

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 3043

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 06 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 Judiciary, 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 two individuals.

Your Committee finds that existing law authorizes certain mental health professionals with master's degree-level training to serve as child custody evaluators but does not extend this opportunity to licensed mental health counselors (LMHCs). However, LMHCs possess equivalent graduate-level education, training, and clinical expertise as their peers who are already eligible to serve as child custody evaluators. Your Committee further finds that excluding LMHCs from serving as child custody evaluators unnecessarily restricts a significant portion of the State's qualified workforce from contributing to this critical area of need. Therefore, this measure will promote more efficient court processes and support child-centered decision-making grounded in professional mental health expertise.



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 S.B. No. 2090 and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

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

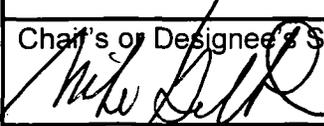
Karl Rhoads

KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary
JDC

| Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 2090 | Committee Referral: HHS, JDC | Date: 2/27/26 | | |
|--|--|-------------------------|----------|----------|
| <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 | | | | ✓ |
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| TOTAL | 3 | — | — | 2 |
| 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