

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

729

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 04 2021

RE: S.B. No. 597  
S.D. 2

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-First State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2021  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred S.B. No. 597, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to allow candidates seeking election to use campaign funds for child and vital household dependent care costs under certain conditions.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from Common Cause Hawaii, AAUW of Hawaii, and five individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Campaign Spending Commission.

Your Committee finds that parenthood and care for a candidate's dependents can be an unnecessary and unjust barrier to political office. A potential solution to this problem is to allow candidates for elected office to use campaign funds to defray the expensive costs of a candidate's child care or dependent family care. Your Committee further finds that a growing number of candidates and good governance organizations are pushing state legislatures and elections commissions to adopt similar proposals because it would encourage more women and low-income candidates to run for public office by clearing a restrictive financial barrier for parents and caregivers.



Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Specifying that a child for which care costs may be paid with campaign funds be under the age of twelve; and
- (2) Making a technical, nonsubstantive amendment for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

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. 597, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 597, S.D. 2.

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



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KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate  
Thirty-First Legislature  
State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Judiciary**  
**JDC**

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:
SB 597 SD1	HMS, JDC	02/25/2021

The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.  
If so, then the previous decision was to: \_\_\_\_\_

The Recommendation is:

Pass, unamended 2312     Pass, with amendments 2311     Hold 2310     Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RHOADS, Karl (C)	✓			
KEOHOKALOLE, Jarrett (VC)				✓
ACASIO, Laura	✓			
GABBARD, Mike	✓			
KIM, Donna Mercado	✓			
LEE, Chris	✓			
FEVELLA, Kurt	✓			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

Recommendation:  Adopted     Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature: *Paul Rhoads*

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\*Only one measure per Record of Votes