
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FAMILY COURT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Hawaii family
2 court lacks sufficient financial resources to meet the growing
3 demands placed on it from the public. Heavy caseloads make it
4 increasingly difficult for judges to make rulings on important
5 matters on a timely basis, and can prevent cases from being
6 resolved in an expeditious and cost effective manner.
7 Approximately 50,000 litigants went through family court last
8 year and with numbers constantly on the rise, family court
9 receives more motions and cases than any other court in the
10 State. In 2013, the three domestic division judges handled
11 approximately four thousand divorce and custody cases, the four
12 juvenile division judges handled over two thousand one hundred
13 juvenile and child abuse cases, and the three special division
14 judges handled eleven thousand five hundred restraining order,
15 paternity, adoption, involuntary commitment, and guardianship
16 hearings. As an example of the delay this creates for the
17 public, in 2013 the wait time for a post-decree divorce motion
18 hearing was five months.



1 The legislature further finds that an additional family
2 court judge position would decrease delays and added expenses in
3 family court litigation, and most importantly allow judges to
4 have more adequate time to resolve the cases and disputes that
5 touch every part of the community. There has been legislation
6 over the years in support of creating a new family court judge
7 position, but lack of funding has prevented the family court
8 from receiving the assistance it needs. Accordingly, the
9 purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to allow the
10 judiciary to hire an additional family court judge for the first
11 judicial circuit.

12 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$178,536 or so much
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to fund
15 one additional permanent full-time equivalent (1.00 FTE) family
16 court judge position in the first judicial circuit.

17 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the judiciary for
18 the purposes of this Act.

19 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

20

INTRODUCED BY:

Kal Rhoak

JAN 14 2014



H.B. NO. 1669

Report Title:

Family Court; Judge; Appropriation

Description:

Provides funds to the judiciary for an additional full-time family court judge position for the family court of the first judicial circuit.

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