



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON
HEADQUARTERS, PŌHAKULOĀ TRAINING AREA
PO BOX 4607
HILO, HAWAII 96720-0607

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

IMPC-HAW-PTA

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 469, SD2

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair
Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 22, 2017, 2:00 P.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

MEMORANDUM FOR Hawaii House Committee

SUBJECT: Judiciary's budget Decision for Big Island Veterans Treatment Court

1. I am still on active duty and have served in the Army for 25 years and five combat tours. During that time, I have seen many veterans be incarcerated, to include some of my own Soldiers that served under my watch. Over the years, the common practice was to just lock these Veterans up for breaking the law, but no one ever tried to look at what was the root of the problem that put these Nation's Heroes behind bars.
2. I have a saying, "you cannot get rid of a mud hole by removing the mud" you have to get rid of the water that is causing the mud. I know of several Soldiers that lost their support when they left the Army. The brotherhood and comradery that they knew their entire adult life, and for many their family and friend support. Unfortunately, years ago, the military did not do a good job in transitioning veterans out of the service and into society with many feeling alone and not knowing where to turn to for help, when issues from service started becoming monsters. They then turn to self-medication with substance abuse, which led them to criminal acts. Some had brain issues with PTSD and Traumatic Brain injuries and bad situations turned worse.
3. Putting these men and women behind bars without treatment only makes it worse on the veteran and they tend to take a downward spiral and nothing good comes out of a bad situation. The Veteran's Treatment Courts is the venue to get to the root of the problem that put the Veteran in a bad situation and get them on track for treatments and help in where to turn for help.

IMPC-HAW-PTA

SUBJECT: Judiciary's budget Decision for Big Island Veterans Treatment Court

4. There is another aspect to the Veteran's Treatment Court that few see, and that is the Veteran that is having problems gets paired up with a fellow Veteran as a mentor. This brings back that comradery and brotherhood that was lost when the Veteran separated from service. This is something that is magical and therapeutic for both the mentor and mentee.
5. Our Nation's Veterans are a prized asset to our nation and is the reason that we are able to live in and enjoy such a great nation. We owe it to our Veterans to take care of them and ensure that we as a country have exhausted all means to take care of them before we give up hope and put them in a correctional institution. The Veteran's Treatment Court is that vehicle to ensure that we have exhausted all means for rehabilitation and help.
6. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 469, SD2.
7. The point of contact for this policy is the undersigned at (808) 969-2406.

/s/Thomas E. Campbell
Thomas E. Campbell
CSM, USA
Command Sergeant Major



**Office of the Public Defender
State of Hawaii
Timothy Ho, Chief Deputy Public Defender**



**Testimony of the Office of the Public Defender,
State of Hawaii to the House Committee on Finance**

March 22, 2017, 2:00 p.m.

S.B. No. 469, SD2: RELATING TO THE JUDICIARY

Chair Nishimoto and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of Judiciary's supplemental budget package. We seek restoration of the Judiciary's request for funding for the Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) Court and the other specialty courts which were cut by the Senate Ways and Means Committee. This program, which is based on the national drug court model, has proven to be effective on reducing recidivism by the repeat intoxicated and alcohol dependent drivers. In fact, the results have been nothing short of phenomenal.

The Oahu DWI court, a pilot project, works with repeat offenders, most of whom are clinically diagnosed with alcohol dependency. Through intense supervision, clinical treatment, and regular, mandatory court appearances, the participants have found success, not only by reducing recidivism, but also by addressing and conquering their alcohol and/or substance abuse. The DWI court graduates have had a zero percent recidivism rate. There is no other court program that I am aware of that has a one hundred percent (100%) success rate. This program should be expanded, and offered in all of the judicial circuits.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this matter to this committee.



The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i

Testimony to the Twenty-Ninth State Legislature, 2017 Session

House Committee on Judiciary

Representative Scott Nishimoto, Chair

Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 22, 2017, 2:00 p.m.

Room 325

by

Tom Mick

Policy and Planning Department Director

Bill No. and Title: Senate Bill No. 469, S.D. 2, Relating to the Judiciary.

Purpose: To provide biennium operating and capital improvement appropriations for FYs 2018 and 2019.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary strongly urges your support of Senate Bill No. 469, S.D. 2, which reflects the Judiciary's resource requirements for FYs 2018 and 2019.

The Judiciary recognizes there are many competing priorities for funding, and that resources are limited. Accordingly, in our biennium budget request, the Judiciary has focused only on requirements related to past legislation and to its most pressing needs, primarily in the areas of essential staffing for court operations and client services. Specifically, with these factors in mind, the Judiciary is requesting 34 new permanent positions and additional funding of \$2.3 million for FY 2018, and 37 positions and \$3.2 million for FY 2019, some 1.4% and 2% more, respectively, than our current budget base of \$163 million.

The Judiciary is very grateful to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM) for providing 11 new permanent positions and funding of \$986K in FY 2018 and \$1,208M in FY 2019 for our biennium budget requests. These requests specifically relate to: (1) salary adjustments for the justices and judges to cover the annual two percent salary increase set by the



Senate Bill No. 469, S.D. 2, Relating to the Judiciary
House Committee on Judiciary
Wednesday, March 22, 2017, 2:00 p.m.
Page 2

2013 Commission on Salaries, and for the Administrative Director and Deputy Administrative Director of the Courts based on a bill passed by the 2014 Legislature; (2) a no-cost conversion of seven temporary positions to permanent positions for the Girls Court in the First Circuit and one such position conversion for the Courts of Appeal Fiscal Office; (3) one Case Manager position for the Hawaii Zero to Three Program (although we respectfully do not support the deletion of two vacant temporary positions to fund this request); and (4) funding to upgrade the PeopleSoft Human Resource Management System. We are also extremely pleased that WAM provided more than \$4 million in general fund monies and \$157K in special fund monies related to past collective bargaining increases, as well as \$750K in purchase of service (POS) contract funding for civil legal services to continue work and programs so important for those in need of such services in our community.

