

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 11 2008

RE: S.B. No. 3053

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
President of the Senate
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2008
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Human Services and Public Housing, to which was referred S.B. No. 3053 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SIBLING VISITATION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Allow the Department of Human Services and the prospective adoptive parent of a child to be adopted, to enter into an enforceable agreement providing for post adoptive contact between the child and the child's siblings; and
- (2) Clarify the duties and responsibilities of a guardian of a minor ward to ensure that the ward who requests visitation is allowed on-going contact visitation with the ward's siblings.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Human Services and Foster Family Programs of Hawai'i. Comments were received from the Judiciary.

Your Committee finds that the removal of a child from the child's family is an extremely traumatic experience for any child. The power of the sibling bond is a persistent theme in sibling studies. In some cases, sibling relationships are more influential than any other, including those with parents.



Your Committee believes that sibling visitation should be an integral part of the long-term permanent planning process for children adopted or having a guardian.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Human Services and Public Housing that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 3053 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Labor.


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


SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, Chair



The Senate
Twenty-Fourth Legislature
State of Hawaii

Record of Votes
Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
HSP

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB 3053	HSP, JDL	2/8/08		
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne (C)	✓			
IHARA, Jr., Les (VC)	✓			
HOOSER, Gary L.	✓			
SAKAMOTO, Norman	✓			
HEMMINGS, Fred				✓
TOTAL	4	0	0	1
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution:				
Original	Yellow	Pink	Goldenrod	
File with Committee Report	Clerk's Office	Drafting Agency	Committee File Copy	

*Only one measure per Record of Votes