
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature recognizes that American Sign
2 Language is one of the most popular foreign languages at
3 institutions of higher education in the United States.

4 The legislature finds that recognition of American Sign
5 Language would provide many benefits to the State and its
6 people, including:

7 (1) Allowing deaf children to become more self-confident
8 in their identity, gain language fluency at an earlier
9 age, and improve their critical-thinking skills; and

10 (2) Enriching the language development of hearing
11 children.

12 The purpose of this Act is to establish and designate
13 American Sign Language as a language distinct from English or
14 Hawaiian.

15 SECTION 2. Chapter 5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
16 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to
17 read as follows:



1 "§5- Designation of language. American Sign Language is
2 established and designated as a language distinct from English
3 and Hawaiian."

4 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

American Sign Language; Distinct from English and Hawaiian

Description:

Establishes and designates American Sign Language as a language distinct from English and Hawaiian. (HB2554 HD1)

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