The Judiciary's biennium budget request for FYs 2018 and 2019 includes requests for three judgeships and related staffing – funding for a District Family Court judge and staffing in First Circuit as the positions were previously provided by the 2007 Legislature, and funding and positions for a District Court judge in Second Circuit and a District Family Court judge in Fifth Circuit. While WAM eliminated the appropriations for these judges and staff in each of the circuits, we are grateful that it did provide \$178K in FY 2018 and \$316K in FY 2019 in the Administration Program for one of these three judgeships, stating that this funding was "...to establish one judgeship at the discretion of the Chief Justice" and that "...the Chief Justice should identify the judgeship that is of the highest priority and represents the greatest need to warrant the establishment of an additional court." Senate Bill No. 469, S.D. 2, contains language that provides judge and staff position counts if the Chief Justice chooses either the Second or Fifth Circuit requested judgeship. We believe that it is necessary to stress that whichever judgeship the Chief Justice selects, the other judgeships not selected are just as important to and needed by the island and/or community in which it is located. In all three circuits/locations, workload has been increasing and the cases have become more complex and time consuming, especially as the number of self-represented litigants has been growing. Further, neither the Second Circuit (Maui) nor the Fifth Circuit (Kauai) has had a new District judgeship position in more than 30 years, yet over this period of time, the population has more than doubled on Maui and increased by more than 70% on Kauai. In addition, it should be noted that First Circuit Family Court is located in Kapolei, one of the fastest growing areas on Oahu.

WAM also provided two of three requested positions to establish a Mental Health Unit (MHU) in First Circuit, and \$10K to cover overtime costs for the First Circuit Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) Unit. While we appreciate the two MHU positions, without the third position, First Circuit may not be able to fully establish the Unit nor expand services as much as it would like to Mental Health Court clients, Conditional Release clients with severe mental illness, and general population clients dual-diagnosed with drug addiction and mental health issues. Further, we are concerned that no funding was provided for the additional services that



go hand-in-hand with any expansion in the number of mental health clients served, that is, mental health assessments, emergency housing, and mental and dental care. For the TRO Unit, while the funds to cover overtime costs will be helpful, without the three positions and related funding requested, all day staff coverage at Kaahumanu Hale in Honolulu and the Ronald T.Y. Moon Judiciary Complex in Kapolei may not be possible and public access to TRO services could be hindered. Applicants and petitioners may not be able to receive assistance, court orders, and related documents timely, and may have to be referred to another agency for help.

While, as mentioned previously, the Judiciary is quite appreciative of what WAM provided in Senate Bill No. 469, S.D. 2, we are also concerned about the impact on Judiciary operations, clients, and the public by the lack of support for possibly as many as 26 of the 37 positions requested, and more than \$1.5 million of the \$2.3 million requested in FY 2018 and \$2.4 million of the \$3.2 million requested in FY 2019. The non-support for two of the three judgeship requests, which equates to possibly as many as eight positions and \$325K in FY 2018 and \$622K in FY 2019, and the mixed support for the MHU and the TRO Unit, were discussed in previous paragraphs.

Three specialty court requests were not supported. The Driving While Impaired (DWI) Court in First Circuit and the Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) in Third Circuit both have grant funds expiring in September 2017. Without the additional positions and funding requested to make these courts permanent within the Judiciary, these courts may have to be discontinued once the grant funding ends. The DWI Court is a nationally recognized and a US Department of Transportation award winning program that focuses on repeat offenders, with 34 graduates to date, of which just two have reoffended. The VTC, which began operation in November 2014 and proposes to expand to a maximum of 24 clients in Kona and 24 in Hilo if positions and funding are provided, currently has 22 participants and 2 graduates to date. The third specialty court request not supported was for POS contract funding for long-term residential and substance abuse and mental health treatment for the First Circuit VTC. Without this funding, those veterans assigned to the VTC with the strongest addictions and most severe mental health problems will not have access to nor receive the treatment they need in the supportive and structured environment of a residential program.

WAM also did not support two requests related to client services and Social Workers, that is, three Social Worker IV positions for the Adult Client Services Branch (ACSB) in the Second Circuit and two Social Worker IV positions for the Adult Client Probation Services (ACPS) Branch in the Fifth Circuit. Without the additional three Social Worker IV positions requested, ACSB will not be able to reduce average probation officer caseload in three of its units to more manageable levels – from 202 to 162 cases in the Domestic Violence Unit, from 133 cases to 110 cases in the Special Services Unit, and from 183 to 157 investigations in the Pre-Sentence Investigation Unit. The current high caseload in each of these units severely limits



the amount of time each probation officer can spend with the offender, causes delays in offenders being referred for appropriate treatment services and in obtaining rehabilitative services, results in not completing pre-sentence investigations timely which can delay court proceedings and sentencing, and together, may be contributing to the continuing increase in the rate of recidivism in the Second Circuit. The lack of two additional Social Worker IV positions with mental health backgrounds in the Fifth Circuit means that ACPS Branch will continue to be challenged in providing appropriate and necessary services for clients with mental health issues, and may result in these clients not receiving the proper attention, guidance, and level of supervision needed to provide them with a better opportunity and/or alternative of staying out of the costly incarceration or mental health institution systems.

