STAND. COM. REP. NO. 3302

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 0 4 2016

RE: H.B. No. 2082

H.D. 1 S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi President of the Senate Twenty-Eighth State Legislature Regular Session of 2016 State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary and Labor, to which was referred H.B. No. 2082, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ADOPTION RECORDS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to allow adopted individuals who have attained eighteen years of age, adoptive parents, and natural parents unfettered access to the adopted individual's adoption records.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Adoption Circle of Hawai'i, Bastard Nation: The Adoptee Rights Organization, National Center on Adoption and Permanency, and thirty individuals.

Your Committee finds that states began sealing adoption records in the middle of the twentieth century to protect adopted children from the stigma of illegitimacy. However, current research has illustrated that the secrecy surrounding an adoption has significant negative psychological consequences on an adoptee. Furthermore, cultural changes have largely diminished the stigma surrounding adoption, and recent genetics research has highlighted the importance of genetic history to an individual's medical care. Hawaii's adoption records law continues to condition access to records on birthparent approval, which is a major hurdle for adoptees to overcome. This measure eases the restrictions on access to sealed court adoption records in the interest of

transparency and access to family medical history and ethnic background.

Your Committee has amended this measure by deleting its contents and inserting the contents of S.B. No. 2153, S.D. 1 (Regular Session of 2016), a substantially similar measure that incorporates technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary and Labor that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2082, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2082, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

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

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GILBERT S.C. KEITH-ASARAN, Chair

The Senate Twenty-Eighth Legislature State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes Committee on Judiciary and Labor JDL

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee		Date: / / /		
HB 2082 HD1	JDL		3/23/16		
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
KEITH-AGARAN, Gilbert S.C. (C)					
SHIMABUKURO, Maile S.L. (VC)		/			
GABBARD, Mike					
KAHELE, Kaialiʻi					
KIM, Donna Mercado					_
THIELEN, Laura H.					
SLOM, Sam					
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TOTAL		6			/
Recommendation: Adopted			Not Adopted		
Chair's or Designee's Signature:					
/ // con /c					
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^{*}Only one measure per Record of Votes