

JAN 23 2026

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

4       "Aggravated circumstances" means that:

5       (1) The parent has murdered, or has solicited, aided,  
6       abettled, attempted, or conspired to commit the murder  
7       or voluntary manslaughter of, another child of the  
8       parent;

9       (2) The parent has committed a felony assault that results  
10      in serious bodily injury to the child or another child  
11      of the parent;

12      (3) The parent's rights regarding a sibling of the child  
13      have been judicially terminated or divested;

14      (4) The family court, or another court of competent  
15      jurisdiction, has found that the parent has tortured  
16      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 United  
10          States Code section 16913(a)."

11          SECTION 2. 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[+].

19 (C) Whether or not the court finds that aggravated

20 circumstances are present during the return

21 hearing, at any other time during the case prior



1           to the termination of parental rights, the court  
2           may, on its own motion or upon the motion of any  
3           party, order an evidentiary hearing to determine  
4           whether aggravated circumstances are present. A  
5           party shall file the motion as soon as possible  
6           but no later than twenty-one days from its  
7           determination that aggravated circumstances  
8           exist. If the court finds that aggravated  
9           circumstances are present under this  
10          subparagraph, then all applicable portions of  
11          subparagraphs (A) and (B) shall apply;

12          (5) Shall order reasonable supervised or unsupervised  
13             visits for the child and the child's family, including  
14             with the child's siblings, unless such visits are  
15             determined to be unsafe or detrimental to, and not in  
16             the best interests of, the child;

17          (6) Shall order each of the child's birth parents to  
18             complete the medical information forms and release the  
19             medical information required under section 578-14.5,  
20             to the department. If the child's birth parents  
21             refuse to complete the forms or to release the



1 information, the court may order the release of the  
2 information over the parents' objections;

3 (7) Shall determine whether each party understands that  
4 unless the family is willing and able to provide the  
5 child with a safe family home, even with the  
6 assistance of a service plan, within the reasonable  
7 period of time specified in the service plan, their  
8 respective parental and custodial duties and rights  
9 shall be subject to termination;

10 (8) Shall determine the child's date of entry into foster  
11 care as defined in this chapter;

12 (9) Shall set a periodic review hearing to be conducted no  
13 later than six months after the date of entry into  
14 foster care and a permanency hearing to be held no  
15 later than twelve months after the date of entry into  
16 foster care;

17 (10) Shall set a status conference, as the court deems  
18 appropriate, to be conducted no later than ninety days  
19 after the return hearing; and

20 (11) May order that:



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

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

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

SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

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

INTRODUCED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



By Request



# S.B. NO. 2572

**Report Title:**

Judiciary Package; Family Courts; Child Protective Proceedings;  
Aggravated Circumstances Hearings

**Description:**

Expands the authority of the family court in child protective proceedings to find that aggravated circumstances are present at any stage prior to the termination of parental rights, not only at the outset of the case or the return hearing. Specifies what acts of torture against a child constitute aggravated circumstances.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

