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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

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RELATING TO ADOPTIONS.

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

1       SECTION 1. Section 578-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by amending subsections (a) and (b) to read as follows:

3       "(a) Persons required to consent to adoption. Unless  
4 consent is not required or is dispensed with under subsection  
5 (c), a petition to adopt a child may be granted only if written  
6 consent to the proposed adoption has been notarized by a notary  
7 public in this or any other jurisdiction and executed by:

8       (1) The birthing parent of the child;

9       (2) A legal non-birthing parent to whom the child is a  
10       legitimate child;

11       (3) An adjudicated non-birthing parent whose relationship  
12       to the child has been determined by a court;

13       (4) A presumed non-birthing parent under subsection (d);

14       (5) A concerned natural non-birthing parent who is not the  
15       legal, adjudicated, or presumed non-birthing parent  
16       but who has demonstrated a reasonable degree of



1 interest, concern, or responsibility as to the welfare  
2 of a child, either:

3 (A) During the first thirty days after the child's  
4 birth;

5 (B) Before the execution of a valid consent by the  
6 birthing parent of the child; or

7 (C) Before the placement of the child with adoptive  
8 parents;

9 whichever period of time is greater;

10 (6) Any person or agency having legal custody of the child  
11 or legally empowered to consent;

12 (7) The court having jurisdiction of the custody of the  
13 child, if the legal guardian or legal custodian of the  
14 person of the child is not empowered to consent to  
15 adoption; and

16 (8) The child to be adopted if the child is more than ten  
17 years of age, unless the court, in the best interest  
18 of the child, dispenses with the child's consent.

19 (b) A petition to adopt an adult may be granted only if  
20 written consent to adoption has been notarized by a notary



1 public in this or any other jurisdiction and executed by the  
2 adult and the adult's spouse, if the adult is married."

3 SECTION 2. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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INTRODUCED BY: Nicholas K. Plante  
By Request  
JAN 23 2026



# H.B. NO. 2088

**Report Title:**

Judiciary Package; Family Courts; Adoptions; Consent; Notary

**Description:**

Adds the requirement that a written consent to adoption be notarized.

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