STAND. COM. REP. NO.



Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 28 , 2025

RE: H.B. No. 239 H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura Speaker, House of Representatives Thirty-Third State Legislature Regular Session of 2025 State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred H.B. No. 239, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CHILD ABUSE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to amend the definition of "child abuse or neglect" by clarifying that the failure to provide certain needs to a child shall not constitute child abuse or neglect if the sole reason the person responsible for the care of the child is unable to adequately provide for the child's care is due to a lack of financial resources.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Office of Wellness and Resilience; Hawaii Coalition for Child Protective Reform; Hawai'i Youth Services Network; Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!; Early Childhood Action Strategy; Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Catholic Charities Hawai'i; Ho'oikaika Partnership; Domestic Violence Action Center; and four individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from six individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Human Services.

Your Committee finds that the recent update to the federal Administration for Children and Families' Child Welfare Policy

2025-2330 HB239 HD1 HSCR HMSO Manual encourages states to exclude factors such as poverty and income-related issues from the definitions of child abuse and neglect. This measure would align Hawaii's definition of "child abuse or neglect" with these federal guidelines and improve outcomes for families in need by preventing unnecessary family separations due to financial hardship.

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. 239, H.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

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

DAVID A. TARNAS, Chair

State of Hawaii House of Representatives The Thirty-third Legislature

HSUR 1051

Record of Votes of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Bill/Resolution No.: Committee Referral: Date:						·
	HB 239 HDI	HCH	AHU,	02/25/2025		
	The committee is reconside	ring its previous decision	on the measure.		, ,	
The recommendation is to: Pass, unamended (as is) Pass, with amendments (HD) Hold						
Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)						
	JHA Mem	bers	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1.	TARNAS, David A. (C	5)				
H						
2.	POEPOE, Mahina (VO	C)	$\overline{}$		77.3127 (1 PPP)	
2	DEL ACTIVE DE	ii jii jiye				
3.	BELATTI, Della Au					
4.	COCHRAN, Elle					
	COCHRAN, ENC		10.00		5 3 1 16	
5.	HASHEM, Mark J.					As this stips with the
6.	KAHALOA, Kirstin		3E-WHI.2	200-22	and the second	
7.	PERRUSO, Amy A.					
8.	TAKAYAMA, Gregg	in saanii ka saa iyo ka saa iyo ka saa k			a supposition of the same	
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9.	TODD, Chris	e miele gang despite copogni		TO 192 Shippi		Hamala Sasanga megasa
10	GARCIA, Diamond		<u> </u>			
10.	GARCIA, Diamond				7017255	
11.	SHIMIZU, Garner M.					
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	TOTAL (1	1)		0	Ü	4
The recommendation is: Adopted If joint referral, did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)						
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:						
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO						