

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2250

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 13 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2572

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. 2572 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGGRAVATED CIRCUMSTANCES IN CHILD PROTECTIVE PROCEEDINGS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Expand the authority of the family court in child protective proceedings to find that aggravated circumstances are present at any stage prior to the termination of parental rights, not only at the outset of the case or the return hearing; and
- (2) Specify what acts of torture against a child constitute aggravated circumstances.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Judiciary and Hawaii State Chapter of Children's Justice Centers.

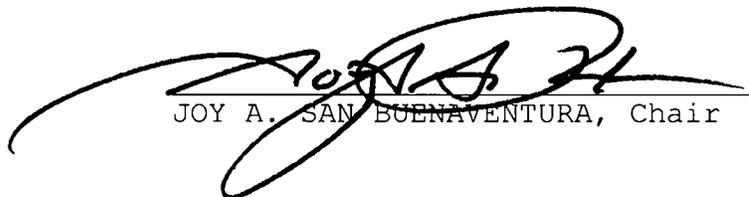
Your Committee finds that if "aggravated circumstances", as defined under section 587A-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, are present in a child protective proceeding it allows the proceeding to advance to permanent planning and a termination of parental rights hearing on an expedited basis. However, your Committee further finds that existing law only allows the family court to make a



finding that aggravated circumstances are present at the return hearing, which occurs at the outset of the case. This measure provides additional opportunity to request an evidentiary hearing to determine whether aggravated circumstances existed at any time prior to the termination of parental rights.

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. 2572 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



