

SB 111



The Judiciary, State of Hawaii

Testimony to the Twenty-Fifth State Legislature, Regular Session of 2009

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
The Honorable Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 26, 2009, 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

by
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WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Bill No. and Title: Senate Bill No. 111, Relating to the Penal Code.

Purpose: Establishes the payment priority of the DNA analysis fee over other fees and fines assessed against a defendant by the court.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary strongly supports Senate Bill No. 111, Relating to the Penal Code. The bill is a Judiciary package bill which seeks to clarify the payment priority of the DNA analysis fee over other fees and fines assessed against a defendant by the court. Hawaii Revised Statutes Section 706-603(1), (DNA analysis monetary assessment; DNA registry special fund) states that every defendant convicted of a felony offense, shall be ordered to pay a monetary assessment of \$500 or the actual cost of the DNA analysis.

In 2008, the Judiciary's Adult Client Services Branch staff began collection of the DNA sample and monetary assessment. However, in reviewing the DNA statute, it was not clear as to the payment priority of the DNA analysis fee over other fees and fines assessed against a defendant by the court. Section 706-603 (1) includes the provision that the court shall order the defendant to pay an assessment that the defendant will be able to pay within five years so it



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appears that the DNA fee should have some priority over other fees. Also, Section 706-603 (4) indicates that restitution to the victim of a sexual assault or violent crime shall be made before payment of the monetary assessment. As Sections 706-605 (6), 706-648, and 706-650 do not list the DNA fee in the priority of payment of fees, this amendment will clarify this issue and specify that the DNA analysis fee be paid after both restitution and the crime victim compensation fee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 111.