



*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**

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

Wednesday, February 4, 2026 @1:01 PM  
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:** Senate Bill No. 2564, Relating to to Adoptions.

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

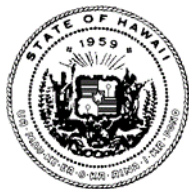
**Judiciary's Position:**

The Judiciary strongly supports Senate Bill No. 2564 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

February 2, 2026

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

FROM: Ryan I. Yamane, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2564 – RELATING TO ADOPTIONS.**

**Hearing:** February 4, 2026, Time 1:01 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.