The last two requests not supported by WAM were for a Staff Attorney position for the Intermediate Court of Appeals (ICA), and for three facilities related positions in the latter part of FY 2019 for the new Kona Judiciary Complex prior to its opening in early FY 2020. With the restructuring of the appellate court system in 2006, almost all appeals are filed with and resolved in the first instance by the ICA. The number of appeals and motions filed has been increasing, as has the complexity and fundamental importance of the appeals, which together impose greater demands on judicial resources and the need for the additional position. Indeed, since the restructuring, the ICA's appeals caseload has almost doubled and its motions caseload has increased by more than ten times. For the Kona Judiciary Complex, it is extremely important to have a Facilities Manager, Building Maintenance Worker, and Janitor on board six months prior to opening so that they can become familiar with the project and building and receive direct training by specialized contractors on the operations of the elevators, security systems, fire suppression systems, mechanical plant, and other critical systems, as well as other areas involving facility maintenance and repair. This will help ensure a seamless transition from the old buildings/locations in Kona to the new Judiciary Complex.

With regard to Capital Improvement Project (CIP) requirements, the Judiciary is again deeply appreciative of JDL's support and funding for all of the \$15.4 requested for FY 2018 and \$12 million of the \$18.8 million requested for FY 2019. These funds were specifically allocated to our requests to make improvements to the parking structure and enhance security at Hoapili Hale in Second Circuit; reroof and repair leaks and damages at Pu'uhoonua Kaulike in the Fifth Circuit; provide for separate storm drain and sanitary systems for our Honolulu Kapuaiwa Building; to upgrade and modernize fire alarm systems and elevators at Ka'ahumanu Hale in First Circuit, both of which are more than 30 years old and which continue to malfunction with greater frequency; and provide lump sum funding to address both continuing and emergent building issues. We are also extremely grateful for the additional \$420K in CIP funding added by WAM to address significant water intrusion, building settlement and roof issues at our more than 30-year old Ewa District Courthouse. Our only concern in the CIP area is the lack of \$6.75 million in funding for our FY 2019 furniture, fixtures, and equipment request for our new Kona



Senate Bill No. 469, S.D. 2, Relating to the Judiciary
House Committee on Judiciary
Wednesday, March 22, 2017, 2:00 p.m.
Page 5

Judiciary Complex. Without such funding, we will not be able to equip and timely move into our new courthouse and thereby provide the central, one-stop court services location that the people of West Hawaii deserve and are waiting for.

In summary, the Judiciary is very appreciative for all the support provided by WAM for our Judiciary biennium budget, but also respectfully requests restoration of those operating positions and funding not supported or only partially supported by WAM, as well as the \$6.75 million in CIP funding for furniture, fixtures, and equipment for the new Kona Judiciary Complex. With these changes and the restoration of funding and positions, the Judiciary respectfully requests your support of Senate Bill No. 469, S.D. 2, the Judiciary's biennium budget request.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

LATE

Testimony, SB 469, SD2 (22 MAR 2017)

22 March 2017

Honored Chair & Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

Subject: Senate Bill Judiciary Supplemental Appropriations Act (SB469), SD2 Hearing, Conference Room 325, 22 MAR 2017 140 hrs.

Position: In support.

I am William Haning, M.D., an employee of the University of Hawai'i who represents the Hawai'i Society of Addiction Medicine, and a Director of the American Society of Addiction Medicine, **testifying in unqualified support of this bill.** Before you is Senate Bill 469, SD2, being the supplemental appropriations act for the Judiciary of the State. I offer supplemental testimony to that previously provided in its support, with modifications. I do not represent the University of Hawai'i or the John A. Burns School of Medicine. I do so from the vantage of 41 years in service to the State and the nation as a physician specializing in the treatment of substance use disorders (addictions).

Intent: Among the operations funded by SB469 was the support necessary for continuation of a Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) Court within the District Court of the First Circuit. *This line item was ranked first among supplemental requests in a previous year.* My testimony is in support of re-instituting the allocation required for this initiative.

History: The detailed history of this project is included in the testimony originally supplied in support of this bill. It has been in existence since 2013, with noteworthy success. Within the budgetary supplemental request by the judiciary was a line item for State support of this project. On behalf of the Hawaii Society of Addiction Medicine and the American Society of Addiction Medicine, as well as implicitly on behalf of the community at risk and the enrollees who benefit, I ask that you pass this bill out of Committee, for approval by the joint Legislature, sustaining and thus allowing further development of the initiative.

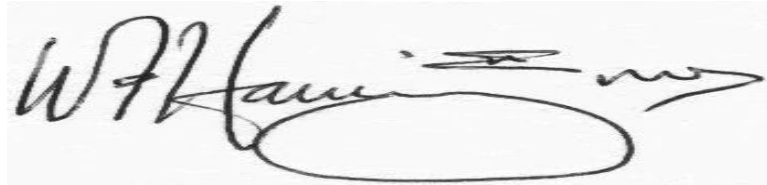
Proposal: While presently relying upon a contractual relationship funded from a grant, upon approval of the budget item the operation of the DWI Court will revert wholly to the State of Hawai'i both for operating personnel and space. Please note that I have been a consultant to and the Principal Investigator associated with the execution of this grant since its inception, and I seek no remuneration or benefit following the execution of this budgetary authorization. The fact of my being a faculty member of the Medical School does not allow me to speak on the Medical School's or the University's behalf in this matter. I am testifying from my position as Past President of the professional association of addiction medicine specialists within Hawai'i, HSAM, as well as a Director of the parent national organization, American Society of Addiction Medicine.

Consequences of Failure to Authorize Support: The present DWI Court as constituted will cease operation no later than 30 September, 2017. There is no identified alternate funding through DoT or other grants processes; the pilot grants from Department of Transportation were

essential to the commencement of this program but never intended for its perpetuation. Program enrollees will be discharged from monitoring and case management, and remaining sentences will be executed. Benefit to the enrollees, their families and employers will cease; risk to the community will consequently increase.

