Honolulu, Hawaii

RE: H.B. No. 2554 H.D. 1

Honorable Joseph M. Souki Speaker, House of Representatives Twenty-Eighth State Legislature Regular Session of 2016 State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred H.B. No. 2554 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to establish and designate American Sign Language (ASL) as an official foreign language of the State.

Disability and Communication Access Board, the Aloha State Association of the Deaf, Maui Deaf Friends, Hawaii Deaf Surfriders Association, and numerous individuals testified in support of this measure.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Deleting the reference to ASL as an official language and instead clarifying ASL as an established and designated language distinct from English and Hawaiian, which are the official languages of the State; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for clarity, consistency, and style.

Your Committee finds that ASL is one of the most popular foreign languages at institutions of higher education in the United States. Your Committee also finds there are many benefits

in recognizing ASL as an established and designated language including:

- (1) Allowing deaf children to become more self-confident in their identity, gain language fluency at an earlier age, and improve their critical-thinking skills; and
- (2) Enriching the language development of hearing children.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2554, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2554, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Judiciary,

KARL RHOADS, Chair

State of Hawaii House of Representatives The Twenty-eighth Legislature

HSUR 453-16

Record of Votes of the Committee on Judiciary

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 2554	Committee Referral:	Date:	116/16	
The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: Pass, unamended (as is) Pass, with amendments (HD) Hold Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
JUD Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. RHOADS, Karl (C)				
2. SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.	(VC)			
3. BELATTI, Della Au				
4. BROWER, Tom				
5. CREAGAN, Richard P.				
6. HASHEM, Mark J.				
7. KAWAKAMI, Derek S.K.				
8. LEE, Chris	/			
9. MORIKAWA, Dee	/			,, <u>,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,</u>
10. NAKASHIMA, Mark M.				
11. TAKAYAMA, Gregg				
12. WOODSON, Justin H.				
13. McDERMOTT, Bob				
14. THIELEN, Cynthia				
TOTAL (14)	12			2_
The recommendation is: Adopted Not Adopted If joint referral, did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:				
Distribution: Original (White) - Committee Duplicate (Yellow) - Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) - HMSO				