

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1052

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 19 , 2021

RE: S.B. No. 537

Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2021
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs, to which was referred S.B. No. 537 entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to recognize American Sign Language as a fully developed, autonomous, natural language with its own grammar, syntax, vocabulary, and cultural heritage.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Disability and Communication Access Board, Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission, and two individuals.

Your Committee finds that American Sign Language is the primary language for many individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. Your Committee further finds that although the State recognizes American Sign Language as a world language for public school language requirement purposes, further steps are needed to advance the understanding and acknowledgment that American Sign Language is a unique language and not merely signed English.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 537 and recommends that it pass

2021-2525 SB537 HSCR HMSO



Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Culture, Arts, &
International Affairs,



CEDRIC ASUEGA GATES, Chair



Record of Votes of the Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs

Bill/Resolution No.: <i>SB 537</i>	Committee Referral: <i>CAI, JHA, CPC</i>	Date: <i>3/17/21</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Pass, unamended (as is)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
CAI Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. GATES, Cedric Asuega (C)	<i>X</i>			
2. LoPRESTI, Matthew S. (VC)	<i>X</i>			
3. HAR, Sharon E.	<i>X</i>			
4. KAPELA, Jeanne	<i>X</i>			
5. NISHIMOTO, Scott Y.	<i>X</i>			
6. TAM, Adrian K.	<i>X</i>			
7. YAMANE, Ryan I.	<i>X</i>			
8. WARD, Gene	<i>X</i>			
TOTAL (8)	<i>8</i>			
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: <i>[Signature]</i>				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				