

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

3541

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 11 2008

RE: S.R. No. 40
S.D. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
President of the Senate
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2008
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committees on Judiciary and Labor and Tourism and
Government Operations, to which was referred S.R. No. 40 entitled:

"SENATE RESOLUTION URGING THE LEGISLATURE TO DECLARE
SEPTEMBER AS LANGUAGE ACCESS MONTH,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is designate September 2008 as
Language Access Month to raise awareness of the language access
laws and the provision of equal access to state and state-funded
government services.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure
from the Office of Language Access, Filipino American Citizens
League, Filipino-American Historical Society of Hawaii, Filipino
Coalition for Solidarity, Hawaii Interpreter Action Network,
National Federation of Filipino American Associations, Nursing
Advocates & Mentors, Inc., Oahu Filipino Community Council,
Philippine Nurses Association-Hawaii, and United Filipino Council
of Hawaii.

According to the 2000 Census, 290,000 of Hawaii's 1,200,000
people, or approximately twenty-four per cent of the population,
speak a language other than English at home, including over
250,000 persons who speak an Asian or Pacific Island language.
For this portion of Hawaii's population for whom English is not
their primary language and who have identified themselves as
having limited English proficiency ("LEP"), language is a barrier
that often prohibits them from fully participating in the

2008-2347 SR SSCR SMA-1.doc



community and undermines their efforts to become self-sufficient and productive.

In 2006, the Legislature recognized and acknowledged that language is a barrier for LEP individuals living in Hawaii and enacted Hawaii's language access law. As a result of Hawaii's language access law, the Office of Language Access was established to promote equal access and full participation for persons with limited English proficiency through oversight, coordination, and technical assistance to state and state-funded entities and by reviewing and monitoring language access plans. The Office of Language Access indicated in testimony that the feasibility study can be funded from existing resources.

Your Committees have amended this measure on the recommendation of the Office of Language Access to request a feasibility study by the Office on establishing a statewide centralized language access resource center and a report to the 2009 Legislature. Accordingly, the title of this measure was also amended.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Judiciary and Labor and Tourism and Government Operations that are attached to this report, your Committees concur with the intent and purpose of S.R. No. 40, as amended herein, and recommend its adoption in the form attached hereto as S.R. No. 40, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Judiciary and
Labor and Tourism and
Government Operations,


CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA, Chair


BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Fourth Legislature
 State of Hawaii

Record of Votes
Committee on Tourism and Government Operations
TSG

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|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Bill / Resolution No.:* SR 40 | Committee Referral: JDL/TSG | Date: APRIL 10, 2008 |
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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 |
|----------------------------|----------|----------|-----|----------|
| NISHIHARA, Clarence K. (C) | / | | | |
| KIM, Donna Mercado (VC) | / | | | |
| TSUTSUI, Shan S. | | | | / |
| TRIMBLE, Gordon | / | | | |
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| TOTAL | 3 | | | 1 |

Recommendation: Adopted Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature:


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*Only one measure per Record of Votes