

Honolulu, Hawaii
FEB 18 , 2026

RE: H.B. No. 1626
H.D. 1

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

Madame:

Your Committee on Human Services & Homelessness, to which was referred H.B. No. 1626 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO YOUTH PENALTIES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Prohibit the assessment of any fees, fines, or court costs against a person who was adjudicated for an offense committed during the person's minority, or against the person's parent or guardian, and discharge all related debt obligations assessed before the effective date of the Act;
- (2) Encourage the use of community service and other programs that employ 'aina-based principles; and
- (3) Repeal certain penalties imposed on parents, guardians, or other persons associated with unaccompanied children in streets and unmarried minors in dance halls.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Judiciary; Office of Hawaiian Affairs; Office of the Public Defender; ACLU of Hawaii; 'Ekolu Mea Nui; Debt Free Justice Hawai'i; Opportunity for Youth Action Hawai'i; O'ahu Youth Action



Board; The Libertarian Party of Hawai'i; Na 'Opio Waiwai; Adult Friends for Youth; and nine individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Education and one individual.

Your Committee finds that imposing fines and court costs on youth and their families is harmful, ineffective, and disproportionately impacts Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander minors. Your Committee further finds that assessing fines in juvenile justice proceedings is not an evidence-based practice for rehabilitating, deterring, or punishing delinquent youth and notes the Judiciary's acknowledgment in testimony that family courts rarely impose fines, fees, or court costs against minors or their parents and that collection rates on fines, fees, and court costs imposed on minors are relatively low.

Your Committee additionally finds that many states have reformed or repealed fees and fines against minors and their families and have discharged outstanding financial penalties that minors and their families have been unable to pay. This measure would align state laws with these actions of other states and encourage practices that would more effectively lower recidivism rates.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Clarifying that either a school's principal or the principal's designee is authorized to act where needed;
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

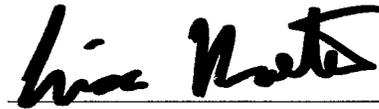
Your Committee notes the Judiciary's request for an effective date of July 1, 2027, which would allow sufficient time to make and test the operational changes in the district courts necessary to implement this measure.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Human Services & Homelessness that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1626, as amended herein, and recommends that



it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1626, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Human Services &
Homelessness,



LISA MARTEN, Chair



Record of Votes of the Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 1626	Committee Referral: HSH, JHA	Date: 2/12/2021		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
HSH Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. MARTEN, Lisa (C)	X			
2. OLDS, Ikaika (VC)	X			
3. AMATO, Terez	X			
4. HARTSFIELD, Daisy	X			
5. KEOHOKAPU-LEE LOY, Sue L.	X			
6. TAKAYAMA, Gregg	X			
7. TAKENOUCI, Jenna				X
8. ALCOS III, David			X	
9. GARCIA, Diamond			X	
TOTAL (9)	6		2	1
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <div style="text-align:center; font-size: small;">committee acronym(s)</div>				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				