STAND. COM. REP. NO. 418

Honolulu, Hawaii FEB 19 2021

RE: S.B. No. 597 S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi President of the Senate Thirty-First State Legislature Regular Session of 2021 State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Human Services, to which was referred S.B. No. 597 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to help defray the expensive costs of a political candidate's dependent family care and child care, by allowing candidates seeking election to use campaign funds, in limited circumstances, for child care costs.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from Common Cause Hawaii, AAUW of Hawaii, and eight individuals.

Your Committee finds that parenthood and care for one's dependents should not be a barrier to political office. One solution to this unnecessary obstacle is to allow candidates for elected office to use campaign funds to defray the expensive costs of a candidate's child care or dependent family care. Your Committee also finds that a growing number of candidates and good governance organizations are pushing state legislatures and elections commission to adopt similar proposals because it would encourage more women and low-income candidates to run for public office by clearing a restrictive financial barrier for parents and caregivers. Accordingly, your Committee finds that this measure will reduce that cost barrier by allowing candidates more flexibility in how they use campaign funds.



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Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Expanding the covered family care costs to include the care of a candidate's vital household dependents, such as family members living in the candidate's household who are physically or mentally incapable of self-care; and
- (2) Inserting an effective date of May 1, 2029, 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 S.B. No. 597, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 597, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary.

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

JO BUENAVENTURA, Chair



## The Senate Thirty-First Legislature State of Hawaiʻi

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## Record of Votes Committee on Human Services HMS

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:		Date:			
SB 597	HMS, JDC			02/16/2021		
The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.						
If so, then the previous decision was to:						
The Recommendation is:						
Pass, unamended X Pass, with amendments Hold Recommit 2312 2311 2310 2313						
Members		Aye	Aye (W	'R) N	ay	Excused
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A. (C)						
IHARA, Jr., Les (VC)		V				
ACASIO, Laura		V				
MISALUCHA, Bennette E.		V			_	
FEVELLA, Kurt						
			_			
					~	
TOTAL		5	$\mathcal{D}$	6	2	0
Recommendation:			Not Adopted			
Chair's or Designee's Signature:						
Distribution: Original File with Committee Re	Yellow eport Clerk's Office		OPink Drafting Age	Goldenrod gency Committee File Copy		

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes