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FIRST CIRCUIT
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IN THE FAMILY COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT
STATE OF HAWAI'I

**SPECIAL PROCEEDING TO
UNSEAL ADOPTION RECORDS**

) Case Number: 1FFM-24-0000018
)
) ORDER CONCERNING PUBLIC FIRST LAW
) CENTER'S LETTER TO COURT FILED
) JANUARY 26, 2026
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**ORDER CONCERNING PUBLIC FIRST LAW CENTER'S
LETTER TO COURT FILED JANUARY 26, 2026**

On January 26, 2026, the Public First Law Center ("Movant") filed its letter to Court "Re *In re Special Proceeding to Unseal Adoption Records* (1FFM-24-18) and *In re Special Proceeding to Unseal Portions of Child Protective Act Proceeding* (1FFM-24-19)". The letter was filed both in 1FFM-24-0000018 and 1FFM-24-0000019 (the "Letter Request" or "Motion").

THE COURT HEREBY FINDS, CONCLUDES AND ORDERS as follows:

1. On February 21, 2024, the Family Court entered the following order (the "February 21, 2024 Order"):

Pursuant to HRS § 571-11, the family court has exclusive original jurisdiction over adoption proceedings and Chapter 587A proceedings. The records in

proceedings brought under HRS § 571-11 are confidential and shall be withheld from public inspection. HRS §571-84. Insofar as the Motions are based on and inextricably intertwined with the underlying adoption and Chapter 587A cases, these proceedings will be placed under seal and be closed to the public subject to further order of the court. HRS §§ 571-84, 578-15 and 587A-40. In addition and for the same reasons, any documents filed in this case shall be filed under seal and may not be released to third parties subject to further order of the court. *Id.*

(¶ 9 of the February 21, 2024 Order.)

2. On June 10, 2024, the Family Court entered the following order directly

addressing ¶ 9 of the February 21, 2024 Order (the “June 10, 2024 Order”):

Having carefully reviewed the various submissions, the court will set aside the provisions in ¶ 9 of the February 21, 2024 Order; provided, however, that:

- (a) Information relating to confidential proceedings shall be redacted from any of the submissions and the un-redacted versions of any redacted submissions shall remain sealed;
- (b) The un-redacted version of the Report shall remain *in camera*; and
- (c) This order setting aside ¶ 9 of the February 21, 2024 Order is stayed until the 31st day following the entry of this Decision and Order, in order to allow interested parties to seek appellate review; if appellate review is sought, this stay shall remain in effect pending further order.

(¶ 93 of the June 10, 2024 Order.)

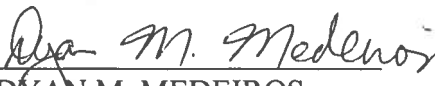
3. This Court construes the Letter Request as a motion.
4. In the Motion, Movant states that the cases can be unsealed “consistent with this Court’s prior orders (modified to the extent affected by the Hawai‘i Supreme Court’s September 30, 2025 opinion).” However, interested parties have not had an opportunity to be heard on the unsealing of certain documents in this proceeding in light of Pub. First L. Ctr. v. Viola, 157 Haw. 242, 576 P.3d 755, 757 (2025).
5. In order to allow interested parties notice and an opportunity to be heard, Movant shall conventionally serve the following non-JEFs users with the Motion along with a certified copy of this Order, and shall file a certificate of service attesting to service:

Lehua Kalua
Melanie Joseph, aka Melanie Sellers

Adam Sellers
Stephen Lane

6. Any of the above persons and any of the other parties who are served with this Order via the JEFS system and who oppose or object to the Motion shall file a written opposition, stating the basis therefore, within twenty (20) days of the date they are served with the Motion and this Order. The failure to file a timely written opposition shall be construed by the Court as a statement of no opposition to the Motion. To the extent any written oppositions are related to the disclosure or non-disclosure of specific information, the opposition shall identify the legal or factual basis for the objection and cite to applicable docket and PDF page number.
7. Within forty (40) days of the date of service of the Motion and this Order on the last of the above-identified persons (*i.e.*, after all of the above-identified persons/entities have been served), Movant may file a written reply to any filed written oppositions.
8. The Court will set a hearing on the motion, if necessary. The Court reserves the right to treat the Motion as a non-hearing motion. The Court will issue an order regarding the Motion within a reasonable time after the requirements of this Order have been met and any necessary hearing(s) have been held.

DATED: Kapolei, Hawai'i, March 31, 2026.


DYAN M. MEDEIROS
Senior Judge
Family Court of the First Circuit