that while the Department of Education's seal of  
biliteracy identifies students with strong language skills, there  
is currently no structured statewide pathway to prepare these

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individuals, or other bilingual community members, for professional roles in translation and interpretation. Your Committee believes that establishing a formal training and certification program will strengthen the State's language access workforce and expand equitable access to critical public services.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Codifying the statewide language access education and workforce development program in statute; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Labor that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2005, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2005, H.D. 2.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Labor,

  
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JACKSON D. SAYAMA, Chair



