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

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

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



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

4 "§5- Designation of language. American Sign Language is
5 established and designated as a language distinct from English
6 and Hawaiian."

7 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2030.



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 HD2)

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