

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1981

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 24 2023

RE: GOV. MSG. NO. 641

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-Second State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2023  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health and Human Services, to which was referred Governor's Message No. 641, submitting for study and consideration the nomination of:

COMMISSION ON FATHERHOOD

G.M. No. 641      JEFF ESMOND,  
for a term to expire 06-30-2027,

begs leave to report as follows:

Your Committee reviewed the personal history, resume, and statement submitted by Jeff Esmond for service on the Commission on Fatherhood.

Your Committee did not receive testimony on the nomination for the appointment of Jeff Esmond for service on the Commission on Fatherhood.

Upon review of Jeff Esmond's testimony, your Committee finds that Mr. Esmond's professional experience, background, and desire to serve his community qualify him for consideration for appointment to the Commission on Fatherhood. Mr. Esmond has nearly thirty years of experience in retirement plan administration and has been the owner and President of Hawaii5500 LLC, a third-party administrator of employer-sponsored retirement and welfare plans, since 2017. Mr. Esmond is also an active member in his community and has served on the Kaneohe Business Group since 2018, the Health and Wellness Committee for Kaneohe Elementary School since 2015, and the Nuuanu YMCA Membership Advisory Committee. Your Committee further notes that Mr. Esmond



has been a member of the Commission on Fatherhood since 2021, and currently serves as its Chair and the Chair of its Finance Committee.

Your Committee further finds that Mr. Esmond brings to the Commission the underrepresented perspective of a father who happens to be gay. Mr. Esmond has personally experienced the challenges of understanding his identity and coming out to his family and other individuals in his life. Your Committee also notes that Mr. Esmond and his husband pursued, and have overcome various barriers, to become fathers to three children through surrogacy. Moreover, Mr. Esmond also understands that gay men, despite many stereotypes, are as diverse as any given group and no single set of standards or generalizations applies to all. Your Committee believes that Mr. Esmond's perspective is essential to the Commission on Fatherhood in helping its members understand and provide guidance to fathers in the State on various issues, including those faced by gay fathers, fathers of children who have come out or not yet come out as gay, and fathers of children who are transgender. Your Committee finds that Mr. Esmond's expertise in financial issues, experience as a gay man who pursued fatherhood and overcame various barriers to becoming a father through surrogacy, and his desire to serve his community, will continue to be great assets to the Commission on Fatherhood. Your Committee therefore recommends that Jeff Esmond be appointed to the Commission on Fatherhood.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health and Human Services that is attached to this report, your Committee, after full consideration of the background, experience, and qualifications of the nominee, has found the nominee to be qualified for the position to which nominated and recommends that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination.

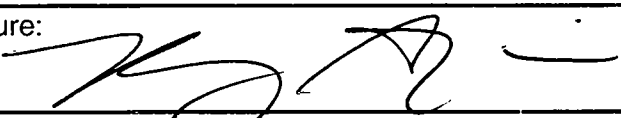
Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Health and Human  
Services,

  
JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, Chair



The Senate  
 Thirty-Second Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Health and Human Services**  
**HHS**  
**Advise and Consent**

Governor's Message No.:* <i>GM 641</i>	Committee Referral: <b>HHS</b>	Date: <i>3/29/23</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its decision				
The Recommendation is:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advise and Consent 2340		<input type="checkbox"/> Not Advise and Consent 2345		
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A. (C)	✓			
AQUINO, Henry J.C. (VC)	✓			
MORIWAKI, Sharon Y.	✓			
SHIMABUKURO, Maile S.L.	✓			
AWA, Brenton	✓			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<i>5</i>			
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted		<input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted		
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution:				
Original File with Committee Report	Yellow Clerk's Office	Pink Drafting Agency	Goldenrod Committee File Copy	

\*Only one Governor's Message per Record of Votes