

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 3048

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 23 2016

RE: H.B. No. 2121
H.D. 3
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2016
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary and Labor, to which was referred
H.B. No. 2121, H.D. 3, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO LEGAL SERVICES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to appropriate
funds for the Judiciary to purchase civil legal services for low-
and moderate-income persons.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Judiciary, Hawai'i Access to Justice Commission, Domestic
Violence Action Center, Hawaii Disability Rights Center, Legal Aid
Society of Hawai'i, Volunteer Legal Services of Hawai'i, and seven
individuals.

Your Committee finds that civil legal services are critical
because these services assist in providing solutions to help
families in crisis find stability and hope. Pursuant to S.R.
No. 6, S.D. 1 (Regular Session of 2015), the Hawai'i Access to
Justice Commission convened a working group of state and community
entities to determine and report which agency or organization
should administer funding of civil legal services to low- and
moderate income persons. This measure reflects the
recommendations of the working group, and the appropriation will
restore funding for civil legal services for low- and moderate
income persons to pre-recession levels through contracts
administered by the Judiciary.

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Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting an appropriation amount of \$2,159,632, to reinstate the amount requested under H.B. No. 2121 (Regular Session of 2016) as introduced; and
- (2) Inserting an effective date of January 7, 2059, to encourage further discussion.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary and Labor that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2121, H.D. 3, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2121, H.D. 3, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

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


GILBERT S.C. KEITH-AGARAN, Chair



