STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1756

Honolulu, Hawaii APR 02 , 2025

RE: S.B. No. 1520 S.D. 1 H.D. 1

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 S.B. No. 1520, S.D. 1, 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:

- 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 Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women; Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!; Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence; and three 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 emotionally harmful and unsafe situations. Your Committee further finds that the current mediation process may force parties who have experienced



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domestic abuse to engage with their abuser in a setting that is not conducive to their 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.

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 S.B. No. 1520, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

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

DAVID A. TARNAS, Chair



State of Hawaii House of Representatives The Thirty-third Legislature

## HSCR 1756

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

Bill/Resolution No.:	Committee Referral:	nmittee Referral: Date:		
(B1520 VDI HDI HVH, JHA 03/25/2025				
The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: Pass, unamended (as is) Pass, with amendments (HD) Hold   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 COCHDAN Elle				
4. COCHRAN, Elle			riti ka ina i	
5. HASHEM, Mark J.				
6. KAHALOA, Kirstin				
7. PERRUSO, Amy A.				
8. TAKAYAMA, Gregg				
9. TODD, Chris				
10. GARCIA, Diamond				
11. SHIMIZU, Garner M.			N. (1. 12) - 127 - 12	
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 TOTAL (11)		D	D	
The recommendation is: Ado	pted 🛛 Not Adopte	L		
If joint referral, did not support recommendation.				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				