

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

89

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 07

, 2023

RE: H.B. No. 834
H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2023
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Culture, Arts & International Affairs, to which was referred H.B. No. 834 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 Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission. Your Committee received comments on this measure from one individual.

Your Committee finds that at least a dozen states have enacted laws that recognize American Sign Language, or ASL, as a distinct language. Your Committee further finds that codifying recognition of ASL would advance the public's understanding and acknowledgment that ASL is a discrete language and not merely signed English.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the effective date to June 30, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and

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- (2) Making a technical, nonsubstantive amendment for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

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 H.B. No. 834, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 834, H.D. 1, 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,



ADRIAN K. TAM, Chair



