

HB1744,HD1



The Judiciary, State of Hawaii

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

and

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Tuesday, April 3, 2012, 10:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

by

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Administrative Director of the Courts

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 1744, H.D. 1, Relating to Compensation.

Purpose: To resolve ambiguities and address other concerns raised by provisions in Act 57, SLH 2011 (Act 57), relating to compensation for executive, judicial, and legislative officials.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary supports this measure.

Act 57's salary reductions for executive and judicial officials, which extend through December 31, 2013, may conflict with future salary recommendations. The Commission on Salaries will convene in 2012 and develop salary recommendations for consideration by the 2013 Legislature as mandated by Article XVI, section 3.5 of the Hawai'i Constitution (Article XVI). Based on past practice, these recommendations will presumably include salary rates for executive and judicial officials for the salary year July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, as well as for all legislative, executive, and judicial officials for the five fiscal years following Fiscal Year 2014.



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In addition, although Article XVI requires any salary decrease to apply to all salaried officers, effective January 1, 2014, Act 57 provides different salary levels for the salaried officers subject to the Commission on Salaries.

HB 1744, H.D.1 avoids the possibility of conflicting salary mandates and salary decreases by providing that salary reductions for all officials terminate on June 30, 2013. Further, the measure defers to the authority of the 2006 and 2012 commissions regarding the appropriate compensation for executive, judicial, and legislative officials effective July 1, 2013.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 1744, H.D. 1.