



The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i

Testimony to the House Committee on Judiciary

Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair

Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 5, 2015 2:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

by

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Chief Court Administrator, Fifth Circuit

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 413, Relating to the Judiciary.

Purpose: Amends the number of judges in the fifth circuit from two to three.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary supports the intent of House Bill No. 413 to eventually increase the number of circuit court judges in the Fifth Circuit by changing the language of Hawai'i Revised Statutes Section 603-4 to allow for such an increase. That being said, the Fifth Circuit's current need is for an additional District/Family Court judge and related staff. To that end, the Judiciary's biennium budget request submitted to the 2015 Legislature asks for an additional District/Family Court judge and two staff positions in the Fifth Circuit, costing \$261,828 in FY 2016 and \$254,976 in FY 2017.

We respectfully request, if the Legislature acts on House Bill No. 413 as proposed, that funding for House Bill No. 413 be in addition to the Judiciary's current budget request for the Fifth Circuit in House Bill No. 290 and Senate Bill No. 428.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.