
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILE STATUS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that federal law provides
2 protections to individuals classified as special immigrant
3 juveniles. The legislature further finds that, consistent with
4 the actions of other states, the State may assist individuals in
5 claiming special immigrant juvenile status by clarifying that
6 family court has jurisdiction over unmarried individuals under
7 twenty-one years of age for purposes of awarding custody or
8 guardianship pursuant to a motion for factual findings within
9 the meaning of the Immigration and Nationality Act, title 8
10 United States Code section 1101(a)(27)(J).

11 SECTION 2. Section 571-11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
12 amended to read as follows:

13 "§571-11 Jurisdiction; children. Except as otherwise
14 provided in this chapter, the court shall have exclusive
15 original jurisdiction in proceedings:

16 (1) Concerning any person who is alleged to have committed
17 an act prior to achieving eighteen years of age that



1 would constitute a violation or attempted violation of
2 any federal, state, or local law or county ordinance.
3 Regardless of where the violation occurred,
4 jurisdiction may be taken by the court of the circuit
5 where the person resides, is living, or is found, or
6 in which the offense is alleged to have occurred;

7 (2) Concerning any child living or found within the
8 circuit:

9 (A) Who is neglected as to or deprived of educational
10 services because of the failure of any person or
11 agency to exercise that degree of care for which
12 it is legally responsible;

13 (B) Who is beyond the control of the child's parent
14 or other custodian or whose behavior is injurious
15 to the child's own or others' welfare;

16 (C) Who is neither attending school nor receiving
17 educational services required by law whether
18 through the child's own misbehavior or
19 nonattendance or otherwise; or

20 (D) Who is in violation of curfew;



- 1 (3) To determine the custody of any child or appoint a
- 2 guardian of any child;
- 3 (4) For the adoption of a person under chapter 578;
- 4 (5) For the termination of parental rights under sections
- 5 571-61 through 571-63;
- 6 (6) For judicial consent to the marriage, employment, or
- 7 enlistment of a child, when consent is required by
- 8 law;
- 9 (7) For the treatment or commitment of a mentally
- 10 defective or mentally ill child, or a child with an
- 11 intellectual disability;
- 12 (8) Under the Interstate Compact on Juveniles under
- 13 chapter 582 or the Interstate Compact for Juveniles
- 14 under chapter 582D;
- 15 (9) For the protection of any child under chapter 587A;
- 16 [and]
- 17 (10) For a change of name as provided in section 574-
- 18 5(a)(2)(C) [-]; and
- 19 (11) Concerning custody or guardianship of an immigrant
- 20 child pursuant to a motion for special immigrant
- 21 juvenile factual findings requesting a determination



H.B. NO. 1978

Report Title:

Special Immigrant Juvenile Status; Family Court Jurisdiction

Description:

Specifies that the family court has jurisdiction in proceedings concerning the custody or guardianship of an immigrant child pursuant to a motion for Special Immigrant Juvenile factual findings requesting a determination that the child was abused, neglected, or abandoned before the age of 18.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

