



*The Judiciary, State of Hawaii*

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

The Honorable Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 23, 2010, 10:00 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

by

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Hawaii Judiciary

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

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**Bill No. and Title:** Senate Bill No. 2156, S. D. 1, Relating to the Judiciary.

**Purpose:** To authorize the appointment of a judge or justice as the administrative director of the courts for no more than two years, and allows the appointed person to retain the salary and benefits of the judicial position during the temporary assignment.

**Judiciary's Position:**

The Judiciary strongly supports Senate Bill No. 2156, S. D. 1 which is part of its 2010 legislative package.

The State Constitution requires the chief justice to appoint an administrative director of the courts, subject to the approval of the supreme court. In making this critical appointment, it is imperative that the chief justice have the flexibility to determine the best and most appropriate qualifications for the job, given the breadth and importance of the position. As a candidate's familiarity with the judicial system, through time spent on the bench, may be a particularly useful qualification for an administrative director to possess, the chief justice should have the ability to select a candidate with such familiarity and experience to assist in the oversight of the Judiciary's operations.

The amendments proposed in this measure would provide the chief justice with the option of appointing a judge or justice as administrative director, and would ensure that the



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person so appointed retains his or her judicial salary and benefits during the temporary assignment. This assurance would help to attract qualified candidates currently serving in judicial positions, by alleviating concerns they may have about the financial impacts of temporarily stepping down from the bench to serve as administrative director.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this measure.