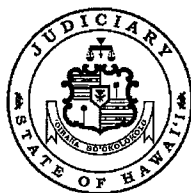


SB2157



The Judiciary, State of Hawaii

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
The Honorable Dwight Y. Takamine, Vice Chair
Thursday, February 4, 2010, 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

by
Ronald K. Sakata
Chief Adjudicator
Administrative Driver's License Revocation Office

Bill No. and Title: Senate Bill No. 2157, Relating to Administrative License Revocation.

Purpose: To shift the costs of mailing administrative hearing requests and mileage from the Administrative Driver's License Revocation Office (ADLRO) to the person requesting the hearing. The bill also increases the administrative hearing fee from \$30 to \$50 which is deposited in to the general fund.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary strongly supports this bill, which is part of the Judiciary's 2010 legislative package. ADLRO hearings are scheduled at the request of respondents whose administrative reviews impose appropriate revocation periods. Currently, postpaid envelopes are provided for the convenience of these individuals. However, strict statutory time constraints and certain practices of the postal service make the use of the prepaid postage envelopes problematic. We would respectfully request that this procedure be terminated and that the postage be borne by the requesting party. This would have the double benefit of relieving the judiciary of postage costs and also enhance the timeliness of such requests.

Since the \$30 hearing fee was initially imposed in 2000, ADLRO's caseload has increased by 56% from 1,509 hearings to 2,358 hearings in 2009, a 56% increase. Virtually all costs regarding the hearing process, including personnel and salaries, postage of multiple forms and notices, travel expenses, office supplies, interpreter fee schedules, etc. have increased without a proportional increase in the hearing request fee. Although the monies collected go into the general fund and are not directly available to



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the judiciary for its use, the budgetary implications for eventual judiciary funding and the increase in general revenue to address increased costs is clearly appropriate.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2157.