

Honolulu, Hawaii
February 19, 2016

RE: H.B. No. 1649
H.D. 1

Honorable Joseph M. Souki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2016
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred H.B. No. 1649 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE JUDICIARY,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to appropriate supplemental funds for the operating and capital improvement costs of the Judiciary for fiscal year (FY) 2016-2017.

The Judiciary, Legal Aid Society of Hawaii, Hawaii Chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and two concerned individuals supported this measure.

Your Committee supports the Judiciary's modest supplemental budget request for 24 new permanent positions and \$2,200,000 in additional funding to support essential staffing needs for the courts and administrative operations. The capital improvement program funding request totaling \$13,700,000 to address the Judiciary's infrastructure is reasonable.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the appropriation amount for the operating costs of the administration of the Judiciary (JUD601) to \$28,237,653 for FY2016-2017;
- (2) Requiring that of the general funds appropriated for administration (JUD601), the sum of \$2,159,632 for

HB1649 HD1 HSCR JUD HMS 2016-2066



FY2016-2017 shall be used for the purchase of service contracts for civil legal services for low- and moderate income persons; and

- (3) Requiring the Administrative Director of the courts to submit to the Legislature by February 1, 2017, a report listing:
 - (A) The purchase of service contracts entered into from July 1, 2016, to December 31, 2016;
 - (B) The purpose of the contracts;
 - (C) Contract award amounts; and
 - (D) Expenditures and encumbrances under the contracts.

Your Committee added additional funds in the amount of \$2,159,632 for the Judiciary to contract with civil legal services providers to deliver civil legal services for low- and moderate-income individuals. The funding amount and selection of the Judiciary to administer legal service funding was recommended by a working group established by House Resolution No. 12, H.D.1 (2015). The working group, convened by the Hawaii Access to Justice Commission, determined that the Judiciary is the best agency to house the administration of legal services funding for low- and moderate-income individuals. The funding amount would restore civil legal services to prerecession levels. The legal services funding is in addition to the Judiciary's supplemental budget request; it is not the Committee's intent that it be used to supplant these requests.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1649, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1649, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.



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



KARL RHOADS, Chair



