Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 0 4 2023

RE: H.B. No. 834

H.D. 1 S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi President of the Senate Thirty-Second State Legislature Regular Session of 2023 State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred H.B. No. 834, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent 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, Parent Community Network for the Hearing Parents of Deaf Children at the Hawaii School for the Deaf and the Blind, and eleven individuals.

Your Committee finds that American Sign Language (ASL) is not just a translation of spoken English, but a fully developed, autonomous, natural language with its own grammar, syntax, vocabulary, and cultural heritage. Your Committee further finds that by recognizing ASL as a distinct language, the State can help promote a more inclusive society, acknowledge the deaf community's right to access services and information in a language they understand, increase public awareness, and acknowledge the deaf community as a linguistic minority with its own history, culture, and traditions. Your Committee notes that at least a dozen states

have already enacted laws that recognize ASL as its own distinct language, with many other states recognizing ASL in varying degrees. Therefore, this measure calls upon the State to formally recognize ASL as its own distinct language.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 834, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Judiciary,

KARL RHOADS, Chair

The Senate Thirty-Second Legislature State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes Committee on Judiciary JDC

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:			Date:	
HB 834 HDI SDI	HHS, JDC			3 30 23	
The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.					
If so, then the previous decision was to:					
The Recommendation is:					
Pass, unamended Pass, with amendments Hold Recommit 2312 2311 2310 2313					
Members		Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RHOADS, Karl (C)					
GABBARD, Mike (VC)					
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C.					
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A	١.				
AWA, Brenton		V			
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TOTAL	/	5		_	
Recommendation: V Adopted Not Adopted					
Chair's of Designer's Signature:					
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy					

^{*}Only one measure per Record of Votes