

SCR51/SR25

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

Report Title: American Sign Language; Department of Education; High Schools

Description:

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: EDU, WAM

Introducer(s): KIDANI, BAKER, DELA CRUZ, Harimoto, K.Kahele, Nishihara, Shimabukuro, Wakai

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Date: 03/23/2016
Time: 01:15 PM
Location: 229
Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: SCR 51 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO OFFER COURSES IN AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE.

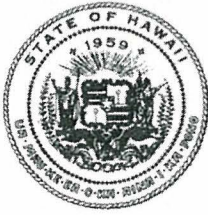
Purpose of Resolution:

Department's Position:

The Department offers elective courses in American Sign Language (ASL). Classes are being conducted at three high schools, and any secondary school may offer a course in ASL.

The determination of whether elective classes in any world language are offered is made at the school level in response to the needs of the school community. It is based on the existence of adequate resources, student interest and enrollment, and the availability of a qualified teacher.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SCR 51.



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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March 23, 2016

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senate Concurrent Resolution 51/Senate Resolution 25 – Requesting the Department of Education to Offer Courses in American Sign Language

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports Senate Concurrent Resolution 51 and Senate Resolution 25 requesting the Department of Education to offer courses in American Sign Language.

SCR 51 and SR 25 will work hand in hand with Senate Bill 2981, SD1 Relating to Education that was heard yesterday and passed out of the House Committee on Education. Senate Bill 2891, SD1 establishes American Sign Language as a world language and allows public school students who pass courses in American Sign Language to receive credit toward world language requirements. These resolutions require the Department of Education to submit a report to the Legislature to offer a course in American Sign Language in at least one high school per complex in each area. This will create a solid foundation upon which to develop a curriculum to offer such classes on a statewide basis.

American Sign Language classes will benefit the entire community. Hearing students will have an option to learn a new language and culture, deaf students in a hearing school will be able to communicate with students learning American Sign Language, students with deaf family members will be able to communicate directly with them, and students taking the course may decide to become Sign Language interpreters which will benefit both the hearing and deaf communities. The positive outcomes occurring from these resolutions will have a great impact on our local community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

BARBARA FISCHLOWITZ-LEONG
Chairperson
Legislative Committee

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director