Summary: *This is one of the very few public initiatives to have an impact on public safety through reduction in driving and pedestrian risk, the one other being the ignition safety interlock initiative. It is cheap with high yield; it is effective while being humane and fair. The Legislature is asked to approve a budget which included as a crucial line item the establishment of a DWI court within the Judiciary. It is an excellent and successful pilot that represents current thinking and practice in the majority of states in the United States, and which has proven exceptionally cost-effective as well as conserving the lives and careers of many valuable citizens. The project has been a successful collaboration between the Judiciary and the School of Medicine, in which the school provides considerable unreimbursed personnel, professional and facilities support. I am available to answer questions on short notice and may be reached through the contact information below.*

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W F Haning, III", with a large, stylized flourish underneath.

William F. Haning, III, MD, DFASAM, DFAPA
Director, American Society of Addiction Medicine (Region 8)
haning@prodigy.net
808-220-2685



TESTIMONY

House Committee on Judiciary

Hearing: Wednesday March 22, 2017 2:00 p.m.

TO: The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair
The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

FROM: Nadine Ando
HSBA President

RE: Senate Bill No. 469 Senate Draft 2
Relating to the Judiciary (Budget)

Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the House Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 469 SD2, the proposed budget for the State Judiciary for the 2018-2019 fiscal biennium.

While the concerns of the Legislature on the Council on Revenues most recent projection over the future of general fund revenues have been noted, the HSBA continues to **STRONGLY SUPPORT** the funding of three judicial positions and staff as set forth in the original draft of SB469.

- First Circuit Family Court Judge and staff
- Second Circuit District Court Judge and staff
- Fifth Circuit Family Court Judge and staff

Members of the HSBA have observed that court caseloads are increasing and the filing of complex cases with multiple issues are also increasing, necessitating the request for these three (3) new judicial positions. Parties need fair and impartial decisions in a timely manner.

The HSBA also continues to support the inclusion of the third phase CIP request for furniture and equipment for the much anticipated and needed new Kona Court Complex. We appreciate this Committee's continued support throughout the years for this judicial facility which will serve the Big Island.

In addition to these two financial support requests, the HSBA also supports the appropriation of \$750,000 for the provision of civil legal services for the poor, disabled and underserved populations across the State. The startling recent revelation that the proposed Federal budget proposed slashes funding of the national Legal Services Corporation (LSC) to ZERO makes State support even more critical. The LSC supports legal services for these populations through local nonprofit organizations like the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii. Coupled with

OFFICERS

Nadine Y. Ando, President
Howard K.K. Luke, President-Elect
Derek R. Kobayashi, Vice-President
Russ S. Awakuni, Secretary
Karin L. Holma, Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Cecelia C.Y. Chang
Steven J.T. Chow
Rebecca A. Copeland
Vladimir Devens
Rhonda L. Griswold
Geraldine N. Hasegawa (East Hawaii)
Kristin E. Izumi-Nitao
Carol S. Kitaoka (West Hawaii)
Mei-Fei Kuo
Kai K.A. Lawrence (Kauai)
Lisa W. Munger
Mark K. Murakami
Zale Okazaki
Alika L. Piper
Shannon S. Sheldon (Maui)

YLD PRESIDENT

Trejur P. Bordenave

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Jodi Kimura Yi

HSBA/ABA DELEGATE

James A. Kawachika

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Patricia Mau-Shimizu

proposed dramatic revisions to the Medicaid program, Hawaii's poor, disabled and underserved populations desperately need State financial support for civil legal services.

Thank you for the opportunity the HSBA's position on these 3 areas of Senate Bill 469 SD2.

MITCHELL D. ROTH
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

DALE A. ROSS
FIRST DEPUTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



655 KĪLAUEA AVENUE
HILO, HAWAII 96720
PH: (808) 961-0466
FAX: (808) 961-8908
(808) 934-3403
(808) 934-3503

WEST HAWAII UNIT
81-980 HALEKI'I ST, SUITE 150
KEALAKEKUA, HAWAII 96750
PH: (808) 322-2552
FAX: (808) 322-6584

OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 469, SD2

A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE JUDICIARY

COMMITTEE JUDICIARY

Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair
Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 22, 2017, 2:00 P.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Honorable Chair Nishimoto, Honorable Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i submits the following testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 469, SD2.

This measure appropriates funds for the judiciary for the fiscal biennium beginning July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2019.

We are supporting the continued funding for the Kona Judiciary Complex. \$6.75 million in funding is needed for furniture, fixtures, and equipment request for the new Kona Judiciary Complex. Without such funding, the judiciary will not be able to equip and timely move into the new courthouse and thereby provide the central, one-stop court services location that the people of West Hawaii deserve and are waiting for.

The problems facing the current Kona Judiciary Complex are at a critical level and require immediate attention, as we see no reduction in the caseload to be heard at the Kona Judiciary Complex. The complex is needed for the safety of those who are required to use the Courthouse or Judiciary Services.

We are also requesting the funding of the following Third Circuit Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) positions, as federal funding for this program in the Third Circuit draws to an end:

- One permanent full-time VTC supervisor in Kona;
- One permanent full-time VTC probation officer in Kona; and
- One permanent full-time VTC probation officer in Hilo.

A recent study conducted by the Community Mental Health Journal found that veterans participating in VTC experienced significant improvement with depression, PTSD and substance abuse as well as with critical social issues including housing, emotional wellbeing, relationships,

and overall functioning. Veterans reported better treatment outcomes and quality of life over time when involved with VTC. We need to continue to support the men and women who put themselves in harm's way for the freedoms we enjoy today.

