



February 15, 2022

The Honorable Karl Allen Rhoads  
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary  
415 South Beretania Street Room 204  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Hearing and Vision Screening; SB 2022

Dear Senator Rhoads:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write to express support for SB 2022, which would establish a hearing and vision program for children to be conducted by the state Department of Health.

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 218,000 members and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists; speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology support personnel; and students. Audiologists specialize in preventing and assessing hearing and balance disorders as well as providing audiologic treatment, including hearing aids. Speech-language pathologists (SLPs) identify, assess, and treat speech, language, and swallowing disorders. Over 500 ASHA members reside in Hawaii.<sup>1</sup>

ASHA supports SB 2022, which requires the Department of Health to establish the following:

- Protocol for evidence-based hearing and vision screening, including ages or grades for screening; screening tools, instruments, and passing and referral criteria for screening that are based on national guidelines and best practices; and referrals, tracking of referrals, and follow-up of children who do not pass screening;
- Training, certification, and qualifications of personnel who conduct hearing and vision screening, other than those who are licensed health care professionals acting within their legal scope of practice; and
- Data collection and reporting on hearing and vision screening, referral, and follow-up.

Thank you for helping to ensure proper hearing and vision health care for children in Hawaii. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Eileen Crowe, ASHA's director, state association relations, at [ecrowe@asha.org](mailto:ecrowe@asha.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judy Rich". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Judy Rich, EdD, CCC-SLP, BCS-CL  
2022 ASHA President

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<sup>1</sup> American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2021). *Hawaii* [Quick Facts]. <https://www.asha.org/siteassets/uploadedfiles/hawaii-state-flyer.pdf>.