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# 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 at least a dozen  
2 states have enacted laws that recognize American Sign Language,  
3 or ASL, as a distinct language with its own cultural heritage  
4 and language rules and structure. Act 152, Session Laws of  
5 Hawaii 2016, which recognized ASL as a world language for public  
6 school language requirement purposes, was an important first  
7 step, and this Act will advance the understanding and  
8 acknowledgement that ASL is a discrete language and not merely  
9 signed English.

10           The purpose of this Act is to recognize ASL as a fully  
11 developed, autonomous, natural language with its own grammar,  
12 syntax, vocabulary, and cultural heritage.

13           SECTION 2. Chapter 1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended  
14 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to  
15 read as follows:

16           "§1- American sign language. American sign language is  
17 recognized as a fully developed, autonomous, natural language



# H.B. NO. 840

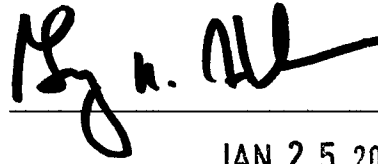
1 with its own distinct grammar, syntax, vocabulary, and cultural  
2 heritage."

3 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

4 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

5

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 25 2021



# H.B. NO. 840

**Report Title:**

Deaf and Blind Task Force; American Sign Language; Recognition

**Description:**

Recognizes American Sign Language as a fully developed, autonomous, natural language with its own grammar, syntax, vocabulary, and cultural heritage.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

