

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 16 2017

RE: S.B. No. 499

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2017
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary and Labor, to which was referred
S.B. No. 499 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE ZERO TO THREE COURT,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to appropriate
funds for staff positions and various services to support the
Hawaii Zero to Three Court.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Judiciary; Department of Human Services; Community
Children's Council of Hawaii; Hawaii's Early Childhood Action
Strategy; Family Programs Hawaii; Hawaii Family Support Institute,
Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work, University of Hawai'i at
Mānoa; Parents And Children Together; Rainbow Family 808; ZERO TO
THREE; Center on Disability Studies, University of Hawai'i at
Mānoa; Hawaii Children's Action Network; and four individuals.

Your Committee finds that the Hawaii Zero to Three Court team
works to increase awareness among those who work with maltreated
infants and toddlers about the negative effects of abuse and
neglect upon young children and strives to change local systems to
improve outcomes and court involvement in the lives of very young
children. Specifically, this court program trains professionals,
secures effective service resources, encourages collaboration
among existing community service providers, and increases parent-
child contact. Key features of this specialized court include
monthly case conferences for each family, monthly court hearings,
and a court team composed of a lead family court judge, designated



guardian ad litem, parents' counsel, deputy attorneys general, and social workers from the Department of Human Services.

In November 2012, the Hawaii Zero to Three Court lost its national funding, but the Judiciary continued to provide services to infants and families, and the program was transferred for administrative purposes to the Drug Court of the Family Court of the First Circuit. The family drug court has since received funding via a grant through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. However, this grant is scheduled to expire in July 2017. This measure provides funding that is critically needed to ensure continued and enhanced services and resources and to further develop the capacity of the Hawaii Zero to Three Court team.

Your Committee notes that this measure requests funding for a program manager position and case manager position that is not included in the Judiciary's budget request under S.B. No. 469, Regular Session of 2017, as amended. Your Committee believes that the inclusion of these position funding requests in the Judiciary's budget merits further discussion by your Committee on Ways and Means.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary and Labor that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 499 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary and
Labor,




GILBERT S.C. KEITH-AGARAN, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Ninth Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
JDL

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 499	Committee Referral: JDL, WAM	Date: 2/10/17		
<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
KEITH-AGARAN, Gilbert S.C. (C)	✓			
RHOADS, Karl (VC)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike	✓			
KIM, Donna Mercado				✓
THIELEN, Laura H.	✓			
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