



*THE JUDICIARY, STATE OF HAWAII*

**Testimony to the House Committee on Judiciary**  
Representative Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair  
Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 15, 2011, 2:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

by  
Rodney A. Maile  
Administrative Director of the Courts

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

---

**Bill No. and Title:** Senate Bill No. 946, S.D. 1, Relating to the Judiciary

**Purpose:** Establishes the access to justice trust fund under the judiciary as an endowment, to be administered by a nonprofit entity. Requires investment of the principal. Authorizes disbursement of interest earned to fund nonprofit legal service organizations to assist with the legal services needs of the poor, indigent, and other vulnerable populations.

**Judiciary's Position:**

The Judiciary supports the intent of Senate Bill No. 946, S.D. 1, which seeks to increase the provision of essential legal services to our most vulnerable populations and enhance access to justice in Hawaii.

However, the Judiciary notes that the mechanism described in this measure for instituting and administering the Access to Justice Trust Fund might not be feasible. In order to ensure the proper placement and administration of the fund, the Judiciary respectfully suggests that this committee consider amending the measure to create a task force to study the issue during the interim and provide a written report of its findings to the 2012 Legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill No. 946, S.D. 1.