

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



GOV. MSG. NO. 1273

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

June 4, 2025

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate,
and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Nadine Nakamura
Speaker, and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on June 4, 2025, the following bill was signed into law:

H.B. NO. 874, H.D. 3,
S.D. 2, C.D. 1

RELATING TO CHILD PERFORMERS.
ACT 173

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Green M.D.".

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawai'i

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CHILD PERFORMERS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Coogan Law, also
2 known as the California Child Actor's Bill, was first passed in
3 California in 1939 to protect child actors from exploitation in
4 the entertainment industry. The law was named after actor
5 Jackie Coogan, who became one of the highest-paid child stars of
6 his time, only to have his earnings mismanaged by his parents,
7 leaving him with little financial security when he reached
8 adulthood. The Coogan Law has had a lasting impact in
9 California by securing financial protection for child actors,
10 ensuring that they can enjoy the benefits of their hard work
11 once they become adults, and promoting greater responsibility in
12 the entertainment industry.

13 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to protect the
14 safety, morals, health, and well-being of child performers who
15 work or reside in the State by requiring that a portion of the
16 child performer's earnings be kept in trust for the benefit of
17 the child performer until the child reaches the age of majority.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 554B, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§554B- Minors in theatrical employment; mandatory
5 trust account; fiduciary duty; rules. (a) The parent or legal
6 guardian of a minor in theatrical employment shall establish a
7 trust account for the benefit of the minor before the minor's
8 first instance of theatrical employment and shall maintain the
9 account until the custodian of the account transfers the
10 contents of the account to the minor or the minor's estate.

11 (b) The employer of the minor in theatrical employment
12 shall deposit at least fifteen per cent of the minor's gross
13 earnings to the trust account for the minor's benefit until the
14 minor attains the age of majority or is emancipated.

15 (c) The trust account shall be established with an
16 independent third-party trustee that ensures the security and
17 growth of the trust account and that provides the minor and the
18 minor's parent or legal guardian with quarterly statements.

19 (d) Any contracts or agreements involving a minor in
20 theatrical employment shall be signed by at least one parent or
21 legal guardian.



1 (e) A parent or legal guardian of a minor in theatrical
2 employment may access the funds within the mandatory trust
3 account established pursuant to subsection (a) for the minor,
4 but only for the benefit of the minor.

5 (f) Any misappropriation or fraudulent use of funds within
6 the mandatory trust account established pursuant to subsection
7 (a) by the parent or legal guardian of a minor in theatrical
8 employment, or the independent third-party trustee acting as the
9 custodian of the mandatory trust account, shall be a breach of
10 fiduciary duty subject to civil penalties, criminal prosecution,
11 and, in the case of the third-party trustee, removal from the
12 position of trustee.

13 (g) This section shall only apply when the gross income of
14 the minor in theatrical employment is at least:

- 15 (1) \$5,000 for a project; or
- 16 (2) \$20,000 in a calendar year.

17 (h) For the purposes of this section:

18 "Employer" includes any individual, partnership,
19 association, joint stock company, trust, corporation, or the
20 personal representative of the estate of a deceased individual,
21 or the receiver, trustee, or successor of any of the same,



1 employing any person, but shall not include the State or any
2 political subdivision thereof or the United States.

3 "Theatrical employment" means gainful occupation as a
4 model; dancer; singer; musician; social media influencer;
5 entertainer; or motion picture, television, radio, or theatrical
6 performer."

7 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
8 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
9 begun before its effective date.

10 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

11 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



H.B. NO. 874
H.D. 3
S.D. 2
C.D. 1

APPROVED this 4th day of June, 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Green MD". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "G".

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

HB No. 874, HD 3, SD 2, CD 1

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: April 30, 2025
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025.



Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker
House of Representatives

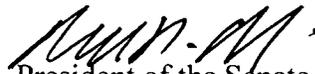


Brian L. Takeshita
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives

THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I

Date: April 30, 2025
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai‘i, Regular Session of 2025.


President of the Senate


Clerk of the Senate