

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2248

Honolulu, Hawaii

**FEB 13 2026**

RE: S.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 Health and Human Services, to which was referred S.B. No. 2090 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CHILD CUSTODY,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to allow licensed mental health counselors to be appointed as child custody evaluators.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and Akamai Emotional Wellness, LLC.

Your Committee finds that child custody evaluations are among the most complex and sensitive determinations made within the State's legal system. Your Committee further finds that these evaluations require advanced clinical judgment, a deep understanding of child development, family dynamics, trauma, and mental health diagnoses, as well as the ability to assess risk and make recommendations that prioritize the best interests of the child. Your Committee additionally finds that licensed mental health counselors (LMHCs) are licensed, regulated, and bound by strict ethical codes and education requirements and can serve effectively and responsibly in this critical role. This measure allows LMHCs to serve as custody evaluators to expand the pool of qualified professionals, helping to reduce delays, backlogs, and costs of family court proceedings in the State.



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 S.B. No. 2090 and recommends that it pass Second Reading 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.:* <b>SB 2090</b>	Committee Referral: <b>HHS, JDC</b>	Date: <b>1 / 30 / 2026</b>		
<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
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A. (C)	✓			
MCKELVEY, Angus L.K. (VC)	✓			
KANUHA, Dru Mamo	✓			
KEOHOKALOLE, Jarrett	✓			
FEVELLA, Kurt				✓
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
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**