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**MEMBER:
HAWAIIAN COLLECTORS ASSN
AMERICAN COLLECTORS ASSN**

April 1, 2008

Committee on Ways and Means

Hearing date: Tuesday, April 1, 2008

TIME: 10:15 a.m. (or immediately following completion of the 10:00 a.m. agenda)

**PLACE: Conference Room 211
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street**

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HB 3422, HD2 RELATED TO SURCHARGE FOR INDIGENT LEGAL SERVICES

POSITION: DO NOT SUPPORT

While the intention of this bill is noble: to help indigent citizens pay for legal services that they are unable to otherwise afford, increasing the filing fees for both District and Circuit Court is not the right and fair way to go about achieving that goal. **Increasing the filing fees, AGAIN, clearly targets selected small businesses and industries. This is, in effect, a tax on small business.**

It is important to consider the **unintended results** of increasing the indigent eligibility by such drastic percentages as it may in fact have a **negative impact on the available resources for the truly indigent populace**. On the surface this increase may give the appearance of being positive but **beware of the slippery slope** that may be created. What will happen when the legal service providers tasked with serving the indigent require more funds because of an increase in users? Will another increase in surcharges be required in order to meet the need for more resources?

I respectfully and strongly urge you to not approve HB 3422, HD2.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael H. Kobayashi
President