

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

3021

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 19 2008

RE: H.B. No. 523  
H.D. 2  
S.D. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2008  
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Human Services and Public Housing, to which was referred H.B. No. 523, H.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CHILDREN,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish guiding principles by which the Department of Human Services shall abide with respect to foster children; and
- (2) Authorize the family court to issue necessary orders, sua sponte or on motion of a guardian ad litem, to ensure adherence to these guiding principles.

Testimony in support of this measure was submitted by the Department of Human Services, Hawaii Youth Services Network, and the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i. Written testimony commenting on the measure was submitted by the Judiciary.

Your Committee finds that this measure would give youth a voice and the ability to participate in significant decisions impacting their own lives in court hearings, meetings with their case workers, and transitional planning conferences. Your Committee further finds that this measure would promote the stability of foster placements, assist foster children in understanding the protections available to them when they enter

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foster custody, and help to improve the overall quality of life for foster children.

Your Committee has amended this measure by changing the effective date to "upon approval".

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Human Services and Public Housing that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 523, H.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 523, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Labor.


Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Human Services and  
Public Housing,

*Suzanne Chun Oakland*  
SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, Chair



The Senate  
 Twenty-Fourth Legislature  
 State of Hawaii

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Human Services and Public Housing**  
**HSP**

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HB 523, HD2	HSP, JDL	3/13/08		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne (C)	✓			
IHARA, Jr., Les (VC)	✓			
HOOSER, Gary L.				✓
SAKAMOTO, Norman	✓			
HEMMINGS, Fred				✓
<b>TOTAL</b>	3	0	0	2
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution:				
Original	Yellow	Pink		
File with Committee Report	Clerk's Office	Drafting Agency		

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes