



**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE, 2021**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

H.B. NO. 654, RELATING TO CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT.

**BEFORE THE:**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 16, 2021 **TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 325, Via Videoconference

**TESTIFIER(S):** **WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY.**  
(For more information, contact Brandon K. Flores,  
Deputy Attorney General, at 330-3098)

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Chair Nakashima and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) appreciates the intent of this bill and provides the following comments.

The purpose of this bill is to establish that every judgment for child support is enforceable until paid in full. The bill proposes to amend section 657-5.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, (HRS), by eliminating the presumption that child support judgments are considered paid and discharged when the child turns thirty-three years old or when the latest period provided in section 657-5, HRS, expires, whichever is later. Instead, this bill states that child support judgments are “enforceable until paid in full.”

First, while the statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken, this bill does not clearly indicate the new statutory material with underscoring. We suggest adding underscoring beneath the phrase “enforceable until paid in full.” in section 1, lines 8 and 9. Also, section 2, line 11 of the bill should be amended to include that “New statutory material is underscored.”

Second, deleting the cross-reference to section 657-5, HRS, may bring this bill into conflict with the provisions of section 657-5, which states that “. . . every judgment and decree of any court of the State shall be presumed to paid and discharged at the expiration of ten years after the judgment or decree was rendered.” To avoid this potential conflict, we suggest adding a clause that clarifies that section 657-5.5 operates

notwithstanding the provisions of 657-5, by amending section 1, lines 3 and 4, to read,  
“Notwithstanding section 657-5 and any other law to the contrary, every judgment for  
child support, . . . .”

We respectfully ask the Committee to make these recommended amendments.