

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 491

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 17 2023

RE: S.B. No. 814
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2023
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Government Operations, to which was referred S.B. No. 814 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTRONIC INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ACCESSIBILITY FOR PERSONS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to require the Office of Enterprise Technology Services, in consultation with the Office of Language Access and a working group composed of stakeholders, to develop and publish, and periodically review and update, electronic information technology multilingual accessibility standards to be implemented by all state entities.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Office of Language Access, Office of Enterprise Technology Services, Hawaii Coalition for Immigrant Rights, The Legal Clinic, Hawai'i Workers Center, Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights, Hawai'i children's Action Network Speaks!, and five individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Disability and Communication Access Board.

Your Committee finds that Hawaii has one of the highest per-capita rates of limited English proficient individuals in the nation. Uniform standards are needed to ensure compliance with state and federal language access laws across all state agencies



so that state entities are proactively addressing multilingual accessibility in communications, information technology development, and the technology procurement processes. Digital delivery systems provide critical information and services to the public. Further, your Committee finds that providing persons who have limited English proficiency with government digital information could encourage their participation in government services, programs, and activities. This measure would establish electronic information technology, multilingual accessibility standards, provide a critical link to communication, and make government services accessible for all individuals regardless of their language proficiency.

Your Committee has heard the testimony of the Office of Enterprise Technology Services expressing concerns that the standards to be adopted by this measure may have a chilling effect on procurement modernization as the cost and rigors of compliance increase, and that some of the specified enumerations, such as copiers, printers, desktops, and portable computers, are devices themselves, and not language components. Your Committee notes that the testimony recommends amending the definition of "electronic information technology" to exclude systems that are coded in the English language.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Amending the definition of "electronic information technology";
- (2) Appropriating \$100,000 for the establishment of one full-time Program Manager position;
- (3) Inserting an effective date of July 1, 2112, to encourage further discussion; and
- (4) Making a technical, nonsubstantive amendment for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Government Operations that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 814, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass



Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 814,
S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Government
Operations,

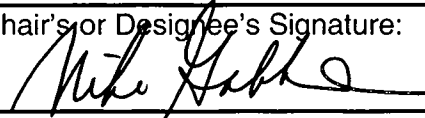


ANGUS L.K. MCKELVEY, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Second Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Government Operations
GVO

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB814	Committee Referral: GVO, WAM	Date: 2-14-23		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
MCKELVEY, Angus L.K. (C)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike (VC)	✓			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.	✓			
WAKAI, Glenn	✓			
AWA, Brenton	✓			
TOTAL	5	—	—	—
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes