



*The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i*

**Testimony to the House Committee on Judiciary**

Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair

Representative Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Friday, February 6, 2015, 2:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

by

David M. Lam

Chief Court Administrator, Fifth Circuit

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**Bill No. and Title:** House Bill No. 412, Making an Appropriation for the Establishment of a Social Worker V Supervisor Position.

**Purpose:** Appropriates funds for the establishment of one full-time equivalent (1.00 FTE) permanent social worker V position in the Kaua‘i Drug Court.

**Judiciary's Position:**

The Judiciary supports the intent of House Bill No. 412 to establish an additional staff position to provide services in the Kaua‘i Drug Court, as long as it is not at the expense of any other items in the Judiciary’s current budget request. The Kaua‘i Drug Court began in August 2003 as a collaborative effort of the primary criminal justice entities on Kaua‘i – the judiciary, public defender, county prosecutor, and police department – and numerous other agencies and programs to incorporate best practices to assist clients in achieving cognitive restructuring in terms of the methods used to abuse illicit substances. Through the Kaua‘i Drug Court, clients are provided treatment, counseling, and intensive supervision. To date, the Kaua‘i Drug Court has graduated 155 clients, most of whom have housing and are gainfully employed or attending school to further their education. The social worker V position proposed in House Bill No. 412 would allow additional clients who need services to be assisted by the program, as the number of clients is likely to increase in the future.



House Bill No. 412, Making an Appropriation for the Establishment of a Social Worker V Supervisor Position.

House Committee on Judiciary

Friday, February 6, 2015, 2:00 PM

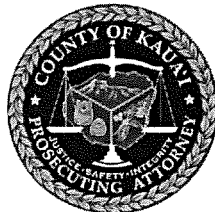
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We respectfully request, if the Legislature acts on House Bill No. 412 as proposed, that funding for this bill be in addition to the Judiciary's current budget request for the Fifth Circuit contained in House Bill No. 290 and Senate Bill No. 428.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 412.

**Justin F. Kollar**  
Prosecuting Attorney

**Kevin K. Takata**  
First Deputy



**Rebecca A. Vogt**  
Second Deputy

**Diana Gausepohl-White**  
Victim/Witness Program Director

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF  
HB412 – MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A  
SOCIAL WORKER V SUPERVISOR POSITION

Justin F. Kollar, Prosecuting Attorney  
County of Kaua'i

House Committee on Judiciary  
February 6, 2015, 2:00 p.m., Conference Room 325

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committee:

The County of Kaua'i, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** HB412 – Making an Appropriation for the Establishment of a Social Worker V Supervisor Position. The Appropriation would create a new supervisory staff position within the Kaua'i Drug Court.

Our Office works very closely with the Kaua'i Drug Court on a daily basis and we see how stretched their staff is. Yet we observe that they are utterly committed to serving their clients with a high level of service and even more importantly, with making their services available to as many willing and able participants as they can. The demand, however, still exceeds the capacity of the existing staff. This Appropriation will allow the Kaua'i Drug Court to provide more services and support to more clients; thus helping to ensure a safer, healthier community and a smaller prison population.

Accordingly, we are in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB412. We request that your Committee **PASS** the Appropriation.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide testimony on this Appropriation.



**Friends of the Kauai Drug Court, Incorporated**  
**3970 Kaana Street**  
**Suite 300**  
**Lihue, HI 96766**

**LATE**

**From: Mary Ann Ornellas**

**Submitted: February 5, 2015**

**Testimony in support of Bill #HB412 on February 6, 2015 at 2:00p.m. in front of Judiciary Committee in conference Room # 325, relating to Drug Court; Fifth Circuit; Judiciary; Social Worker V; Appropriation (\$).**

**Aloha Chair Rhoads and members of the committee.**

**My name is Mary Ann Ornellas and I am the Vice President of the Friends of the Kauai Drug Court.**

**I am writing to encourage you to support funding for Bill#HB412. This important appropriation to the Kauai Drug Court Program would allow for additional staffing, which is significantly needed.**

**Kauai Drug Court started 11 years ago and they have demonstrated and contributed to a significant reduction in drug use and associated crimes in more cost-effective way that any other proven criminal justice strategies nationwide. With your support Kauai Drug Court can continue their diligent and positive effort in our community.**

**Mahalo for your consideration.**

**Mary Ann Ornellas  
Vice President of the  
Friends of the Kauai Drug Court.**

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jack Viohl	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Representatives, I have had the privilege of working for the Kauai Drug Court for five years, during which time I was afforded the opportunity of acting as the Administrator for a brief stint. I have worked as an Adult Corrections Officer for 8 years, an Adult Probation Supervisor starting HOPE Probation on Kauai, and am now serving as a Counselor at the Kauai Community Correctional Center after having completed my Masters Degree. In my opinion and experience Drug Court is the single most cost effect service available to reduce recidivism and motivate postive change in Adult Offenders and harm reduction in Juvenile Offenders. However, the leap from line staff to Administrator is a steep one often leaving gaps in training and supervision. I was fortunate to have access to the very best in outside resources when employed there but due to budget cuts in previous years and the increase in offender services consumed the position of Administrator has been streched even further, between two very different skill sets. I would encourage you to invest in the addition of a Social Worker V position so that the Kauai Drug Court can continue to provide successful and quality intense case management to the families in our community. Much mahalo for your considerations, Jack R Viohl, MA

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nina Lomando-Grigoreas	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I support HB412 wholeheartedly. Another position in the Drug Court means that more addicts will be helped in the future. Please pass this bill! Thank you.

# MICHAEL K. SOONG

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3116 Akahi Street, Lihue, HI 96766  
February 5, 2015

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chairman  
House Committee on Judiciary  
State Capitol  
State of Hawaii

**Re: Testimony in Support of HB 412-Establishment of Social Worker 5 Position,  
Kauai Drug Court**

Dear Honorable Chairman Karl Rhoads and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to support HB 412-Establishing a Social Worker 5 Position with the Kauai Drug Court Program. I strongly support passage of this bill as it will provide the Kauai Drug Court Program with a much need position, which will in turn allow Drug Court to serve a greater number of individuals on Kauai.

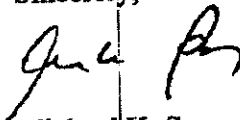
As the former Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Kauai, and currently a criminal defense attorney, I can say, without reservation, that the drug court model is far and away the best system for dealing with persons in the criminal justice system.

**The Kauai Drug Court Program reports a recidivism rate of 5%. That is a fraction of the nationwide recidivism rate, and significantly better than any other program, including HOPE probation.**

The addition of a new staff member at the Kauai Drug Court Program will greatly benefit the criminal justice system on Kauai.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for taking the time to consider this matter.

Sincerely,



Michael K. Soong