

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



GOV. MSG. NO. 1189

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

June 5, 2026

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate,
and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on June 5, 2026, the following bill was signed into law:

H.B. NO. 1962, H.D. 2, S.D. 1 RELATING TO FAMILY.
ACT 089

Mahalo,

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawai'i

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FAMILY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 584A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:
4 "§584A- Domestic abuse; exemption from mediation in
5 parentage proceedings. (a) In contested parentage proceedings
6 where there are allegations of domestic abuse, the court shall
7 not require a party alleging the domestic abuse to participate
8 in any component of any mediation program against the wishes of
9 that party. The court may order mediation or refer the parties
10 to mediation only if:
11 (1) Mediation is authorized by the alleged victim of the
12 domestic abuse; and
13 (2) Mediation is provided, in a specialized manner that
14 protects the safety of the alleged victim, by a
15 mediator who is trained in the field of domestic
16 abuse.



1 (b) A mediator who receives a referral or an order from a
2 court to conduct mediation shall screen for the occurrence of
3 domestic abuse between the parties. A mediator shall not engage
4 in mediation when it appears to the mediator, or when either
5 party asserts, that domestic abuse has occurred, unless:

6 (1) Mediation is authorized by the alleged victim of the
7 domestic abuse; and

8 (2) Mediation is provided, in a specialized manner that
9 protects the safety of the alleged victim, by a
10 mediator who is trained in the field of domestic
11 abuse.

12 (c) An attorney or other individual designated by a party
13 may accompany the party to, and participate in, a mediation. A
14 waiver of participation given before the mediation may be
15 rescinded.

16 (d) As used in this section, "domestic abuse" has the same
17 meaning as in section 586-1."

18 SECTION 2. Section 580-41.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
19 amended to read as follows:

20 **"§580-41.5 [~~Battered spouses,~~] Domestic abuse; exemption**
21 **from mediation in divorce proceedings.** (a) In contested



1 divorce proceedings where there are allegations of [~~spousal~~]
2 domestic abuse, the court shall not require a party alleging the
3 [~~spousal~~] domestic abuse to participate in any component of any
4 mediation program against the wishes of that party. The court
5 may order mediation or refer the parties to mediation only if:

6 (1) Mediation is authorized by the alleged victim of the
7 domestic abuse; and

8 (2) Mediation is provided, in a specialized manner that
9 protects the safety of the alleged victim, by a
10 mediator who is trained in the field of domestic
11 abuse.

12 (b) A mediator who receives a referral or an order from a
13 court to conduct mediation shall screen for the occurrence of
14 [~~family violence~~] domestic abuse between the parties. A
15 mediator shall not engage in mediation when it appears to the
16 mediator, or when either party asserts, that [~~family violence~~]
17 domestic abuse has occurred, unless:

18 (1) Mediation is authorized by the alleged victim of the
19 [~~alleged family violence,~~] domestic abuse; and



1 (2) Mediation is provided, in a specialized manner that
2 protects the safety of the alleged victim, by a
3 mediator who is trained in [~~family violence, and~~
4 ~~(3) The victim is permitted to have in attendance at~~
5 ~~mediation, a supporting person of the victim's choice~~
6 ~~including but not limited to an attorney or advocate.~~
7 ~~If the victim chooses to exercise such option, any~~
8 ~~other party to the mediation will be permitted to have~~
9 ~~in attendance at mediation, a supporting person of the~~
10 ~~party's choice including but not limited to an~~
11 ~~attorney or advocate.] the field of domestic abuse.~~

12 [~~(c) In a proceeding concerning the custody or visitation~~
13 ~~of a child, if a protective order is in effect, the court shall~~
14 ~~not require a party alleging family violence to participate in~~
15 ~~any component of any mediation program against the wishes of~~
16 ~~that party.~~

17 ~~(d)] (c) In a proceeding concerning the custody or~~

18 visitation of a child, if [~~there is an allegation of family~~
19 ~~violence and a protective order is not in effect,]~~ a party has
20 alleged domestic abuse, the court may order mediation or refer
21 either party to mediation only if:



- 1 (1) Mediation is authorized by the alleged victim of the
2 [~~alleged family violence,~~] domestic abuse; and
- 3 (2) Mediation is provided, in a specialized manner that
4 protects the safety of the alleged victim, by a
5 mediator who is trained in [~~family violence;~~ and
- 6 ~~(3) The victim is permitted to have in attendance at~~
7 ~~mediation, a supporting person of the victim's choice~~
8 ~~including but not limited to an attorney or advocate.~~
9 ~~If the victim chooses to exercise such option, any~~
10 ~~other party to the mediation will be permitted to have~~
11 ~~in attendance at mediation, a supporting person of the~~
12 ~~party's choice including but not limited to an~~
13 ~~attorney or advocate.] the field of domestic abuse.~~
- 14 (d) An attorney or other individual designated by a party
15 may accompany the party to, and participate in, a mediation. A
16 waiver of participation given before the mediation may be
17 rescinded.
- 18 (e) As used in this section, "domestic abuse" has the same
19 meaning as in section 586-1."



1 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
2 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
3 begun before its effective date.

4 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
5 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



H.B. NO. 1962
H.D. 2
S.D. 1

APPROVED this 5th day of June, 2026

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Green". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "G".

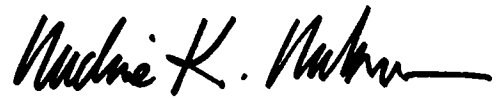
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

HB No. 1962, HD 2, SD 1

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: April 23, 2026
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026.



Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker
House of Representatives

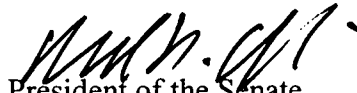



Brian L. Takeshita
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives

THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I

Date: April 14, 2026
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Third Reading in the Senate of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2026.


President of the Senate


Clerk of the Senate