

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

**3258**

Honolulu, Hawaii

**MAR 28 2018**

RE: S.R. No. 61

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2018

Sir:

Your Committee on Human Services, to which was referred S.R. No. 61 entitled:

"SENATE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE JUDICIARY AND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO NOT USE BLINDNESS AS A BASIS FOR DENYING PARENTAL RIGHTS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to request the Judiciary and Department of Human Services to not use blindness as a basis for denying parental rights in regard to child welfare, foster care, family law, and adoption.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from Young Progressives Demanding Action, O'ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii, Progressive Democrats of Hawai'i, Oahu Intertribal Council, and three individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Judiciary, Department of Human Services, Department of the Attorney General, and Disability and Communication Access Board.

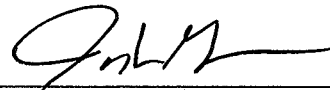
Your Committee finds that blind individuals often face certain preconceived biases and attitudes throughout their lives, especially during family and dependency law proceedings where custody and visitation are at stake and in public and private adoption, guardianship, and foster care proceedings. Your Committee further finds that roughly one in four households in which a parent is blind have been visited by child protection



services. Your Committee recognizes that blindness itself does not preclude a parent's ability to raise a child to become a responsible and productive adult. This measure seeks to ensure that individuals who are blind have the same opportunity as individuals who are not blind to serve as parents and care for their children.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Human Services that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.R. No. 61 and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Judiciary.

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



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JOSH GREEN, Chair



The Senate  
 Twenty-Ninth Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Human Services**  
**HMS**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>SR 61</b>	Committee Referral: <b>HMS, JDC</b>	Date: <b>3/19/18</b>		
<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
GREEN, Josh (C)	✓			
CHANG, Stanley (VC)	✓			
HARIMOTO, Breene				✓
TOKUDA, Jill N.	✓			
WAKAI, Glenn				✓
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>			<b>2</b>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original                      Yellow                      Pink                      Goldenrod File with Committee Report    Clerk's Office              Drafting Agency              Committee File Copy				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes