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MEDIA RELEASE

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CHILD ABANDONMENT BILL TO BE HEARD

The Senate Judiciary Committee will hear Senate Bill 2886 today in room 016 at 9:30 a.m. Senator Will Espero introduced this measure to address the disappearance of Peter Boy Kema over 10 years ago. The bill makes it a misdemeanor to leave a child with another person if the person's true identity, place of residence, or employment are unknown.

"Peter Boy's parents said they gave their son to a lady on Oahu who cannot be found to exist. Their statements and excuses have allowed them to avoid justice in Peter Boy's disappearance. SB2886 attempts to make certain a situation like this never happens again," Espero commented.

The measure also clarifies abandonment of a child in the first degree when a person deserts a child in any place with the intent to abandon it. Leaving a newborn at a hospital, fire or police station does not constitute a violation, under the Safe Haven law.

End