

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 811

Honolulu, Hawaii

March, 2009

RE: H.B. No. 625  
H.D. 1

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2009  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Finance, to which was referred H.B. No. 625  
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SURCHARGE FOR INDIGENT LEGAL  
SERVICES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this bill is to expand access to the justice  
system by providing more adequate funding for legal services to  
indigent persons by:

- (1) Increasing from \$10 to \$35 the surcharge imposed on  
civil actions in the district court for which an initial  
filing fee is required to be paid;
- (2) Increasing from \$25 to \$65 the surcharge imposed on  
civil actions in the circuit court for which an initial  
filing fee is required to be paid;
- (3) Increasing from \$25 to \$65 the surcharge imposed on  
civil actions in the courts of appeal for which an  
initial filing fee is required to be paid; and
- (4) Adjusting the distribution formula of the funds for  
legal-services organizations for the indigent by:



- (A) Allocating 70 percent of all funds to be distributed on a pro rate basis to qualifying organizations; and
- (B) Distributing equally the remaining 30 percent of the funds to qualifying organizations whose total budget in the prior year for civil legal services to indigent persons exceeded \$100,000.

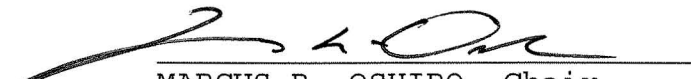
The Access to Justice Commission, Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii, Hawaii Disability Rights Center, Hawaii Justice Foundation, Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center, Domestic Violence Action Center, American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii, Mediation Center of the Pacific, and several concerned individuals testified in support of this bill. The Collection Agency of Hawaii, Inc., Pacific Collections, and several concerned individuals opposed this measure. The Collection Law Section of the Hawaii State Bar Association, Legal Aid Society of Hawaii, Credit Associates of Maui, Ltd., and a concerned individual offered comments.

Your Committee has amended this bill by:

- (1) Changing its effective date to July 1, 2020, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Finance that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 625, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 625, H.D. 1.

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

  
MARCUS R. OSHIRO, Chair



