

Honolulu, Hawaii

March 14, 2008

RE: S.B. No. 2055  
S.D. 2  
H.D. 1

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2008  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Human Services & Housing, to which was referred S.B. No. 2055, S.D. 2, entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this bill is to further protect children involved in Family Court proceedings by:

- (1) Requiring the Board of Family Court Judges to establish policies and procedures for child custody evaluators and administer certification procedures; and
- (2) Establishing licensing requirements and minimal education and experience requirements, and requiring continuing training for child custody evaluators.

The National Association of Social Workers - Hawaii Chapter, Oahu VOICES, and several concerned individuals testified in support of this bill. The Judiciary, Domestic Violence Action Center, and Hawaii State Coalition for Domestic Violence provided comments.



Your Committee has amended this bill by:

- (1) Replacing the Board of Family Court Judges with the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs as the administering and oversight entity;
- (2) Removing the exclusion of social workers employed by the Judiciary as child custody evaluators;
- (3) Allowing qualified attorneys to be child custody evaluators;
- (4) Exempting social workers employed by the Judiciary from the child custody evaluator licensing requirements; and
- (5) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Human Services & Housing that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2055, S.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2055, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Human Services &  
Housing,



MAILE SHIMABUKURO, Chair



State of Hawaii  
House of Representatives  
The Twenty-fourth Legislature

HSCR 1107-08

**Record of Votes of the Committee on Human Services & Housing**

<b>Bill/Resolution No.:</b> <i>SB 2055, SP 2</i>	<b>Committee Referral:</b> <i>HSH, JUD, FIN</i>	<b>Date:</b> <i>3/11/08</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
<b>The recommendation is to:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
HSH Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. SHIMABUKURO, Maile S. L. (C)	X			
2. RHOADS, Karl (VC)	X			
3. AWANA, Karen Leinani	X			
4. BELATTI, Della Au				X
5. BERTRAM, Joe, III	X			
6. CABANILLA, Rida T.R.	X			
7. GREEN, Josh, M.D.	X			
8. MIZUNO, John	X			
9. TOKIOKA, James Kunane	X			
10. WARD, Gene, Ph.D.	X			
<b>TOTAL (10)</b>	9 <del>10</del>	0	0	1
<b>The recommendation is:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">committee acronym(s)</div>				
<b>Vice Chair's or designee's signature:</b> <u><i>Karl Rhoads</i></u>				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original (White) – Committee      Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office				