

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



GOV. MSG. NO. 1148

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

May 27, 2026

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate,
and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on May 27, 2026, the following bill was signed into law:

H.B. NO. 2096, H.D. 2, S.D. 1

RELATING TO AGGRAVATED CIRCUMSTANCES
IN CHILD PROTECTIVE PROCEEDINGS.
ACT 048

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Green M.D.".

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawai'i

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGGRAVATED CIRCUMSTANCES IN CHILD PROTECTIVE
PROCEEDINGS.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 587A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 "S587A- Aggravated circumstances. (a) At the return
5 hearing conducted pursuant to section 587A-28, the court shall
6 determine whether aggravated circumstances are present.

7 (1) If aggravated circumstances are present, the court
8 shall:

9 (A) Conduct a permanency hearing within thirty days,
10 and the department shall not be required to
11 provide the child's parents with an interim
12 service plan or interim visitation; and

13 (B) Order the department to file, within sixty days
14 after the court's finding that aggravated
15 circumstances are present, a motion to terminate
16 parental rights unless the department has



1 documented in the safe family home factors or
2 other written report submitted to the court a
3 compelling reason why it is not in the best
4 interest of the child to file a motion; or

5 (2) If aggravated circumstances are not present or there
6 is a compelling reason why it is not in the best
7 interest of the child to file a motion to terminate
8 parental rights, the court shall order that the
9 department make reasonable efforts to reunify the
10 child with the child's parents and order an
11 appropriate service plan.

12 (b) Regardless of whether the court finds that aggravated
13 circumstances are present during the return hearing, at any
14 other time during the case before the termination of parental
15 rights, the court may, on its own motion or upon the motion of
16 any party, order an evidentiary hearing to determine whether
17 aggravated circumstances are present. If the court finds that
18 aggravated circumstances are present under this subsection, then
19 all applicable portions of subsection (a) shall apply.



1 (c) The court may consolidate an aggravated circumstances
2 hearing with a termination of parental rights hearing pursuant
3 to section 587A-33 at any time during the case.

4 (d) Any party shall inform the court within a reasonable
5 time upon receipt of evidence of aggravated circumstances."

6 SECTION 2. Section 587A-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
7 amended by amending the definition of "aggravated circumstances"
8 to read as follows:

9 "'Aggravated circumstances" means that:

- 10 (1) The parent has murdered, or has solicited, aided,
11 abetted, attempted, or conspired to commit the murder
12 or voluntary manslaughter of, another child of the
13 parent;
- 14 (2) The parent has committed a felony assault that results
15 in serious bodily injury to the child or another child
16 of the parent;
- 17 (3) The parent's rights regarding a sibling of the child
18 have been judicially terminated or divested;
- 19 (4) The family court, or another court of competent
20 jurisdiction, has found that the parent has tortured
21 the child[+], as described in the offense of torture



1 under section 707-718; provided that a conviction for
2 that offense shall not be required for a court to make
3 a finding under this paragraph;

4 (5) The child is an abandoned infant;

5 (6) The parent has committed sexual abuse against another
6 child of the parent; or

7 (7) The parent is required to register with a sex offender
8 registry under [~~section 113(a) of the Adam Walsh Child~~
9 ~~Protection and Safety Act of 2006,~~] title [42] 34
10 United States Code section [~~16913(a).~~] 20913."

11 SECTION 3. Section 587A-28, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
12 amended by amending subsection (e) to read as follows:

13 "(e) If the court finds that the child's physical or
14 psychological health or welfare has been harmed or is subject to
15 threatened harm by the acts or omissions of the child's family,
16 the court:

17 (1) Shall enter a finding that the court has jurisdiction
18 pursuant to section 587A-5;

19 (2) Shall enter a finding regarding whether, before the
20 child was placed in foster care, the department made



1 reasonable efforts to prevent or eliminate the need to
2 remove the child from the child's family home;

3 (3) Shall enter orders:

4 (A) That the child be placed in foster custody if the
5 court finds that the child's remaining in the
6 family home is contrary to the welfare of the
7 child and the child's parents are not willing and
8 able to provide a safe family home for the child,
9 even with the assistance of a service plan; or

