

Honolulu, Hawaii

March 1, 2013

RE: H.B. No. 238
H.D. 1

Honorable Joseph M. Souki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Seventh State Legislature
Regular Session of 2013
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Finance, to which was referred H.B. No. 238
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WITNESSES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to support witnesses in
criminal proceedings by:

- (1) Raising the per diem rate for out-of-state witnesses
from \$110 to \$145; and
- (2) Providing an additional \$90 per diem payment for
witnesses traveling from another island within the State
who are required to stay overnight.

The Crime Victim Compensation Commission, Hawaii Tourism
Authority, Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and
County of Honolulu, and a concerned individual testified in
support of this measure. The Department of Budget and Finance
provided comments.

Your Committee finds that per diem stipends for witnesses who
must travel to an island within the State where criminal
proceedings are conducted have remained unchanged for decades and
are no longer sufficient to pay for personal expenses such as
lodging and meals. This measure adjusts per diem stipends to
reflect the current cost of living in Hawaii and prevent economic



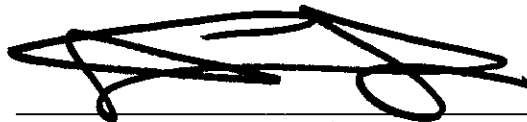
barriers that may discourage or prevent witnesses from participating in criminal proceedings.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the amount of the increased per diem payment for out-of-state witnesses in criminal cases to an unspecified amount;
- (2) Changing the amount of the additional per diem payment for witnesses traveling from another island within the State who are required to stay overnight to an unspecified amount;
- (3) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2030, to encourage further discussion on this measure; and
- (4) Making technical nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Finance that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 238, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 238, H.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Finance,



SYLVIA LUKE, Chair



