

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **3170**

Honolulu, Hawaii

**MAR 25 2026**

RE: H.B. No. 1962  
H.D. 2  
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2026  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health and Human Services, to which was referred H.B. No. 1962, H.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FAMILY,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish an exemption from mediation in parentage proceedings where there are allegations of domestic abuse; and
- (2) Clarify the exemption from mediation in divorce proceedings as it relates to domestic abuse.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Judiciary, Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, Hawaii Women's Coalition, Commission to Promote Uniform Laws, Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!, Hawai'i Women Lawyers, and Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Your Committee finds that mandatory mediation can place a survivor in close contact with their alleged abuser, which can hinder fair outcomes regarding custody, parenting time, or child support. Your Committee further finds that allowing survivors to opt out of mediation protects them from potentially dangerous



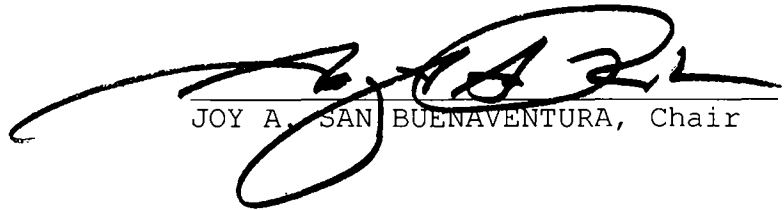
face-to-face encounters with their alleged abuser and prioritizes the physical and emotional well-being of children who may also be at risk. This measure prioritizes the safety and autonomy of alleged victims of domestic abuse, aligning with established best practices in trauma-informed and survivor-centered legal processes.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Making it effective upon its approval; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health and Human Services that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1962, H.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1962, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Health and Human  
Services,



JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, Chair



The Senate  
Thirty-Third Legislature  
State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Health and Human Services**  
**HHS**

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HB 1962 HD2	HHS, JDC	3/18/2026		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A. (C)	✓			
MCKELVEY, Angus L.K. (VC)	✓			
KANUHA, Dru Mamo	✓			
KEOHOKALOLE, Jarrett	✓			
FEVELLA, Kurt	✓			
<b>TOTAL</b>	5	0	0	0
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original    Yellow    Pink File with Committee Report    Committee    Drafting Agency				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes