

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1019

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 01 2019

RE: S.B. No. 947

S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirtieth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2019
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred S.B. No. 947, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FAMILIES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to prohibit the disability of a parent or caregiver from being the sole factor in determining fitness as a foster parent, adoptive parent, guardian, parent seeking custody or visitation, or provider of a safe family home.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from Disability and Communication Access Board, Americans for Democratic Action, O'ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, and two individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Human Services.

Your Committee finds that the court makes a decision regarding the custody, visitation, adoption, or guardianship of children based on the welfare and best interests of the child. However, in making that determination, the disability of a parent or guardian should not be the basis for denial or restriction of custody, visitation, adoption, or guardianship of children. This measure expressly prohibits the disability of a parent or guardian from being the sole factor in determining fitness.



As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 947, S.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary,



KARL RHOADS, Chair