The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i supports the passage of Senate Bill No. 469, SD2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



Maui County Bar Association

P. O. Box 1595
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii 96793

TESTIMONY

House Committee on Judiciary
Hearing: March 22, 2017

OFFICERS

BRANDON SEGAL
President

KIRSTIN HAMMAN
Secretary

LOREN TILLEY
Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AISHA HILL
ALLISON M. MILEUR
DANIELLE SEARS
BRIANNE WONG LEONG
WILLIAM SLOPER
WILLIAM PANNEL
TYLER STEVENSON
MICHAEL COLLINS
SAMUEL AUGUST
JASMINE KING
WENDY HUDSON

JACOB LOWENTHAL
Immediate Past President

SHANNON SHELDON
HSBA Maui Director

TO: The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair
The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair

FROM: Brandon Segal
President, Maui County Bar Association

RE: S.B. 469, SD2, RELATING TO THE JUDICIARY

The Maui County Bar Association ("MCBA") supports S.B. 469, SD2, which appropriates funds for the Judiciary for the fiscal biennium beginning July 1, 2017, and ending June 30, 2019. The MCBA urges the Legislature to accept the budget in its entirety, which includes funding for additional judges and staff, and Capital Improvement Projects ("CIP") for court facilities across the State.

The MCBA strongly supports appropriating funds for an additional district court judge and staff in Maui. As Chief Justice Recktenwald mentioned in his recent State of the Judiciary, the last time a district court judge was added was in 1982, and Maui's population has since more than doubled. Between 2012 and 2014, Maui County was the fastest-growing county in Hawaii, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. As the population increases, traffic and criminal case filings will continue to increase. This puts significant demands on the judges, who are overseeing what is already a saturated court calendar. In order to provide fair, timely, and efficient delivery of justice, it is critical that we continue to adapt and accommodate to our growing population.

The MCBA also strongly supports the CIP relating to Maui court facilities, specifically, design and construction for security improvements at Hoapili Hale. It is MCBA's understanding that the CIP's purpose is to address significant vulnerabilities of the Hoapili Hale courthouse that were identified by the National Center for State Courts after a comprehensive site visit and report. We must ensure the safety of judges, staff, litigants, and the public in our court facilities. Access to justice can only be provided when the venue in which court proceedings take place is secure.

The MCBA thanks you for this opportunity to submit comments in support of S.B. 469, SD2.

Jodi Shin Yamamoto, Esq.
President, Board of DirectorsM. Nalani Fujimori Kaina, Esq.
Executive Director**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT, REQUESTING AMENDMENT**
OF SB469 SD2 – RELATING TO THE JUDICIARY.

Committee on Judiciary - Room 325

Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair
Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

March 22, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

LATE

The Legal Aid Society of Hawaii submits testimony in support of SB469 SD2 – Relating to the Judiciary.

We support the passage of the Judiciary budget bill, however do request that the current funding level of \$750,000 in Judiciary Program ID JUD601 be increased to \$2,159,632 in “A” funds and that it becomes a recurring budget item to purchase civil legal services for low-income and moderate-income families.

This funding would go to restoring general revenue funding for civil legal services. Civil legal services are critical in that they can provide real world solutions to help families in crisis find stability and hope. The recommendation for this funding was the result of an off-session working group in 2015 established by HR12 and SR6 which requested the Hawaii Access to Justice Commission to Assemble Various State and Community Entities to Determine which Agency or Organization should Administer Funding for Civil Legal Services to the Low- and Moderate-Income.

Funding for these services are especially critical during these times. Recently, it was reported that the Legal Services Corporation, a federal funder which provides a little over \$1.5 million each year to our organization to provide civil legal services to the poor, is slated for elimination. Such a loss of funding would be significant for Hawai'i and to the services that we provide to over 8,500 Hawai'i residents each year.

The Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i and other civil legal service providers are also a good investment for the state of Hawai'i. For every \$1 invested in civil legal services, Hawai'i residents received a benefit of \$6.35 of immediate and long-term financial benefits. Further, for every \$1 investment in the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i, individually, an immediate and long-term financial benefit of \$7.97 is received.

The Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i has provided civil legal services to the community for over 65 years. Through our eleven offices which include one on each of the major Hawaiian islands, our staff assist residents of Hawai'i to navigate and solve basic issues which require legal interventions. In 2016, our staff of 100 closed about 8,500 cases and opened over 8,800 in legal areas ranging from family, housing, consumer, foreclosure, public benefits, elder law, homelessness, immigration, language access, and child welfare. In most of these cases, we are only able to provide legal counsel and advice or provide brief services which includes assisting with the completion of court forms and explaining the court process.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

M. Nalani Fujimori Kaina
Executive Director

Ryan H. Engle
Board President

Michelle D. Acosta
Executive Director



VOLUNTEER LEGAL
SERVICES HAWAII

545 Queen Street, Suite 100
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: (808) 528-7050
Fax: (808) 524-2147

www.vlsh.org

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

Committee on Judiciary
House of Representatives
March 22, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

TO: Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair
Rep. Joy A. Buenaventura, Vice Chair

FROM: Michelle D. Acosta
Executive Director

RE: Senate Bill No. 469, Senate Draft 2
Relating to the Judiciary

Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii strongly supports passage of SB469, SD2, the proposed budget for the State Judiciary that contains \$750,000 for each fiscal year of the biennium budget for purchase of civil legal services.

This funding would help maintain general revenue funding for civil legal services for low- and moderate-income persons in Hawaii. Civil legal aid, when used effectively can help reduce dependency on costly social services. Funding for civil legal services is an investment that not only provides our community with an important resource, but also makes fiscal sense.

