

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1070

Honolulu, Hawaii

**FEB 28**, 2025

RE: H.B. No. 1283  
H.D. 2

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2025  
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred H.B. No. 1283, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FAMILY,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish an exemption from mediation in paternity proceedings where there are allegations of domestic abuse; and
- (2) Clarify the exemption from mediation in divorce proceedings as it relates to domestic abuse.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Judiciary; Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!; and two individuals.

Your Committee finds that in contested paternity and divorce proceedings where allegations of domestic abuse are present, the requirement for mediation can place victims in unsafe and emotionally harmful situations. The existing mediation process may force parties who have experienced domestic abuse to engage with their abuser in a setting that is not conducive to their

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safety or well-being. This measure seeks to address these concerns by exempting parties alleging domestic abuse from mandatory mediation, ensuring that any mediation is conducted under conditions that prioritize the safety of the victim.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Clarifying provisions related to the circumstances when a mediator is authorized to engage in mediation in paternity proceedings where there are allegations of domestic abuse; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1283, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1283, H.D. 2.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Judiciary &  
Hawaiian Affairs,



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DAVID A. TARNAS, Chair



**Record of Votes of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs**

<b>Bill/Resolution No.:</b> HB 1283 HD1	<b>Committee Referral:</b> HCH, JHA	<b>Date:</b> 02/20/2025		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
<b>The recommendation is to:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
JHA Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. TARNAS, David A. (C)	✓			
2. POEPOE, Mahina (VC)	✓			
3. BELATTI, Della Au	✓			
4. COCHRAN, Elle				✓
5. HASHEM, Mark J.	✓			
6. KAHALOA, Kirstin	✓			
7. PERRUSO, Amy A.	✓			
8. TAKAYAMA, Gregg	✓			
9. TODD, Chris	✓			
10. GARCIA, Diamond	✓			
11. SHIMIZU, Garner M.	✓			
<b>TOTAL (11)</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>The recommendation is:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <span style="margin-left: 150px;">committee acronym(s)</span>				
<b>Vice Chair's or designee's signature:</b> _____ 				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original (White) – Committee    Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office    Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				