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# 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 finds that official recognition  
2 of American Sign Language would provide many benefits to the  
3 State and its people, including:

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

7           (2) Enriching the language development of hearing  
8           children; and

9           (3) Recognizing that American Sign Language is one of the  
10           most popular foreign languages at institutions of  
11           higher education in the United States.

12           The purpose of this Act is to establish and designate  
13 American Sign Language as an official foreign language of the  
14 State.

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:



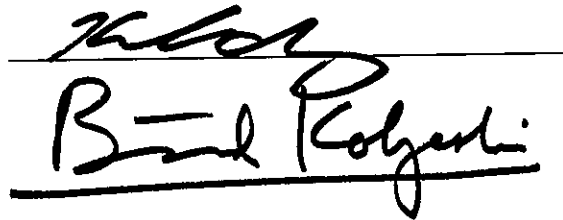
1           "§5- Official foreign language. American Sign Language  
2 is established and designated as an official foreign language of  
3 the State."

4           SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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INTRODUCED BY:

  
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JAN 26 2016



# H.B. NO. 2554

**Report Title:**

American Sign Language; Official Foreign Language of the State

**Description:**

Establishes and designates American Sign Language as an official foreign language of the State.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

