



‘Ōlelo Hō‘ike ‘Aha Kau Kānāwai

**SB2663, SD1, HD1  
RELATING TO FILING FEES**

Ke Kōmike Hale o ka ‘Oihana ‘Imi Kālā  
House Committee on Finance

‘Apelila 4, 2022

2:30 p.m.

Hālāwai Keleka‘a‘ike / Lumi 308

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SB2663, SD1, HD1, which changes the filing fee schedule for paternity actions by establishing an initial filing fee of \$100 and eliminating fees to file motions.

The uniform and one-time reduced \$100 filing fee and amended Motion fee schedule makes all family court proceedings more predictable and ensures parity. The reduced filing fee for motions in paternity cases will no longer present a barrier for low-income self-represented pro se litigants who want to bring a motion to change custody or increase child support under the child support guidelines. Custodial parents in private cases will be able to seek custody changes and an increase child support in the best interest of the children. Families will likely seek the assistance of the court because the filing fees have been reduced and are affordable. When the motions requesting child support increases are granted, the child’s `ohana’s standard of living will also increase.

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs urges the Committee to PASS SB2663, SD1, HD1. Mahalo piha for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair,  
The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair, and  
Committee on Finance

Re: **SB 2663 SD1 HD 1 – RELATING TO FILING FEES**

Hearing: Monday, April 4, 2022, 10:00 a.m., Conference Room 308 and Videoconference

Position: **Strong support**

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the Committee on Finance:

The Health Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i strongly supports SB 2663 SD1 HD1. This measure changes the filing fee schedule for paternity actions by establishing an initial filing fee of \$100 and eliminating fees to file motions.

The Health Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i favors this measure as it would create uniformity in filing fees between matrimonial actions and paternity actions making the courtroom process financially predictable for the litigants which is important, especially for low-income litigants. This is especially important when the paternity suit may necessarily involve motions practice. Having waivers of filing fees for motions, would make the cost of suit predictable and less stressful in an already stressful environment.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Respectfully yours,

*Melodie R. Aduja*

Chair, Health Committee

Democratic Party of Hawai'i

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