

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

623

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 13, 2025

RE: H.B. No. 900
H.D. 2

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred H.B. No. 900, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CHILD WELFARE SERVICES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to establish and appropriate funds for a working group to improve family court processes, including access to legal representation for youth in the child welfare system.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Judiciary; Department of Human Services; Office of Wellness and Resilience; Hawaii Coalition for Child Protective Reform; National Center for Youth Law; HCANSpeaks!; HI H.O.P.E.S.; and five individuals.

Your Committee finds that this measure promotes collaboration with the judicial and legal system, partners, and lived-experience experts to continue to better outcomes for children, youth, families, and communities. Your Committee believes that it would be beneficial for a representative of the Department of Human Services Child Welfare Services Branch to participate in the working group.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

2025-1524 HB900 HD2 HSCR HMSO



- (1) Requiring the working group to include a representative of the Department of Human Services Child Welfare Services Branch;
- (2) Extending the deadline for the report by the working group to 2027;
- (3) Specifying that the appropriation may be used for members of the working group to make site visits and to assist with the report drafting; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 900, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 900, H.D. 2.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary &
Hawaiian Affairs,



DAVID A. TARNAS, Chair



Record of Votes of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Bill/Resolution No.: HB900 HD1	Committee Referral: HSH, JHA, FIN	Date: 2/5/25		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
JHA Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. TARNAS, David A. (C)	✓			
2. POEPOE, Mahina (VC)	✓			
3. BELATTI, Della Au	✓			
4. COCHRAN, Elle				✓
5. HASHEM, Mark J.	✓			
6. KAHALOA, Kirstin	✓			
7. PERRUSO, Amy A.	✓			
8. TAKAYAMA, Gregg	✓			
9. TODD, Chris	✓			
10. GARCIA, Diamond	✓			
11. SHIMIZU, Garner M.	✓			
TOTAL (11)	10	0	0	1
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				