A 2016 study commissioned by the Hawaii Consortium of Legal Services Providers, found that for every dollar invested in civil legal services, Hawaii residents receive a benefit of \$6.35 of immediate and long-term financial benefits. The report estimates that the total economic impact, including direct, indirect, and cost savings, of statewide civil legal services and programs is \$92,905,000.¹

Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii has provided civil legal assistance to Hawaii residents through a partnership with volunteer attorneys and law students for over 35 years. In 2016, Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii provided over 2,600 direct services in legal matters affecting financial stability and housing, securing employment, and family relations to include child custody and caring for an ailing loved one. Volunteer attorneys invested over \$540,000 in pro bono direct services to individuals and families who would have otherwise gone without access to legal help.

¹ [Economic Impact of Legal Service Providers in Hawaii Report](http://www.lawhelp.org/hi), available at www.lawhelp.org/hi.

SB 469, S.D. 2, Relating to the Judiciary
Committee on Judiciary, House of Representatives
March 22, 2017, 2:00 p.m.
Page 2 of 2

Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii also leverages the private bar in the provision of indirect services, such as engaging in community education services, outreach and mentoring and training of volunteers and law students. Stable funding would support civil service programs like Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii to effectively maintain and expand services to low-and moderate-income Hawaii residents and families.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Michelle D. Acosta
Executive Director



Mothers Against Drunk Driving HAWAII
745 Fort Street, Suite 303
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone (808) 532-6232
Fax (808) 532-600
hi.state@madd.org

March 22, 2017

To: Representative Scott Nishimoto, Chair, House Committee on Judiciary; Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair and members of the Committee

From: Carol McNamee and Arkie Koehl, Public Policy Committee, MADD Hawaii

Re: Senate Bill 469 SD 2 — Relating to The Judiciary

The members of MADD Hawaii urge the Committee to reinstate funding in this bill for the highly successful and crucial **DWI Court Program**.

The program is voluntary, primarily targeted at offenders with prior OVUII convictions. It includes regular court appearances before a designated DWI Court Judge, coordination by a Case Manager, alcohol and drug testing, group counseling and regular attendance at self-help meetings.

Since the program's inception in January 2013 through the end of January 2017, the DWI Court Program has graduated 34 participants with only one graduate reoffending for a **2.9%** recidivism rate for subsequent drunk driving arrests. In comparison, there is a **21.5%** recidivism rate for subsequent drunk driving arrests among those who were eligible to apply for the DWI Court Program but chose not to screen or join.

The DWI Court Program was also the recipient of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Public Service Award in March 2015 in recognition of the collaborative efforts to reduce traffic fatalities due to alcohol impaired driving.

MADD Hawaii is proud to have played an active role in the Court since its inception. We applaud the State for its support this program, which we believe has turned around the lives of its participants, and moved us toward MADD's vision of "No More Victims."

All our lives and property have been made safer by this innovative program. It needs to continue. MADD Hawaii urges passage of Senate Bill 469 SD 2.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

March 21, 2017

VIA E-MAIL

Committee on Judiciary
House of Representatives
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair
Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Peter W. Olson
Cades Schutte Building
1000 Bishop Street, Suite 1200
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813-4212
Direct Line: (808) 521-9385
Direct Fax: (808) 540-5059
Email: polson@ca des.com

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 469, SD2, Relating to the Judiciary

To the Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in support of Senate Bill 469, SD2, which includes funding for the purchase of civil legal services in the amount of \$750,000 for each year of the biennium budget. Funding would help maintain current levels of general revenue funding for civil legal services.

I am a past President of Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii ("VLSH"), and currently serve on its board of directors. VLSH is a nonprofit organization which is in its 36th year of delivering civil legal assistance to low- and moderate-income Hawaii residents. VLSH's staff and volunteer attorneys work hand-in-hand to ensure that individuals and families who face legal issues affecting their basic needs have access to meaningful legal assistance.

Each year, families with children, seniors, veterans, the homeless, the disabled, the formerly incarcerated and the working poor seek legal services from VLSH. Their legal issues range from securing veterans disability benefits, child custody, child support, debt relief, housing, and ensuring that their loved ones are cared for.

Based upon my years of service as officer and director of VLSH, and also as a volunteer attorney providing pro bono legal services through VLSH, I have witnessed first-hand the tremendously important and good work that VLSH does in coordinating and providing desperately needed civil legal services to Hawaii's low and moderate income populations. Those critical needs would likely go unmet if not for the safety net provided by organizations such as VLSH.

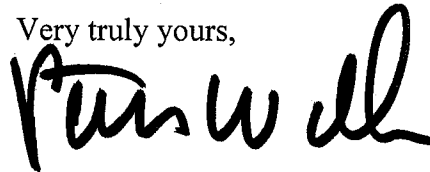
Organizations such as Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii fulfill a critical function within our legal system by ensuring access to legal assistance. Funding such as that requested in SB 469, SD2 will support the organization's administrative functions, which in turn leverage the pro bono efforts of the private bar.

Committee on Judiciary
House of Representatives
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair
Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
March 21, 2017
Page 2

I strongly urge passage of SB 469, SD2 to ensure continued funding for these critical services.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this Bill.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter W. Olson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "P" and "O".

Peter W. Olson

**BAYS
LUNG
ROSE
HOLMA**

Attorneys at Law

Topa Financial Center
700 Bishop Street, Suite 900
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

P.O. Box 1760
Honolulu, Hawaii 96806

Tel: (808) 523-9000
Fax: (808) 533-4184
E-mail: mail@legalthawaii.com
www.legalthawaii.com

Harvey J. Lung
Crystal K. Rose
Karin L. Holma
Bruce D. Voss
Craig P. Wagnild
Ryan H. Engle
Michael C. Carroll
Adrian L. Lavarrias
Sarah M. Love
Bart W. Howk
Matthew C. Shannon
Christian D. Chambers
David R. Major

Sharon E. Har
Kristin A. Shinkawa
Jordyn S. Toba
John D. Ferrv III
Leinuala L. Lev
Michael R. Kiegan
Grant E. Allison
Jason W. Jutz
James G. Diehl

Of Counsel:
A. Bernard Bays
Jean K. Campbell

A Partnership of
Law Corporations

Jason N. Baba
(1957-2001)

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
House of Representatives
March 22, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.
Room 325

Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair
Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee

RE: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 469, SD2, Relating to the Judiciary

I write in support of Senate Bill 469, SD2 which includes funding for purchase of civil legal services in the amount of \$750,000 for each year of the biennium budget. Funding would help maintain current levels of general revenue funding for civil legal services.

