

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

3751

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 10 2026

RE: H.B. No. 1959  
H.D. 2  
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2026  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred H.B. No. 1959, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Extend for five years certain provisions from Act 19, Session Laws of Hawaii 2020, and Act 238, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021, relating to abuse of family or household members, including establishing a petty misdemeanor offense of abuse of family or household members, clarifying penalties for violations, and allowing a deferred acceptance of guilty plea for misdemeanor and petty misdemeanor abuse of family or household members offenses; and
- (2) Require reports to the Legislature.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Office of the Public Defender, Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Maui, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Hawaii, Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and two individuals.



Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Judiciary and Crime Victim Compensation Commission.

Your Committee finds that Act 19, Session Laws of Hawaii 2020, established a five-year pilot project to strengthen state and county responses to domestic violence and increase offender accountability, and that Act 238, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021, added coercive control between family or household members to the pilot project. Your Committee further finds that more data is necessary to evaluate the pilot project on factors including whether the length of case adjudication changed before and after the pilot project, whether recidivism rates changed, and whether successful completion of domestic violence intervention services increased. By extending the pilot project's sunset date and directing the Judiciary, in consultation with the Criminal Justice Research Institute, to collect data and evaluate the pilot project, this measure will ensure the project's effectiveness.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1959, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Judiciary,



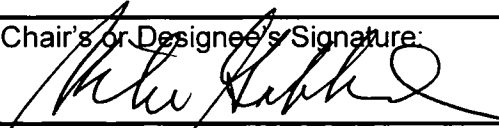
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KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate  
 Thirty-Third Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes  
 Committee on Judiciary  
 JDC

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HB 1959 HD2 SD1	HHS, JDC	9/7/26		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RHOADS, Karl (C)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike (VC)	✓			
CHANG, Stanley	✓			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.	✓			
AWA, Brenton				✓
<b>TOTAL</b>	4	—	—	1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution:            Original                      Yellow                      Pink File with Committee Report    Committee                      Drafting Agency				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes