

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO GENDER-NEUTRAL TERMINOLOGY.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 578, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§578- Interpretation of words to be gender-neutral.

5 With regard to the rights, benefits, protections, and  
6 responsibilities of persons set forth in this chapter, all  
7 gender-specific terminology, such as "wife", "husband",  
8 "mother", "father", or similar terms, shall be construed in a  
9 gender-neutral manner. This rule of interpretation shall apply  
10 to all administrative rules adopted hereunder."

11 SECTION 2. Chapter 580, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
12 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
13 and to read as follows:

14 "§580- Interpretation of words to be gender-neutral.

15 With regard to the rights, benefits, protections, and  
16 responsibilities of persons set forth under this chapter, all  
17 gender-specific terminology, such as "wife", "husband",



1 "mother", "father", "aunt", "uncle", "niece", "nephew", or  
2 similar terms, shall be construed in a gender-neutral manner.  
3 This rule of interpretation shall apply to all administrative  
4 rules adopted hereunder."

5 SECTION 3. Section 578-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 "**§578-1 Who may adopt; jurisdiction; venue.** Any [~~proper~~]  
8 unmarried adult person, [~~not married, or~~] any person married to  
9 the legal [~~father or mother~~] parent of a minor child, or a  
10 [~~husband and wife~~] married couple jointly[~~]~~ may petition the  
11 family court of the circuit in which the person or persons  
12 reside or are in military service [~~or the family court of the~~  
13 ~~circuit]~~, in which the individual to be adopted resides or was  
14 born, or in which a child placing organization approved by the  
15 department of human services under the provisions of section  
16 346-17 having legal custody (as defined in section 571-2) of the  
17 child is located[~~]~~ for leave to adopt an individual toward whom  
18 the person or persons do not sustain the legal relationship of  
19 parent and child and for a change of the name of the individual.  
20 When adoption is the goal of a permanent plan recommended by the  
21 department of human services and ordered pursuant to section



1 587A-31, the department may petition for adoption on behalf of  
2 the proposed adoptive parents. The petition shall be in [~~such~~]  
3 a form and shall include [~~such~~] information and exhibits as may  
4 be prescribed by the family court."

5 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
6 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on March 22, 2075.



**Report Title:**

Gender-Neutral Terminology; Statutory Interpretation; Adoption; Annulment, Divorce, and Separation

**Description:**

Requires gender-specific terminology used in adoption and annulment, divorce, and separation matters to be construed in a gender-neutral manner. Effective 3/22/2075. (HD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

