

---

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FAMILIES.

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

1           SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to protect the best  
2 interests of children parented or cared for by persons with  
3 disabilities by prohibiting the disability of a parent or  
4 caregiver from being considered as the sole factor in  
5 determining the fitness of any:

- 6           (1) Foster parent or resource family;  
7           (2) Prospective adoptive parent of a minor;  
8           (3) Prospective guardian of a minor;  
9           (4) Person seeking custody or visitation of a minor child;  
10           or  
11           (5) Parent or caregiver when evaluating whether a child's  
12           family is willing and able to provide the child with a  
13           safe family home.

14           SECTION 2. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
15 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately  
16 designated and to read as follows:



1           "§346- Department standards and requirements;  
2 disability. The department shall not consider the disability of  
3 a person to be the sole factor in making a determination under  
4 section 346-17 or section 346-19.7. If the department makes a  
5 determination to deny the petition of a disabled person under  
6 section 346-17 or section 346-19.7, the department shall make  
7 specific written findings stating the basis for the  
8 determination. The party attempting to demonstrate that the  
9 disability impairs a person's ability to parent must prove that  
10 the disability is a factor, and demonstrate a clear nexus  
11 between the disability and the alleged parental deficiency."

12           SECTION 3. Chapter 560, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
13 amended by adding a new section to article V, part 2 to be  
14 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

15           "§560:5- Judicial appointment of guardian; disability.  
16 The court shall not consider the disability of a prospective  
17 guardian to be the sole factor in the court's determination to  
18 approve or deny the appointment of a guardian pursuant to this  
19 part. If the court makes a determination to deny guardianship  
20 to a person who is disabled, the court shall make specific  
21 written findings stating the basis for this determination. The



1 party attempting to demonstrate that the disability of a  
2 prospective guardian impairs the prospective guardian's ability  
3 to parent must prove that the disability is a factor, and  
4 demonstrate a clear nexus between the disability and the alleged  
5 parental deficiency."

6 SECTION 4. Chapter 571, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
7 amended by adding a new section to part V to be appropriately  
8 designated and to read as follows:

9 "§571- Criteria and procedure in awarding custody and  
10 visitation; disability. The court shall not consider the  
11 disability of a person seeking custody or visitation of a minor  
12 to be the sole factor in the court's determination made pursuant  
13 to this part. If the court makes a determination to deny  
14 custody or visitation to a person who is disabled, the court  
15 shall make specific written findings stating the basis for this  
16 determination. The party attempting to demonstrate that the  
17 disability of a person seeking custody or visitation impairs the  
18 person's ability to parent must prove that the disability is a  
19 factor, and demonstrate a clear nexus between the disability and  
20 the alleged parental deficiency."



1 SECTION 5. Chapter 587A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding a new section to part III to be appropriately  
3 designated and to read as follows:

4 "§587A- Safe family home factors; disability. The court  
5 shall not consider the disability of a parent or caregiver to be  
6 the sole factor in the court's determination made pursuant to  
7 this part. If the court makes a determination that a child's  
8 family is unable to provide a safe family home and one or more  
9 of the child's parents or caregivers are disabled, the court  
10 shall make specific written findings stating the basis for this  
11 determination. The party attempting to demonstrate that the  
12 disability of a parent or caregiver impairs the parent's or  
13 caregiver's ability to parent must prove that the disability is  
14 a factor, and demonstrate a clear nexus between the disability  
15 and the alleged parental deficiency."

16 SECTION 6. This Act does not affect rights and duties that  
17 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were  
18 begun before its effective date.

19 SECTION 7. New statutory material is underscored.

20 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Department of Human Services; Family Court; Parental Rights;  
Disabled Persons

**Description:**

Prohibits 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. (SB947 HD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