I currently serve on the board of Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii, a nonprofit organization which is in its 36th year of delivering civil legal assistance to low- and moderate-income Hawaii residents. Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii's staff and volunteers work hand-in-hand to ensure that individuals and families who face legal issues affecting their basic needs have access to meaningful legal assistance.

Each year, families with children, seniors, veterans, the homeless, the disabled, the formerly incarcerated and the working poor seek services from Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii. Their legal issues range from securing veterans disability benefits, child custody, child support, debt relief, housing, and ensuring that their loved ones are cared for.

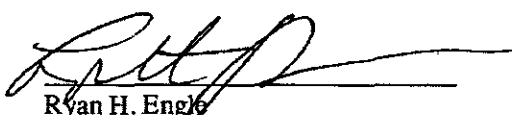
Organizations such as Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii fulfill a critical function within our legal system by ensuring access to legal assistance. Funding such as those requested in SB 469, SD2 support the organization's administrative functions, which in turn leverage the pro bono efforts of the private bar.

I strongly urge passage of SB 469, SD2 to ensure continued funding for these critical services.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Best Regards,

BAYS LUNG ROSE & HOLMA

By: 
Ryan H. Engle
Attorney at Law, A Law Corporation
Its General Partner

RHE:tsm

LATE

TESTIMONY
House Committee on Judiciary
Hearing: Wednesday, March 22, 2017

Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair
Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

RE: Senate Bill No. 469 Senate Draft 2
Relating to the Judiciary (Budget)

Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 469 SD2, the proposed budget for the State Judiciary for this fiscal biennium.


The Kauai Bar **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** the funding of **three** judicial positions and staff as set forth in the original draft of SB469. The Bill should fund all three judicial positions, rather than just one or some, to avoid infighting between the circuits.

Regarding Kauai's need specifically, the Kauai Bar has observed that the Family Court of the Fifth Circuit is in dire need of another judge and staff. The caseloads continue to grow and the demands upon the local judiciary are extreme. Judicial economy is hard to achieve at present as the wait times at court continue to grow and local citizens and attorneys continue to express frustration.

Further, the Kauai Bar continues to support the inclusion of the much-needed CIP request for repairs and improvements to the Kauai Judiciary Complex.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

0C663A0F0AE64E2...

Kai Lawrence
HSBA Director – Kauai Representative

HSBA – DELIVERY OF LEGAL SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC COMMITTEE*

March 21, 2017

The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair
The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: SB 469 S.D.2
Hearing: March 22, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.
Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary:

The Delivery of Legal Services to the Public Committee (“DLSP”) of the Hawaii State Bar Association recently met on March 10, 2017 and upon motion duly considered and carried, submits this testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 469 SD2, and in particular the appropriation of \$750,000 per fiscal year for civil legal aid services in Judiciary Program ID JUD601. DLSP is organized within the HSBA’s Goal 5: “To increase the availability of quality legal services to all who need them,” and by its stated mandate, “Develops and promotes programs designed to make legal services more readily available in the community, works with other organizations to increase services, coordinates participation of the HSBA membership in such programs, and provides a forum for exchange of ideas and information.”

DLSP strongly supports the passage of SB 469 SD2 as being in accord with the committee’s goal and mandate as this measure appropriates general revenue funds for civil legal services for low- and moderate-income families. The need for such funding is emphasized in the “Plan for the Administration of Funding for Civil Legal Services,” submitted to the Legislature in December 2015 by the Hawai’i Access to Justice Commission’s Working Group to Determine a Funding Administrator of Civil Legal Services. Specifically, the Plan states in part:

It is uncontroverted that the need for civil legal services continues to be great. Civil legal service assistance in the State of Hawai’i is one of the areas that the State has failed to adequately

* This testimony is submitted by and on behalf of the Delivery of Legal Services to the Public Committee and not the Hawaii State Bar Association.

The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair
The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
March 21, 2017

fund despite the fundamental role that justice and access to justice plays in our democracy.

Civil legal service providers ensure access to justice for thousands of individuals and families in critical legal areas such as housing, child welfare, elder law, and immigration. SB 469 SD2 provides crucial funding to continue these critical services for Hawai'i's most vulnerable residents who would not otherwise have any legal assistance. Accordingly, DLSP respectfully urges your Committee on Judiciary to pass this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

LYNDA L. ARAKAWA

Chair

REX Y. FUJICHAKU

Vice Chair

HSBA – Delivery of Legal Services
to the Public Committee

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 2:05 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: cvancamp3@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB469 on Mar 22, 2017 14:00PM*

SB469

Submitted on: 3/21/2017

Testimony for JUD on Mar 22, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Carol A. VanCamp | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY:

To: The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair
The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Re: SB469 SD2, Relating to funding of the DWI Court Program

Greetings Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and other distinguished committee members, I want to thank you for this opportunity to address SB469 SD2.

My name is Ami Scronce and I am testifying in support for the funding of the DWI Court Program. I am a former case manager for the DWI Court Program and a firsthand witness of the many successes of the program.

