

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2138

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 10 2014

RE: S.B. No. 2188
S.D. 1

Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
President of the Senate
Twenty-Seventh State Legislature
Regular Session of 2014
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Human Services, to which was referred S.B. No. 2188 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ADOPTION RECORDS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to provide adoptees who have attained eighteen years of age unfettered access to the adoptees' adoption records.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from twelve individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of the Attorney General and two individuals.

Your Committee finds that Hawaii's adoption record law conditions access to adoption records on birthparent approval, which is a significant hurdle for adoptees to overcome. Historically, adoptees' access to adoption records was limited due to the prevailing idea that adopted children were better off if they were unaware of their adoption. Current research indicates that the secrecy surrounding adoption actually has detrimental effects on adoptees. Your Committee recognizes the substantial interest that adoptees have in learning their familial history. However, your Committee heard testimony expressing constitutional right to privacy concerns about this measure and finds that the concerns raised merit further consideration.

Therefore, your Committee has amended this measure by:


2014-1124 SSCR SMA.doc



- (1) Inserting an effective date of July 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Human Services that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2188, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2188, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Labor.

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

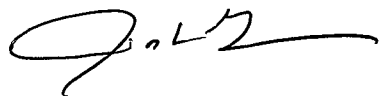


SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Seventh Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Human Services
HMS

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 2188	Committee Referral: HMS, JDL	Date: 2/4/14		
<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
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne (C)	✓			
GREEN, Josh (VC)	✓			
KIDANI, Michelle N.				✓
TANIGUCHI, Brian T.				✓
SLOM, Sam	✓			
TOTAL	3	0	0	2
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