

Honolulu, Hawaii
March 4, 2016

RE: H.B. No. 2554
H.D. 2

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

Sir:

Your Committee on Finance, to which was referred H.B. No. 2554, H.D. 1, 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 a language distinct from English and Hawaiian, which are the official languages of the State.

The Disability and Communication Access Board, Aloha State Association of the Deaf, Isle Interpret, LLC, Hawaii Deaf Surfriders Association, and numerous concerned individuals testified in support of this measure.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing its effective date to July 1, 2030, to facilitate further discussion; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Finance that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2554, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2554, H.D. 2.



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



SYLVIA LUKE, Chair



