
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE JUDICIARY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that, according to 2010
2 census data, Hawaii island has the highest per capita incidence
3 of impaired driving cases of all the counties in the State.
4 Hawaii island accounts for 13.6 per cent of the population of
5 the State, but accounts for twenty-five per cent of the State's
6 impaired driving cases.

7 On Oahu, a driving while impaired (DWI) court started in
8 2013, and has proven effective in providing treatment and
9 reducing recidivism rates of the individuals who chose to
10 participate. DWI court programs are post-conviction programs
11 that utilize intensive supervision and long-term treatment
12 methods to change the behavior of repeat impaired driving
13 offenders. The DWI court programs employ the strategies of
14 close supervision, frequent alcohol and other drug testing, and
15 ongoing judicial interaction to integrate treatment services
16 into the justice system.



1 The DWI court program has a zero per cent recidivism rate
2 for subsequent impaired driving arrests of those who have
3 graduated the program, while traditional forms of punishment for
4 DWI offenses resulted in a twenty per cent recidivism rate for
5 subsequent impaired driving arrests among those individuals who
6 elected not to participate. Traditional punishments are
7 ineffective deterrents for repeat offenders without the
8 treatment and accountability provided by DWI court.

9 The purpose of this Act is to minimize the recidivism rate
10 of impaired drivers by establishing the DWI court program in
11 Kona and Hilo on Hawaii island.

12 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the
15 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
16 2018-2019 to establish driving while impaired courts in circuit
17 courts of the third circuit, specifically the Kona courthouse
18 and Hilo courthouse on Hawaii island.

19 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the judiciary
20 for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

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JAN 20 2017



H.B. NO. 601

Report Title:

Judiciary; Driving While Impaired Courts; Hawaii Island;
Appropriation

Description:

Makes an appropriation to establish driving while impaired courts in Kona and Hilo on Hawaii island.

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