

Honolulu, Hawaii

January 29, 2008

RE: H.B. No. 2037
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 H.B. No. 2037 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 Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Oahu VOICES, and a concerned individual testified in support of this bill. The National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter supported this measure with amendments. The Judiciary, Board of Medical Examiners, and Domestic Violence Action Center 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) Clarifying the term "psychiatrist" as a "physician specializing in psychiatry";
- (3) Clarifying that a department director may also implement disciplinary action for unprofessional conduct of a child custody evaluator; and
- (4) 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 H.B. No. 2037, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2037, 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



