

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1756

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 02 , 2025

RE: S.B. No. 1520  
S.D. 1  
H.D. 1

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 S.B. No. 1520, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FAMILY,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish an exemption from mediation in paternity proceedings where there are allegations of domestic abuse; and
- (2) Clarify the exemption from mediation in divorce proceedings as it relates to domestic abuse.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women; Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!; Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence; and three individuals.

Your Committee finds that in contested paternity and divorce proceedings where allegations of domestic abuse are present, the requirement for mediation can place victims in emotionally harmful and unsafe situations. Your Committee further finds that the current mediation process may force parties who have experienced

2025-2968 SB1520 HD1 HSCR HMSO



domestic abuse to engage with their abuser in a setting that is not conducive to their safety or well-being. This measure seeks to address these concerns by exempting parties alleging domestic abuse from mandatory mediation, ensuring that any mediation is conducted under conditions that prioritize the safety of the victim.

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 S.B. No. 1520, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

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



---

DAVID A. TARNAS, Chair



