

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 20, 2026

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

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 S.C.R. No. 63, S.D. 1, entitled:

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING 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,"

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 State Health Planning and Development Agency; Disability
and Communication Access Board; Hawaii Disability Rights Center;
Comprehensive Service Center; and numerous individuals. Your
Committees received comments on this measure from one individual.

Your Committees finds 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 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 S.C.R. No. 63, S.D. 1, and recommend its adoption.

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



GREG TAMAMA, Chair



LISA MARTEN, Chair



