

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

511

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 17 2017

RE: S.B. No. 329

S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2017
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary and Labor, to which was referred
S.B. No. 329 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, Delivery of Legal Services to the Public
Committee of the Hawaii State Bar Association, Legal Aid Society
of Hawai'i, Volunteer Legal Services Hawai'i, and eight
individuals.

Your Committee finds that civil legal services are critical
because these services assist families in crisis in finding
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 and support funding for civil legal
services for low- and moderate income persons through contracts
administered by the Judiciary.



Your Committee notes that the Judiciary budget measure, S.B. No. 469, Regular Session of 2017, currently proposes \$750,000 in funding for fiscal years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 for civil legal services as part of program ID JUD601. Your Committee has clarified with Legal Aid Society of Hawaii that the amount requested by this measure is the aggregate total it considers necessary to fully fund these services, inclusive of the amount currently provided for in S.B. No. 469.

Your Committee has amended this measure by 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 S.B. No. 329, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 329, 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



