
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO OFFER COURSES IN
AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE.

1 WHEREAS, the number of public high schools offering courses
2 in American Sign Language grew 1,248 percent from 1992 to 2004;
3 and

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5 WHEREAS, American Sign Language is now the third most
6 studied language in America; and

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8 WHEREAS, the Department of Education offers courses in
9 American Sign Language at only three high schools statewide; and

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11 WHEREAS, public school students with deaf siblings or other
12 family members would benefit from American Sign Language
13 instruction in public schools by having the opportunity to
14 acquire American Sign Language skills in an educational setting,
15 thereby improving their ability to communicate with deaf family
16 members; and

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18 WHEREAS, fluency in American Sign Language is a marketable
19 skill; now, therefore,

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21 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
22 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016,
23 that the Department of Education is requested to offer courses
24 for the instruction of American Sign Language in at least one
25 high school per complex area; and

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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education
28 submit a report to the Legislature no later than twenty days
29 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2017 on the
30 status of establishing American Sign Language instruction in the
31 public schools; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
3 Education and Superintendent of Education.

