

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

**3257**

Honolulu, Hawaii

**MAR 28 2018**

RE: S.C.R. No. 102

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2018  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Human Services, to which was referred  
S.C.R. No. 102 entitled:

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE  
JUDICIARY AND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO NOT USE  
BLINDNESS AS A BASIS FOR DENYING PARENTAL RIGHTS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to request the  
Judiciary and Department of Human Services to not use blindness as  
a basis for denying parental rights in regard to child welfare,  
foster care, family law, and adoption.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure  
from Young Progressives Demanding Action, O'ahu County Committee on  
Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, National  
Federation of the Blind of Hawaii, Progressive Democrats of  
Hawai'i, Oahu Intertribal Council, and three individuals. Your  
Committee received comments on this measure from the Judiciary,  
Department of Human Services, Department of the Attorney General,  
Disability and Communication Access Board, and Hawaii Family  
Advocacy Team.

Your Committee finds that blind individuals often face  
certain preconceived biases and attitudes throughout their lives,  
especially during family and dependency law proceedings where  
custody and visitation are at stake and in public and private  
adoption, guardianship, and foster care proceedings. Your



Committee further finds that roughly one in four households in which a parent is blind have been visited by child protection services. Your Committee recognizes that blindness itself does not preclude a parent's ability to raise a child to become a responsible and productive adult. This measure seeks to ensure that individuals who are blind have the same opportunity as individuals who are not blind to serve as parents and care for their children.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Human Services that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.C.R. No. 102 and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Judiciary.

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



---

JOSH GREEN, Chair



The Senate  
Twenty-Ninth Legislature  
State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Human Services**  
**HMS**

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SCR 102	HMS, JDC	3/19/18		
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312</div> <div style="text-align: center;"><input 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
GREEN, Josh (C)	✓			
CHANG, Stanley (VC)	✓			
HARIMOTO, Breene				✓
TOKUDA, Jill N.	✓			
WAKAI, Glenn				✓
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>			<b>2</b>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: small;"> <div>Distribution:</div> <div>Original</div> <div>Yellow</div> <div>Pink</div> <div>Goldenrod</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: x-small;"> <div>File with Committee Report</div> <div>Clerk's Office</div> <div>Drafting Agency</div> <div>Committee File Copy</div> </div>				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes