

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 11 , 2022

RE: H.B. No. 1537

Honorable Scott K. Saiki  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-First State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2022  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred H.B. No. 1537 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE CHILDREN'S JUSTICE PROGRAM,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to update the Children's Justice Program to include the investigation and management of cases involving suspected or confirmed child sex trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation of children, other child maltreatment, and child witnesses to crime or violence.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Judiciary; Department of the Attorney General; Department of Education; Honolulu Police Department; Office of the Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Kaua'i; Office of the Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Hawaii; County of Kauai Victim/Witness Program; Hawai'i Exploitation and Trafficking Unit; Child and Family Service, Hilo Office; Kids Matter-Friends of the Children's Justice Center of West Hawaii; YWCA of Kaua'i; Sex Abuse Treatment Center; St. Michael the Archangel Church; Friends of the Children's Justice Center of Kauai; Friends of the Children's Justice Center of Oahu; Parents and Children Together; Susannah Wesley Community Center; Hawaii State Chapter of Children's Justice Centers; Neighborhood Place of Kona; and four individuals.



Your Committee finds that the Children's Justice Program was established to ensure a fair and neutral process for handling reports of alleged child sexual abuse that protects the rights of victims and alleged perpetrators. This measure would update statutory language to reflect the Program's existing priorities for cases involving sexual abuse of a child, serious physical child abuse, child sex trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation of children, other child maltreatment, and children who are witnesses to crime or violence.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1537 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Judiciary &  
Hawaiian Affairs,



HARE M. NAKASHIMA, Chair



State of Hawaii  
House of Representatives  
The Thirty-first Legislature

*JHSCR 210-22*

Record of Votes of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Bill/Resolution No.: <i>HB 1537</i>	Committee Referral: <i>JHA, FIN</i>	Date: <i>2-1-22</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
JHA Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. NAKASHIMA, Mark M. (C)	<i>/</i>			
2. MATAYOSHI, Scot Z. (VC)	<i>/</i>			
3. ICHIYAMA, Linda	<i>/</i>			
4. KOBAYASHI, Dale T.	<i>/</i>			
5. LoPRESTI, Matthew S.				<i>/</i>
6. LOWEN, Nicole E.	<i>/</i>			
7. McKELVEY, Angus L.K.	<i>/</i>			
8. NAKAMURA, Nadine K.	<i>/</i>			
9. TAKUMI, Roy M.	<i>/</i>			
10. TODD, Chris	<i>/</i>			
11. TOKIOKA, James Kunane	<i>/</i>			
12. WARD, Gene	<i>/</i>			
TOTAL (12)	<i>11</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: <i>[Signature]</i>				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee      Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office      Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				