



The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i
Ka ‘Oihana Ho‘okolokolo, Moku‘āina ‘o Hawai‘i

Testimony to the Thirty-Third State Legislature, 2026 Regular Session

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Sen. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Sen. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair

Monday, March 23, 2026 at 1:40 p.m.
Hawai‘i State Capitol, Conference Room 225

by

Dyan M. Medeiros
Senior Judge, Deputy Chief Judge
Luna Kānāwai ‘Ohana Nui
Family Court of the First Circuit
‘Aha Ho‘okolokolo ‘Ohana o ke Ka‘apuni ‘Ekahi

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 2088, Relating to Written Consents to Adoptions.

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

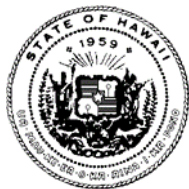
Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary strongly supports House Bill No. 2088 which is included in the Judiciary’s 2026 legislative package.

Currently, there is no notary requirement for written consents in adoption cases under HRS 578-2. By adding the requirement that written consents to adoption be notarized, it will help to prevent the possibility of fraudulent consents.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



RYAN I. YAMANE
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

TRISTA SPEER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

March 22, 2026

TO: The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: Ryan I. Yamane, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2088 – RELATING TO ADOPTIONS.**

Hearing: March 23, 2026, Time 1:40 p.m.
Conference Room 225 & Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this measure, which adds the requirement that written consent to adoption be notarized, provided that the implementation of this requirement does not delay permanency for children involved in Child Welfare Services.

Pursuant to section 587-2(c), Hawaii Revised Statutes, child welfare adoptions do not require parental consent when parental rights have been judicially terminated or when consent is dispensed with by order of the court. In cases where consent is required, notarization of adoption consents strengthens the integrity of the adoption proceedings by confirming that the appropriate parties knowingly and voluntarily provide consent. This additional safeguard reduces the risk of disputes regarding consent and legal challenges that could otherwise disrupt permanency for children.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure