A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATED TO ELECTRONIC INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Lahaina community faces many challenges in the aftermath of the August 8, 2023, Maui wildfires. With its unique demographic composition, Lahaina witnessed specific difficulties during the crisis due to language barriers. Notably, thirty-two per cent of Lahaina's 9,118 residents are foreign-born, a statistically significant difference compared to the statewide average of 18.8 per cent. Furthermore, thirty-six per cent of individuals aged five years and older in Lahaina speak a language other than English at home, a significant difference compared to the 25.9 per cent statewide average.

The legislature further finds that electronic information technology developed, purchased, used, modified, or provided by a state entity must be made accessible to persons with limited English proficiency as provided by title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d); Executive Order No. 13166; Executive Order No. 14031; and chapter 321C, Hawaii Revised SB2782 SD2 LRB 24-1304.docx
Statutes. Electronic information is rapidly replacing print media, and all residents need access to technology to work and participate fully in state programs, services, and activities.

The legislature also finds that many residents of Lahaina, a community significantly affected by the August 8, 2023, Maui wildfires, face challenges in receiving timely and accurate information and assistance due to language barriers.

The purpose of this Act is to address language barriers and ensure equitable access to information and assistance for all residents, especially those with limited English proficiency.

SECTION 2. Chapter 27, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to part VII to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§27- Multilingual accessibility standards. (a) The office of enterprise technology services shall develop multilingual accessibility standards, in consultation with the office of language access, to provide technical guidance to state entities regarding public access to vital information and documents. These multilingual accessibility standards shall:

(1) Encourage state entities to implement language accessibility cost-effectively, taking into
consideration the unique challenges and circumstances
of each entity;

(2) Include functional performance criteria and technical
requirements for multilingual accessibility standards;

(3) Provide recommendations for procurement language that
can be incorporated into existing state procurement
processes to conform to multilingual accessibility
standards;

(4) Offer other guidance for planning, reporting, and
monitoring to ensure that state entities implement the
multilingual accessibility standards without impeding
modernization efforts; and

(5) Apply to electronic information technology developed,
purchased, used, modified, or provided by a state
entity to assure access to language services as
required by state and federal law, rules, and
regulations.

The office of enterprise technology services, in consultation
with the office of language access, shall review the
multilingual accessibility standards every three years, or more
frequently if the chief information officer deems it necessary,
and amend the standards to reflect advances or changes in 
electronic information technology rules or superseding federal 
 rules, regulations, and guidance.

(b) For the purposes of this section:

"Access" or "accessibility" means to be informed of, 
participate in, and benefit from the services, programs, and 
activities offered by a state entity.

"State entity" means the executive, legislative, or 
judicial branch of state government or any department, office, 
commission, board, or other agency of the executive, 
legislative, or judicial branches of state government."

SECTION 3. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of 
the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93, 
Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the 
appropriations contained in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023, 
and this Act will cause the state general fund expenditure 
ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by 
$ or per cent. This current declaration takes 
into account general fund appropriations authorized for fiscal 
year 2024-2025 in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023, and this Act
only. The reasons for exceeding the general fund expenditure ceiling are that:

(1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to serve the public interest; and
(2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs addressed by this Act.

SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of $ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 to establish one full-time equivalent (1.00 FTE) permanent program manager position for the office of enterprise technology services.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of accounting and general services for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.
Report Title:
Filipino Caucus; Office of Enterprise Technology Services; English Interpretations; General Fund Expenditure Ceiling Exceeded; Appropriation

Description:
Requires the Office of Enterprise Technology Services to develop multilingual accessibility standards. Appropriates funds to establish 1 full-time position (1.0 FTE) to develop multilingual accessibility standards within the Office of Enterprise Technology Services. Declares that the appropriation exceeds the state general fund expenditure ceiling for 2024-2025. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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