

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

2434

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 19 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2843

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. 2843 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to extend for five years certain provisions from Act 19, Session Laws of Hawaii 2020 (Act 19), and Act 238, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021 (Act 238), relating to abuse of family or household members, including establishing a petty misdemeanor offense of abuse of family or household members, clarifying penalties for violations, and allowing a deferred acceptance of guilty plea for misdemeanor and petty misdemeanor abuse of family or household members offenses.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Office of the Public Defender, Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, Crime Victim Compensation Commission, Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Maui, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Hawaii, Rainbow Family 808, and six individuals.

Your Committee finds that Act 19 established a five-year pilot project to strengthen state and county responses to domestic violence and increase offender accountability, and that Act 238 added coercive control between family or household members to the pilot project. Your Committee further finds that continued implementation is necessary to collect sufficient data and ensure



thoughtful policy evaluation before any permanent decisions are made. This measure addresses the ongoing challenge of domestic violence by extending the sunset dates of Act 19 and Act 238 and the legal provisions that directly affect victim protection and recourse available to both survivors and offenders of abuse, with the goal of reducing recidivism and increasing stability for families affected by domestic violence.

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. 2843 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



