



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Senate Bill 2981, SD1, HD1 – Relating to Education

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports Senate Bill 2981, SD1, HD1 – Relating to Education. The purpose of this bill is to recognize American Sign Language (ASL) as a world language, and allow public school students who pass courses in American Sign Language (ASL) to receive credit for the courses toward language graduation requirements.

This bill in recognizing ASL as a language that could be offered in high school to fulfill language requirements for graduation will improve opportunities for students in Hawaii by adding a language to school curricula. It will allow students to learn a new language and culture and possibly assist in adding to the ASL/English interpreter pool in Hawaii.

Offering students the opportunity to learn ASL in high school is commendable and will increase students' knowledge about different cultures in our local community and hopefully enhance the identities of Deaf and hard of hearing students who use ASL on a daily basis.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

BARBARA FISCHLOWITZ-LEONG
Chairperson
Legislative Committee

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director