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# 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 in a timely manner, and can prevent cases from being  
6 resolved in an expeditious and cost effective manner.  
7 Approximately fifty thousand litigants went through family court  
8 last 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 adequate time to resolve the cases and disputes that touch  
5 every part of the community. There has been legislation over  
6 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 and three  
11 support staff for the first judicial circuit.

12           SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$290,868 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, two additional permanent full-time  
17 equivalent (2.00 FTE) circuit court clerk II positions, and one  
18 additional permanent full-time equivalent (1.00 FTE) court  
19 bailiff position in the family court of the first judicial  
20 circuit.



1           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the judiciary for  
2 the purposes of this Act.

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



**Report Title:**

Family Court; Judge; Support Staff; Appropriation

**Description:**

Provides funds to the judiciary for one judge and three support staff for the family court of the first judicial circuit. Effective July 1, 2014. Appropriation. (HB1669 HD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

