

JAN 20 2023

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 rules, structure,
4 and cultural heritage. Act 152, Session Laws of Hawaii 2016,
5 which recognized ASL as a world language for public school
6 language requirement purposes, was an important first step, and
7 this Act aims to advance the understanding and acknowledgement
8 that ASL is a discrete language and not merely signed English.

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

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

15 "§1- American Sign Language. American Sign Language is
16 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 upon its approval.

5

INTRODUCED BY:

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal line. The signature is highly cursive and difficult to decipher.

S.B. NO. 610

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.

