

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 18

, 2025

RE: S.B. No. 951
S.D. 2
H.D. 1

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

Madame:

Your Committees on Human Services & Homelessness and Public Safety, to which was referred S.B. No. 951, S.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CHILD PROTECTION,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to require:

- (1) Mandatory reports of child abuse or neglect to include the military status of the child's parent or guardian, if known; and
- (2) The Department of Human Services to inform the appropriate authority of the United States military when, upon receiving a report of child abuse or neglect, there is sufficient information to determine that the report involves a military family.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the United States Department of Defense; Military and Community Relations Office of the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Hawaii Military Affairs Council; and seven individuals. Your Committees received comments on this measure from the Department of Human Services.



Your Committees find that while the United States Department of Defense mandates its personnel to report suspected cases of child abuse or neglect to military officials, local authorities, and local child welfare services offices, the Department of Human Services' Child Welfare Services Branch is not legally required to reciprocate this reporting when incidents involve military families. Given that many service members and their families live off-base and frequently relocate, instances of abuse or neglect may go unreported to military authorities, limiting access to crucial support services. This measure establishes a statutory requirement for the Department of Human Services to notify the United States Department of Defense of allegations involving military families, thereby ensuring that military children receive the necessary intervention, prevention, and rehabilitative services.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the effective date of section 2 of this measure to July 1, 2025, rather than June 30, 2025, to avoid potential technical issues made to certain statutory language as a result of Act 147, Session Laws of Hawaii 2024; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

Your Committees note that the Department of Human Services supports an effective date of January 1, 2026, for this measure.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Human Services & Homelessness and Public Safety that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 951, S.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 951, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Human Services &
Homelessness and Public Safety,


DELLA AU BELATTI, Chair


LISA MARTEN, Chair



MsA 1287

Bill/Resolution No.: SB951 SD2		Committee Referral: HSH/PBS, JHA		Date: 3/12/2025	
<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)					
HSH Members		Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. MARTEN, Lisa (C)		X			
2. OLDS, Ikaika (VC)		X			
3. AMATO, Terez		X			
4. CHUN, Cory M.		X			
5. KEOHOKAPU-LEE LOY, Sue L.		X			
6. TAKAYAMA, Gregg					X
7. TAKENOUCHI, Jenna		X			
8. ALCOS III, David					X
9. GARCIA, Diamond					X
TOTAL (9)		6			3
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					

State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
The Thirty-third Legislature

HSCR 1287

Record of Votes of the Committee on Public Safety

Bill/Resolution No.: <i>SB # 951, SD2</i>	Committee Referral: <i>HSH/PBS, JHA</i>	Date: <i>3/12/2025</i>		
<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)				
PBS Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. BELATTI, Della Au (C)	✓			
2. IWAMOTO, Kim Coco (VC)	✓			
3. HASHEM, Mark J.				✓
4. ICHiyAMA, Linda				✓
5. LAMOSAO, Rachele F.				✓
6. MORIKAWA, Dee	✓			
7. POEPOE, Mahina	✓			
8. WOODSON, Justin H.				✓
9. SHIMIZU, Garner M.	✓			
10. SOUZA, Kanani	✓			
TOTAL (10)	<i>6</i>			<i>4</i>
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <div style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">committee acronym(s)</div>				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: <i>Phil [Signature]</i>				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				