

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 3657

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 09 2026

RE: H.B. No. 2090

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

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred H.B. No. 2090 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DOMESTIC ABUSE ORDERS FOR PROTECTION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to allow requests to withhold from public inspection the petition record of a denied temporary restraining order or denied protective order to be made in writing, rather than only orally.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Judiciary, Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, Hawaii State Bar Association, Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and one individual.

Your Committee finds that retaliatory counter-petitions can negatively impact domestic abuse victims' employment and housing prospects and hinder the victims' efforts to gain physical and financial independence from their abusers. To address these retaliatory counterpetitions, section 586-4(g), Hawaii Revised Statutes, allows courts to issue an order that withholds a denied petition from public inspection. However, in order to issue these orders, existing law requires the respondent to make an oral request at a court hearing. Given that requests for temporary restraining orders are reviewed and submitted on an ex parte basis and generally without a hearing, there is no ability for



respondents to make an oral request. This measure addresses this issue by aligning existing law with the realities of ex parte proceedings and fundamental principles of procedural fairness.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2090, and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

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




KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Third Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary
JDC

Bill / Resolution No.:* HB 2090	Committee Referral: JDC	Date: 3/17/26		
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RHOADS, Karl (C)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike (VC)	✓			
CHANG, Stanley	✓			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.	✓			
AWA, Brenton	✓			
TOTAL	5	—	—	—
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink File with Committee Report Committee Drafting Agency				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes