

SB 946

Testimony



Committee: Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, February 14, 2011, 9:15 a.m.
Place: State Capitol, Conference Room 016
Re: *Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Support of S.B 946, Relating to the Judiciary*

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii (“ACLU of Hawaii”) writes in support of S.B. 946, which seeks to establish an access to justice trust fund.

In its 2007 report, the Access to Justice Hui found that **only 1 in 5 low- and moderate-income residents of Hawaii have their serious legal needs met because legal services providers lack adequate funding and attorneys**. S.B. 946 will increase the ability of legal service organizations to provide essential services to our most vulnerable populations and help to ensure that more people in Hawaii are able to secure access to justice.

The ACLU of Hawaii was one of the organizations represented in the Access to Justice Hui, and is currently serving as part of the Consortium of Hawaii Legal Service Providers. Please note that the ACLU of Hawaii does not accept government funds and therefore may not be a direct beneficiary of the fund set up by S.B. 946.

The mission of the ACLU of Hawaii is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawaii fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawaii is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawaii has been serving Hawaii for over 40 years.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Laurie A. Temple
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