

GOV. MSG. NO. 1305

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

July 5, 2024

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate,
and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty-Second State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on July 5, 2024, the following bill was signed into law:

SB3290 SD2 HD1 CD1

RELATING TO AMERICAN SIGN
LANGUAGE.
ACT 204

Sincerely,

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawai'i

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that American Sign
2 Language (ASL) interpreters provide a critical service to deaf,
3 hard of hearing, deaf-blind, and hearing individuals, and to
4 public agencies in the State, that wish to effectively
5 communicate with each other in a variety of settings and
6 circumstances. Despite the increase in requests for ASL
7 interpreting services, there has been increased difficulty in
8 the recruitment of individuals who are qualified to serve as ASL
9 interpreters.

10 The legislature further finds that there remains a critical
11 need to develop an ASL interpreter workforce and that acquiring
12 additional information on the current condition of ASL
13 interpreting in Hawaii would help provide a firm foundation to
14 ensure greater access for individuals to receive ASL
15 interpretation services in the State during emergencies and
16 daily life activities and address other current and future
17 issues relating to this critical service.



1 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require the
2 disability and communication access board to convene a working
3 group to study, the state of American Sign Language
4 interpretation services in Hawaii.

5 SECTION 2. (a) The disability and communication access
6 board shall convene a working group to:

7 (1) Study the state of American Sign Language
8 interpretation services in Hawaii; and

9 (2) Investigate and study any means, methods, processes,
10 or systems that might improve the provision of
11 American Sign Language interpretation services in the
12 State.

13 (b) The working group shall consist of the following
14 members:

15 (1) A representative from the disability and communication
16 access board, who shall serve as chairperson of the
17 working group;

18 (2) A representative from the department of human services
19 division of vocational rehabilitation;

20 (3) A representative from the department of education;



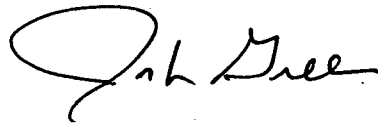
- 1 (4) A professor from the university of Hawaii who teaches
2 American Sign Language;
- 3 (5) A member of the deaf and blind task force;
- 4 (6) An individual who currently serves as an American Sign
5 Language interpreter, who shall be invited by the
6 chairperson of the working group; and
- 7 (7) Any additional members deemed necessary by the
8 chairperson of the working group.
- 9 (c) The working group, with the assistance of the
10 department of health, shall submit a report of its findings and
11 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
12 legislature no later than December 31, 2024.
- 13 (d) The working group shall be dissolved on June 30, 2025.
- 14 (e) The invited members of the working group shall serve
15 without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for reasonable
16 expenses incurred, including travel expenses.
- 17 (f) No member of the working group shall be made subject
18 to chapter 84, Hawaii Revised Statutes, solely because of that
19 member's participation as a member of the working group.
- 20 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



S.B. NO.

3290
S.D. 2
H.D. 1
C.D. 1

APPROVED this **5th** day of **July**, 2024


A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Green". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".


GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I

Date: May 1, 2024
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2024.


President of the Senate


Clerk of the Senate

SB No. 3290, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: May 1, 2024
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024.



Scott K. Saiki
Speaker
House of Representatives



Brian L. Takeshita
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives