

Honolulu, Hawaii  
March 18, 2016

RE: S.B. No. 2476  
S.D. 2  
H.D. 1

Honorable Joseph M. Souki  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2016  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred S.B. No. 2476, S.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to provide assistance to children who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind by:

- (1) Establishing within the Department of Health an Early Language Acquisition Program for children up to three years of age;
- (2) Requiring the Department of Health, Department of Education, and the Executive Office on Early Learning to establish a working group on age-appropriate language development for children up to five years of age; and
- (3) Appropriating funds to staff the Early Language Acquisition Program.

The School Community Council of the Hawai'i School for the Deaf and Blind; Aloha State Association of the Deaf; and numerous individuals supported this measure. The Executive Office on Early Learning; Disability and Communication Access Board; Department of Human Services; Department of Health; Department of Education; and several individuals provided comments.



Your Committee has amended this measure by adopting the proposed amendments provided by the Department of Health (Department) that specifically:

- (1) Requires the Department to provide early intervention services for infants and toddlers who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind rather than establishing an Early Language Acquisition Program within the Department;
- (2) Amends the composition and responsibilities of the working group;
- (3) Appropriates funds for two permanent full time equivalent (2.0 FTE) positions in the Department to provide early languages services, rather than three positions for the Early Language Acquisition Program and one position to teach American Sign Language; and
- (4) Makes technical nonsubstantive amendments for clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2476, S.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2476, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Education.

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



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DELLA AU BELATTI, Chair



State of Hawaii  
House of Representatives  
The Twenty-eighth Legislature

HSCR 1078-14

**Record of Votes of the Committee on Health**

Bill/Resolution No.: SB 2476, SD2	Committee Referral: HLT, EDN, FIN	Date: 3/16/16		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold				
<input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
HLT Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. BELATTI, Della Au (C)	✓			
2. CREAGAN, Richard P. (VC)	✓			
3. HASHEM, Mark J.	✓			
4. JORDAN, Jo				✓
5. KOBAYASHI, Bertrand	✓			
6. MORIKAWA, Dee				✓
7. OSHIRO, Marcus R.				✓
8. FUKUMOTO CHANG, Beth				✓
9. TUPOLA, Andria P.L.	✓			
<b>TOTAL (9)</b>	<b>5</b>			<b>4</b>
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
If joint referral, _____ committee acronym(s) _____ did not support recommendation.				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee    Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office    Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				