

SCR41

Measure Title: REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO OFFER COURSES IN AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE.

Report Title: Department of Education; American Sign Language

Description:

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: EDU, WAM

Introducer(s): KIDANI, ESPERO, GALUTERIA, Dela Cruz, Harimoto, Nishihara, Shimabukuro, Wakai

<u>Sort by Date</u>		Status Text
3/5/2015	S	Offered.
3/5/2015	S	Referred to EDU, WAM.
3/13/2015	S	The committee(s) on EDU has scheduled a public hearing on 03-18-15 1:30PM in conference room 229.

ART FRANK
84-718 FARRINGTON HWY
WAIANAE, HI 96792-1906
MARCH 15, 2015

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

SCR 41 /SR 16 REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO OFFER COURSES IN
AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE

My name is Art Frank from Makaha. I have been deaf for 37 years and I strongly support this bill for two reasons. First, learning American Sign Language (ASL) will give our kids the opportunity to communicate with deaf classmates, and later in life maybe become Sign Language Interpreters. Some interpreters work full time as interpreters, well others have full time jobs and supplement their income as interpreters. This would be good opportunities for our kid's future being able to work independently or supplementing their incomes. Second, as long as I can remember we've never had enough Sign Language Interpreters in Hawaii. What has helped us is the transplants, interpreters who move here for a time, but unfortunately the move back to the mainland eventually. Having our kids learn ASL in high school may help the deaf community in Hawaii with more local, born in Hawaii interpreters who will live here and support our deaf community. For these reasons I strongly urge this committee to support and pass this bill. I would appreciate it. Thank you very much.

ART FRANK
MAKAHA, WAIANAE COAST



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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March 18, 2015

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senate Concurrent Resolution 41/Senate Resolution 16 – Requesting the Department of Education to Offer Courses in American Sign Language

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports Senate Concurrent Resolution 41/Senate Resolution 16 – Requesting the Department of Education to Offer Courses in American Sign Language. We are aware that during past sessions of the Hawaii State Legislature a bill was considered to accept American Sign Language (ASL) as a foreign language, but it did not pass. Currently, the university system accepts ASL as transfer units from other community colleges or universities that offer ASL for academic credit.

These resolutions are important to keep Hawaii's educational system current with American Sign Language courses being offered in other states for academic credits. A 2004 study of states recognizing ASL as a foreign language conducted by the Laurent Clerk National Education Center at Gallaudet University identifies forty (40) states that recognize ASL as a foreign language. Teaching ASL at all educational levels will increase awareness about it being a foreign language, plus it will provide and increase employment options for deaf adults, as increase the number of ASL interpreters that will be familiar with Hawaii who are comfortable to work and remain in the state.

DCAB proposes an amendment to the resolutions to ask that the Department of Education convene an advisory group to assist in the plan development and provide options for how to obtain instructors or offer academic credit for ASL classes taught to students of all ages. Appropriate representatives for such an advisory group would include Kapiolani ASL Interpreter Education Program, Hawaii School for the Deaf and the Blind, and the Aloha State Association of the Deaf.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

BARBARA FISCHLOWITZ-LEONG
Chairperson

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SR16 on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM*
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 3:58:43 PM

SR16

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for EDU on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Darlene Ewan	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From:
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: krispagano@mac.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR41 on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 11:58:11 AM

SCR41

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for EDU on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kristine	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a Deaf working parent of two Hearing children, my children lose their American Sign Language (ASL) skills during the day because they are in school for a full day. If ASL instruction was present during school hours, they have continuity with ASL and cultural identity. Secondly, I really want the ASL instruction in our DOE system in place by the time my kids enter high school and in every high school. This will create more job opportunities for the Hearing and remove communication access barriers on a daily basis. Thank you.

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR41 on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 3:46:56 PM

SCR41

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for EDU on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan J. Wurtzburg	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please pass this bill so that ASL may be taught in Hawaiian schools. ASL is a recognized language, key to the communication of many Hawaiian and American citizens. School educational offerings allow family members to learn the skills necessary for interacting with deaf/Deaf parents, siblings, etc. I am shocked that ASL is not currently offered in schools here.

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March 17, 2015

Testimony by **Billy Kekua**
87-2210 Farrington Highway
Waianae, HI 96792

Support for SCR41 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO OFFER
COURSES IN AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE.

Senate Committee on Education
Senators Kidani, Espero, Galuteria, Dela Cruz,
Harimoto, Nisihara, Shimabukuro, and Wakai

I am in the support for the bill passage. American Sign Language is my first language to receive and communicate the information. It is known that the foreign languages help many people to improve their first language and for some people's cases their second language. For example, I am able to use both languages (ASL and written English) to function in the world. Also I took French as required for my Bachelor of Arts degree from Gallaudet University. French helped me to write better in English and express better in ASL.

The purpose of this letter is to share with you about what it is like to be a Deaf person and using the ASL as a primary mode of communication. Also, I use English for reading and writing. I have many positive experiences and some obstacles were inevitable. The courses in ASL will help new signers and seasoned signers to appreciate the language beauty. I dream one day that I will be able to communicate in ASL with hearing people. I ask you to please pass this bill as the door of communicative paradise should be open for all.

Malama Pono. Mahalo.