



GOV. MSG. NO. 1349

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

July 7, 2023

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 7, 2023, the following bill was signed into law:

HB834 HD1 SD1

RELATING TO AMERICAN SIGN
LANGUAGE.
ACT 246

Sincerely,

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

on _____

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023
STATE OF HAWAII

H.B. NO. 834
H.D. 1
S.D. 1

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 recognizes 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 acknowledgment
8 that ASL is a distinct 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



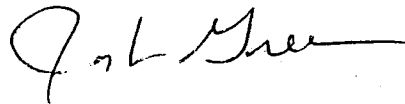
1 with its own distinct grammar, syntax, vocabulary, and cultural
2 heritage."

3 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

5

APPROVED this 7th day of July , 2023



GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII



HB No. 834, HD 1, SD 1

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: April 27, 2023
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 2023.



Scott K. Saiki
Speaker
House of Representatives

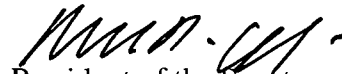



Brian L. Takeshita
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives

THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I

Date: April 5, 2023
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Third Reading in the Senate of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2023.


President of the Senate


Clerk of the Senate