



HAWAII COURT REPORTERS & CAPTIONERS ASSOCIATION

HO'OMUA

"To Push Forward"

P. O. Box 4681 - Honolulu, HI 96812

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February 3, 2010

Representative Jon Riki Karamatsu, Chair
Representative Ken Ito, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 325
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: HB2721 Relating to Court Reporters

Dear Chair Karamatsu, Vice Chair Ito and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Court Reporters and Captioners Association is seeking legislation allowing Certified Shorthand Reporters in the State of Hawaii the power to administer oaths in the performance of their duties as deposition officers without the necessity of being a Notary Public.

The Rules Governing Court Reporting in the State of Hawaii state that no person shall engage in the taking of oral depositions, for use in the courts of this state, unless such person shall possess a certificate as a Hawaii Certified Shorthand Reporter issued by the Supreme Court through the Hawaii Board of Certified Shorthand Reporters. The Hawaii Board of Certified Shorthand Reporters supervises the examination, certification, and conduct of court reporters in the State of Hawaii.

Twenty-one states, which also require certification of their court reporters, have adopted laws allowing a Certified Shorthand Reporter the authority to administer an oath at a deposition: Arizona, Arkansas, California, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah and legislation is pending in Washington.

Rep. Jon Riki Karamatsu, Chair
Rep. Ken Ito, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary
Page 2

The majority of deposition reporters in the State of Hawaii perform no other notarial duties other than administering oaths. There are currently 170 Certified Shorthand Reporters in the State of Hawaii. We are asking that duly licensed Certified Shorthand Reporters in good standing be relieved of the additional responsibility of being a Notary Public and thereby relieving the Notary Public Office of the oversight of those reporters.

Respectfully submitted,

HAWAII COURT REPORTERS & CAPTIONERS ASSOCIATION

Louis A. Carnazzo
President