

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 05 , 2026

RE: H.B. No. 1565
H.D. 2

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Finance, to which was referred H.B. No. 1565, H.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CHILD WELFARE SERVICES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish a working group within the Judiciary to improve Family Court processes, including access to legal representation for youth in the child welfare system; and
- (2) Appropriate funds for a site visit, report drafting, facilitator, and paid compensation for certain working group members.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Judiciary; Office of Wellness and Resilience; National Association of Counsel for Children; National Center for Youth Law; Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!; HI H.O.P.E.S. Initiative; and numerous individuals.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Finance that is attached to this report, your



Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1565, H.D. 2, and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

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



CHRIS TODD, Chair



