

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1837-26

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 09 , 2026

RE: H.R. No. 61

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

Madame:

Your Committees on Human Services & Homelessness and Health,
to which was referred H.R. No. 61 entitled:

"HOUSE 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,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to request that the Disability
and Communication Access Board conduct a study of the
communication needs of deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind
individuals in health care settings.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure
from the Disability and Communication Access Board and one
individual.

Your Committees find that patients who are deaf, hard of
hearing, or deaf-blind often encounter significant communication
challenges in health care settings, especially at the hospital or
when transitioning to a skilled nursing facility. These
communication challenges can lead to misunderstandings about
treatment plans, delayed care, and even safety risks during
transitions between facilities. Your Committees further find that
the study requested by this measure will help identify
communication needs, evaluate current practices, and provide

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recommendations for effective communication in health care settings, which in turn will lead to better care and support for patients who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Human Services & Homelessness and Health that are attached to this report, your Committees concur with the intent and purpose of H.R. No. 61 and recommend its adoption.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Human Services &
Homelessness and Health,



GREGG TAKAYAMA, Chair



LISA MARTEN, Chair



