

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **1571**

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 05 2007

RE: H.B. No. 1211  
H.D. 2  
S.D. 2

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2007  
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred H.B. No. 1211, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FAMILY COURT,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to increase fees for court-appointed counsel and guardians ad litem who represent the best interests of children and other persons in Family Court civil cases.

Specifically, the measure:

- (1) Increases fees for legal services from \$40 to \$90 per hour;
- (2) Sets fees for non-legal services at \$60 per hour; and
- (3) Raises the maximum allowable fees for designated Family Court proceedings.

The Family Court of the First Circuit of the Judiciary submitted comments in support of this measure.

Your Committee finds that guardians ad litem play a critical role during child protective proceedings and that legal counsel provide valuable services for indigent parents who are at risk of losing their child or children. This measure will help attract

HB1211 SD2 SSCR LRB 07-4068.doc



and retain guardians ad litem and attorneys who do complex and difficult work on behalf of families.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting language that requires the Judiciary to submit fee-related information to the Department of Budget and Finance for the Department to process fees;
- (2) Adding an unspecified appropriation to be expended by the Department of Budget and Finance; and
- (3) Changing the effective date of the measure to July 1, 2008, to allow time for the respective agencies to prepare for implementation of the new fees.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Ways and Means that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1211, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1211, H.D. 2, S.D. 2.


Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Ways and Means,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ROSALYN H. BAKER, Chair



The Senate  
Twenty-Fourth Legislature  
State of Hawaii

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Ways and Means**  
**WAM**

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HB 1211 HD2, SD1	JDL, WAM	3/29/07		
<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 type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
BAKER, Rosalyn H. (C)	/			
TSUTSUI, Shan S. (VC)	/			
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne	/			
ENGLISH, J. Kalani	/			
FUKUNAGA, Carol	/			
HOOSER, Gary L.	/			
KIM, Donna Mercado	/			
MENOR, Ron				/
TOKUDA, Jill N.	/			
HEMMINGS, Fred	/			
WHALEN, Paul	/			
<b>TOTAL</b>	10	0	0	1
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	Clerk's Office	Drafting Agency		

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes