STAND. COM. REP. NO. 476

Honolulu, Hawaii **Fel 18**, 2011

RE: H.B. No. 616 H.D. 1

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say Speaker, House of Representatives Twenty-Sixth State Legislature Regular Session of 2011 State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Human Services, to which was referred H.B. No. 616 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CHILD CUSTODY,"

begs leave to report as follows

The purpose of this bill is to, among other things:

- Enhance visitation rights awarded to a parent by including electronic communication as a means of communication;
- (2) Define electronic communication;
- (3) Establish factors that shall be considered when determining whether visitation by electronic communication is in the best interest of the child; and
- (4) Authorize the court to set guidelines in awarding visitation by electronic communication.

Several concerned individuals testified in support of this bill. AngelGroup and several concerned individuals provided comments.

Your Committee realizes the importance of enhancing parentchild relationships that are subject to a distance or time difference. However, in regards to domestic violence cases, there



STAND. COM. REP. NO. Page 2

is the potential for an abuser to use this new avenue to maintain power and control over the victim once they no longer have direct access to the victim. Moreover, electronic communication, such as Skype, could reveal the location of a victim in hiding.

Your Committee has amended this bill by changing the effective date to July 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Human Services that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 616, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 616, H.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

> Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Human Services,



State of Hawaii House of Representatives The Twenty-sixth Legislature

HSCR 476

Record of Votes of the Committee on Human Services

Bill/Resolution No.:	Committee Referral:		Date:	
HB 616	HUS, JUD 2/14/2011			
□ 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) 				
HUS Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. MIZUNO, John M. (C)				
2. JORDAN, Jo (VC)				
3. BELATTI, Della Au				
	· · · · · · · · ·			
4. HANOHANO, Faye P.				
5. LEE, Chris	Ň			
6. MORIKAWA, Dee				
7. WOOLEY, Jessica				
8. YAMANE, Ryan I.		•		
		·		
9. CHING, Corinne W.L.				
10. PINE, Kymberly Marcos				
TOTAL (10)	6			4
The recommendation is: Adopted Not Adopted If joint referral,				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:				
Distribution: Original (White) Committee Duplicate (Yellow) Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) HMSO				