

HB1780

HD1



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE, 2014**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 1780, H.D. 1, RELATING TO CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

DATE: Friday, March 14, 2014

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 016

TESTIFIER(S): David M. Louie, Attorney General, or
Garry L. Kemp, Administrator, Child Support Enforcement Agency

Chair Hee and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (“Department”) supports this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds to the Department of the Attorney General for ten positions within the Child Support Enforcement Agency (“CSEA”).

The re-establishment of the ten positions described in this bill will allow the CSEA to more efficiently deal with increasingly complex cases. In addition, federal regulations require that each state maintain a base level amount of expenditures for the state’s child support program. Because of previous funding cuts, the CSEA is dangerously close to being unable to meet the base level amount set for the State of Hawaii. If the State does not meet the base amount of spending, additional federal funding could be lost.

The Department notes and acknowledges that the funds for these positions are not included in the Department’s budget requests as previously submitted by the Administration. However, the Department requests that the Legislature consider supplementing the budget request funds in this regard since this would materially aid and assist the operations of the CSEA which is an important agency. The Department is mindful of the Administration’s approach to budgeting with respect to obtaining sustainability into future years for all budget requests so that service levels, once established, can be provided for the long term. Keeping this in mind, the Department requests a favorable consideration.

The Department of the Attorney General respectfully requests that the Committee pass this bill.