

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **2726**

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 04 2016

RE: S.B. No. 2153
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
S.B. No. 2153 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 National Center on Adoption and Permanency, American Adoption Congress, Adoption Circle of Hawai'i, Bastard Nation: The Adoptee Rights Organization, and thirty-eight 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.

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Your Committee has amended this measure by making 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 S.B. No. 2153, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2153, 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,


GILBERT S.C. KEITH-AGARAN, Chair



The Senate
Twenty-Eighth Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
JDL

Bill / Resolution No.:* <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">SB2153</div>	Committee Referral: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">JDL</div>	Date: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">3/2/16</div>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313 </div> </div>				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KEITH-AGARAN, Gilbert S.C. (C)	/			
SHIMABUKURO, Maile S.L. (VC)	/			
GABBARD, Mike	/			
KAHELE, Kaiali'i	/			
KIM, Donna Mercado				/
THIELEN, Laura H.	/			
SLOM, Sam	/			
TOTAL	6			1
Recommendation: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted </div>				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive; margin-left: 100px;">  </div>				
Distribution: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">Original File with Committee Report</div> <div style="text-align: center;">Yellow Clerk's Office</div> <div style="text-align: center;">Pink Drafting Agency</div> <div style="text-align: center;">Goldenrod Committee File Copy</div> </div>				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes