
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 as a distinct language with its own cultural heritage and
4 language rules and structure. Act 152, Session Laws of Hawaii
5 2016, which recognized American Sign Language as a world
6 language for public school language requirement purposes, was an
7 important first step, but further measures are needed to advance
8 the understanding and acknowledgement that American Sign
9 Language is a discrete language and not merely 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



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 on July 1, 2065.



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. Effective 7/1/2065. (HD1)

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