



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, March 17, 2016, 2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

by
Judge Ronald Ibarra
Chief Judge, Third Judicial Circuit

Bill No. and Title: House Concurrent Resolution No. 44 & House Resolution No. 12, Urging the Judiciary to Examine the Feasibility and Potential Benefits of Establishing DWI Court Programs in Kona and Hilo on Hawai‘i Island.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary supports House Concurrent Resolution No. 44 and House Resolution No. 12.

On Hawai‘i Island, we are keenly aware that we have the highest per capita incidence of impaired driving in the state, as noted in the resolutions.

While the First Circuit DWI Court program serves as a model, the Third Circuit would have to make adjustments for the greater distances between courts and treatment services. Additionally, staffing requirements such as the DWI coordinator and case manager would have to be considered, as well as court calendars and judges to be assigned to these types of cases.

We, therefore, support the resolutions to examine the feasibility and potential benefits of establishing DWI Court Programs in Hilo and Kona, with a report to be submitted to the Legislature prior to the 2017 Session.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Concurrent Resolution No. 44 and House Resolution No. 12.