

February 19, 2010

To: Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

LATE TESTIMONY

From: Tom Marzec

Subj: Testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **HB2061 HD1** Child custody and military deployment

Hearing: Friday, February 19, 2010; 10:00 a.m.; Room 308, State Capitol

As a family court activist for reform and retired naval officer, I am well-aware of the special issues of our military service members and families, particularly with respect to family court actions. Other states have passed similar legislation addressing deployed military parents and child custody.

The HD1 version of this bill can benefit from the interested stakeholders (Dept. of Defense, Family Law Section (FLS) of the Hawaii State Bar Association and local military community organizations) continuing to collaborate to improve the language. The HD1 version of this bill was created in response to concerns by the Judiciary and FLS, in a manner which conformed to the specific interests of the Dept. of Defense.

Finalizing a proposed HD2 version was not possible prior to this hearing, but I will meet with Tom Farrell of the FLS on Saturday February 20, 2010 to continue efforts to evolve the language and get stakeholder agreement. I recommend that this Committee be open to a proposed HD2 version which the stakeholders have agreed upon, which can be provided if decision-making is deferred until February 24, 2010. Alternatively, this HD1 version should be passed as is and modified language can be provided at a later point in the hearing process.

Your consideration in addressing these serious issues faced by military parents, is very appreciated.