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**TESTIMONY TO HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
H.B. 197 – SPECIFICALLY THE KONA JUDICIARY COMPLEX FUNDING**

Honorable Chairman and Members:

I write to support continued funding for the Kona Judiciary Complex incorporated in H.B. 197.

Beginning in September of 2006, I began appearing as an attorney in the West Hawaii Family Court, District Court and Circuit Court.

There exists a critical need to consolidate the Judiciary in West Hawaii. The current facilities do not adequately accommodate court staff, litigants and the general public. The current judiciary complexes in West Hawaii present overcrowding concerns, public safety dangers and parking problems. Moreover, I am informed the Sheriff's Department is over extended because they must provide security for various locations.

Given the continued population increase in West Hawaii, the diagnosed problems will only become worse if not satisfactorily addressed. On behalf of the attorneys, judges and the general public, support is required to alleviate the existing problems. Please support the Kona Judiciary Complex by enacting H.B. 197.

Very Truly Yours,

Christopher P. Schlueter
President
East Hawaii Bar Association