

MAR 12 2012

---

---

# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO INCORPORATE  
AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE INTO THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM  
AND ENCOURAGING SIGN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTORS TO ASSIST  
STUDENTS WITH LEARNING CHALLENGES IN THE CLASSROOM.

1           WHEREAS, sign language is a powerful communications tool  
2 for children with hearing or speech disorders, autism spectrum  
3 disorders, dyslexia, specific language impairments, Down  
4 syndrome, or other disability; and

5  
6           WHEREAS, in addition, studies have demonstrated that sign  
7 language can promote improved literacy and language skills even  
8 for children without hearing or speech disorders and can help  
9 older children who struggle with reading; and

10  
11           WHEREAS, federal regulations adopted in 2011 pursuant to  
12 the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of  
13 2004 eliminated the requirement that a disabled infant or  
14 toddler be deaf or hearing-impaired to receive sign language  
15 instruction and interpreter services under public early  
16 intervention programs; and

17  
18           WHEREAS, older children with disabilities would greatly  
19 benefit from similar expanded access to sign language services  
20 in academic settings; now, therefore,

21  
22           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth  
23 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012, the  
24 House of Representatives concurring, that the state Department  
25 of Education is requested to incorporate American Sign Language  
26 into the public school curriculum; and

27



# S.C.R. NO. 100

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in addition to helping students  
 2 with hearing or speech disorders, sign language instructors in  
 3 Hawaii's schools are encouraged to serve as interpreters for  
 4 other students facing learning challenges in the classroom; and  
 5

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 7 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
 8 Board of Education, the Superintendent of Education, the  
 9 President of the Hawaii State Teachers Association, and the  
 10 President and Chief Executive Officer of Easter Seals Hawaii.  
 11  
 12  
 13

OFFERED BY: Marianne Chun Oakland

*Paul Fukunaga*  
Michelle Sadani

*Dana Wele*  
*Azid y Ize*