10 (B) That the child be placed in family supervision if
11 the court finds that the child's parents are
12 willing and able to provide the child with a safe
13 family home with the assistance of a service
14 plan;

15 (4) Shall ~~[determine whether aggravated circumstances are~~
16 ~~present.~~

17 ~~(A) If aggravated circumstances are present, the~~
18 ~~court shall:~~

19 ~~(i) Conduct a permanency hearing within thirty~~
20 ~~days, and the department shall not be~~
21 ~~required to provide the child's parents with~~



1 ~~an interim service plan or interim~~
2 ~~visitation; and~~
3 ~~(ii) Order the department to file, within sixty~~
4 ~~days after the court's finding that~~
5 ~~aggravated circumstances are present, a~~
6 ~~motion to terminate parental rights unless~~
7 ~~the department has documented in the safe~~
8 ~~family home factors or other written report~~
9 ~~submitted to the court a compelling reason~~
10 ~~why it is not in the best interest of the~~
11 ~~child to file a motion.~~
12 ~~(B) If aggravated circumstances are not present or~~
13 ~~there is a compelling reason why it is not in the~~
14 ~~best interest of the child to file a motion to~~
15 ~~terminate parental rights, the court shall order~~
16 ~~that the department make reasonable efforts to~~
17 ~~reunify the child with the child's parents and~~
18 ~~order an appropriate service plan;] make a~~
19 ~~determination of aggravated circumstances~~
20 ~~pursuant to section 587A- ;~~



- 1 (5) Shall order reasonable supervised or unsupervised
2 visits for the child and the child's family, including
3 with the child's siblings, unless such visits are
4 determined to be unsafe or detrimental to, and not in
5 the best interests of, the child;
- 6 (6) Shall order each of the child's birth parents to
7 complete the medical information forms and release the
8 medical information required under section 578-14.5,
9 to the department. If the child's birth parents
10 refuse to complete the forms or to release the
11 information, the court may order the release of the
12 information over the parents' objections;
- 13 (7) Shall determine whether each party understands that
14 unless the family is willing and able to provide the
15 child with a safe family home, even with the
16 assistance of a service plan, within the reasonable
17 period of time specified in the service plan, their
18 respective parental and custodial duties and rights
19 shall be subject to termination;
- 20 (8) Shall determine the child's date of entry into foster
21 care as defined in this chapter;



- 1 (9) Shall set a periodic review hearing to be conducted no
- 2 later than six months after the date of entry into
- 3 foster care and a permanency hearing to be held no
- 4 later than twelve months after the date of entry into
- 5 foster care;

- 6 (10) Shall set a status conference, as the court deems
- 7 appropriate, to be conducted no later than ninety days
- 8 after the return hearing; and

- 9 (11) May order that:

- 10 (A) Any party participate in, complete, be liable
- 11 for, and make every good faith effort to arrange
- 12 payment for such services or treatment as are
- 13 authorized by law and that are determined to be
- 14 in the child's best interests;

- 15 (B) The child be examined by a physician, surgeon,
- 16 psychiatrist, or psychologist; and

- 17 (C) The child receive treatment, including
- 18 hospitalization or placement in other suitable
- 19 facilities, as is determined to be in the child's
- 20 best interests."



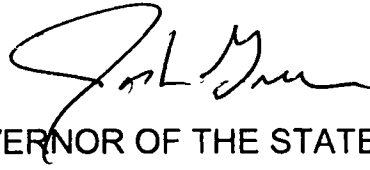
1 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



H.B. NO. 2096
H.D. 2
S.D. 1

APPROVED this 27th day of May, 2026

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Green". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

HB No. 2096, HD 2, SD 1

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: April 23, 2026
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026.



Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker
House of Representatives

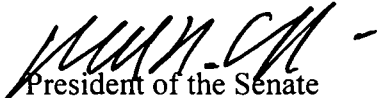


Brian L. Takeshita
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives


THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I

Date: April 14, 2026
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Third Reading in the Senate of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2026.



President of the Senate



Clerk of the Senate