

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 3783

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 10 2026

RE: H.B. No. 1962
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. 1962, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FAMILY,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish an exemption from mediation in parentage proceedings where there are allegations of domestic abuse; and
- (2) Clarify the exemption from mediation in divorce proceedings as it relates to domestic abuse.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Judiciary, Department of Transportation, Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, Hawai'i Women Lawyers, Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!, Hawaii Women's Coalition, League of Women Voters of Hawai'i County, and one individual.

Your Committee finds that mandatory mediation, while often a valuable tool for resolving family disputes, can be inappropriate and even harmful in cases involving domestic violence. Power imbalances and the potential for coercion can undermine the safety



and autonomy of survivors, making voluntary and equitable agreement difficult to achieve. This measure prioritizes the safety and autonomy of survivors and aligns the State's mediation policies with established best practices in trauma-informed and survivor-centered legal processes to ensure a safer, healthier, and more just and equitable legal system for all families in the State.

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. 1962, 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,

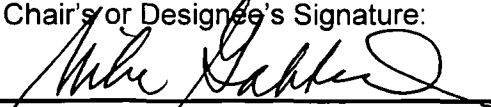


KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Third Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
 Committee on Judiciary
 JDC

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HB 1962 HD2 SD1	HHS, JDC	4/7/26		
<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				✓
TOTAL	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