



*The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i*  
*Ka ‘Oihana Ho‘okolokolo, Moku‘āina ‘o Hawai‘i*

**Testimony to the Thirty-Third State Legislature, 2026 Regular Session**

**Senate Committee on Judiciary**

Sen. Karl Rhoads, Chair

Sen. Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Tuesday, April 7 2026, 10:15 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

by

Dyan M. Medeiros

Senior Judge, Deputy Chief Judge

Luna Kānāwai ‘Ohana Nui

Family Court of the First Circuit

‘Aha Ho‘okolokolo ‘Ohana o ke Ka‘apuni ‘Ekahi

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**Bill No. and Title:** House Bill No. 2088, Relating to Adoptions.

**Purpose:** Adds the requirement that a written consent to adoption be notarized.

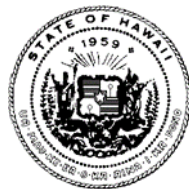
**Judiciary's Position:**

The Judiciary strongly supports House Bill No. 2088 which is included in the Judiciary’s 2026 legislative package.

Currently, there is no notary requirement for written consents in adoption cases under HRS 578-2. By adding the requirement that written consents to adoption be notarized, it will help to prevent the possibility of fraudulent consents.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

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April 4, 2026

TO: The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Ryan I. Yamane, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2088 – RELATING TO ADOPTIONS.**

Hearing: April 7, 2026, 10:15 a.m.  
Conference Room 016 & Videoconference, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this measure, which adds the requirement that written consent to adoption be notarized, provided that the implementation of this requirement does not delay permanency for children involved in Child Welfare Services.

Pursuant to section 587-2(c), Hawaii Revised Statutes, child welfare adoptions do not require parental consent when parental rights have been judicially terminated or when consent is dispensed with by order of the court. In cases where consent is required, notarization of adoption consents strengthens the integrity of the adoption proceedings by confirming that the appropriate parties knowingly and voluntarily provide consent. This additional safeguard reduces the risk of disputes regarding consent and legal challenges that could otherwise disrupt permanency for children.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.