



The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i

Testimony to the House Committee on Labor

Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair

Representative Daniel Holt, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 27, 2018 10:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 309

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

by

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Office of Equality and Access to the Courts

Resolution No. and Title: House Concurrent Resolution No. 108 & House Resolution No. 96, State Priority; Limited English Proficiency; Services

Purpose: Urging the State to Address the Lack of Language Support in Services, Programs, and Activities Offered by State Government for Persons with Limited English Proficiency

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary supports the intent of House Concurrent Resolution No. 108 and House Resolution No. 96, to promote language support in services, programs and activities offered by state government.

The Judiciary is committed to providing language support for limited English proficient (LEP) court users to access services, programs and activities. In the past five years, the Judiciary, in collaboration with the U. S. Department of Justice, adopted a comprehensive language access policy which provides enhanced language assistance for LEP court users, both in court and outside of the courtroom. The Judiciary has also translated vital documents that provide important information such as how to request an interpreter and Language ID Cards in 14 non-English languages, and we now post translated documents on language-specific, multilingual webpages that are easily accessible by LEP persons. We have trained all Judiciary staff on our language access plan and procedures and have provided training for judges. Based on accomplishments such as these, the Judiciary was ranked number one in the nation among all state courts in the provision of language access by the Justice Index (2016). Our multilingual website was also awarded the number one Top 10 Technology Solutions Award by the National Association for Court Management (2016).



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While great progress has been made, there is always more that can be done. The Judiciary currently collaborates with State and private entities on the Hawai'i Language Roadmap Project at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and with the Hawai'i State Office of Language Access, and others, to strengthen language access for persons with limited English proficiency (LEP). The Judiciary remains committed to providing language access services for LEP court users to promote access to justice for all.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.