According to the 2014 Traffic Safety Facts, drivers with a BAC of 0.08% or higher involved in fatal crashes were seven times more likely to have a prior conviction for DWI than were drivers with no alcohol in their system. (7% and 1%, respectively).¹

The DWI Court Program addresses the issue of dangerous drivers with prior convictions by close monitoring and support via alcohol monitoring, AA meetings, case management meetings, time in treatment, and court appearances. The alcohol monitoring, treatment and support that is provided in the DWI Court Program ensures accountability and responsibility in the participants and that change in behavior and personal growth creates positive changes in many areas of their lives. The DWI Court Program requires the participants to remain sober and out of jail for the duration of the 12-month program. To my knowledge, the 1st participant to graduate from the DWI Court Program in 2014 has remained DUI arrest free. Many of the participants that I worked with entered the program unemployed or underemployed due to issues regarding their alcohol abuse. By the time they graduated, they were employed full-time and one participant even returned to school as he felt that he now had the ability to achieve goals that he had once given up on.

The most impactful benefit of the DWI Court Program is the increase in public safety. I would not want my family or friends sharing the roads with these repeat offenders without the existence of the DWI Court Program. The public should be grateful to know that there is a program that helps to keep the roads safe by instilling accountability and filling treatment gaps for repeat impaired/dangerous drivers.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue and your commitment to the safety of all residents on the roads in Hawaii.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ami Scronce

1. Department of Transportation (US), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Traffic Safety Facts 2014 data: alcohol-impaired driving. Washington, DC: NHTSA; 2015 [cited 2016 Feb 5]. Available at URL: <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/812231.pdf>.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 7:19 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: te@hawaiilawyer.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB469 on Mar 22, 2017 14:00PM

SB469

Submitted on: 3/21/2017

Testimony for JUD on Mar 22, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Tred Eyerly | Individual | Comments Only | No |

Comments: I write in support of Senate Bill 469, SD2 which includes funding for purchase of civil legal services in the amount of \$750,000 for each year of the biennium budget. Funding would help maintain current levels of general revenue funding for civil legal services. I currently serve on the board of Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii, a nonprofit organization which is in its 36th year of delivering civil legal assistance to low- and moderate-income Hawaii residents. Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii's staff and volunteers work hand-in-hand to ensure that individuals and families who face legal issues affecting their basic needs have access to meaningful legal assistance. Each year, families with children, seniors, veterans, the homeless, the disabled, the formerly incarcerated and the working poor seek services from Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii. Their legal issues range from securing veterans disability benefits, child custody, child support, debt relief, housing, and ensuring that their loved ones are cared for. Organizations such as Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii fulfill a critical function within our legal system by ensuring access to legal assistance. Funding such as those requested in SB 469, SD2 support the organization's administrative functions, which in turn leverage the pro bono efforts of the private bar. I strongly urge passage of SB 469, SD2 to ensure continued funding for these critical services. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 3:22 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB469 on Mar 22, 2017 14:00PM*

SB469

Submitted on: 3/21/2017

Testimony for JUD on Mar 22, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Javier Mendez-Alvarez | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE

Big Island Veterans Treatment Court

House Judiciary Committee hearing on March 22, 2017 SB 469

Approximately Yearly Total Request: \$255,000

Three Full time positions: 1 Supervisor
1 Kona Probation Officer
1 Hilo Probation Officer

Monies for Non VA: Substance Abuse treatment: For Veterans who do not qualify for VA treatment

Monies for Non VA: Mental Health Treatment: For Veterans who do not qualify for VA treatment

Monies for Evaluating the Program

Monies for drug testing cups, drug testing lab costs

SERVE 24 VETERANS IN WEST HAWAII & 24 VETERANS IN EAST HAWAII. TOTAL VETERAN PARTICIPANTS SERVED 48 (maximum)

Veterans in the State of Hawaii and Third Circuit: The US Census Bureau estimates the State of Hawaii has an overall population of approximately 1.4 million in 2013 and the Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that there are approximately 117,000 veterans in the State of Hawaii. The Census Bureau reports approximately 15,654 veterans residing on the BIG ISLAND.

Since October 2001, 1.64 million troops have been deployed to Afghanistan, and Iraq. 26% of these returning troops could have a mental health condition related to their service. The Bureau of Justice assistance found that 81% of all justice-involved veterans had a substance abuse problem prior to incarceration, 35% were identified as suffering from alcohol dependency; 23% had been homeless in the prior year; and 25% were identified as mentally ill.

Veterans who are on probation and who are incarcerated may have significant substance abuse problems, mental health problems, and/or combat-related issues. These veterans may be apprehensive about communicating the need for help. They may need extra assistance in pursuing eligibility for VA services and other community resources. They may have difficulty in sharing their problems with non-veterans.

The veteran population that we are serving have complex problems, like substance abuse issues, mental health issues (ie PTSD), Traumatic Brain injury, lack of housing or clean and sober housing, lack of medical service follow up, lack of employment, lack of finances, lack of family support, lack of substance abuse and mental health treatment and often they are sitting in jail, with no support in any of these areas. Each veteran that we serve has multiple and complex problems and they need help and solutions that can address all of these issues, in a coordinated fashion. They have often reached the late stage of their illness and predicament and they are in jail at this point and in an extremely low point in their personal lives.

The number of veterans with substance abuse disorders, and mental health disorders and Traumatic Brain Injury, unable to cope are significant in our community and are not rare problems.

What works to help these veterans is a well-coordinated program like the Drug Court Model. The BIVTC (Big Island Veterans Treatment Court) has served 26 participants since its beginning in 2014 and the goal is to serve 24 high risk high needs veterans in Hilo and an additional 24 in Kona.

This program is designed to help one veteran at a time, intensively but it goes beyond that because as the veteran completes the program, they can return to their spouses, children, parents, employers, friends and loved ones, and other veterans as they become role models for other veterans to succeed.

The BIVTC is a wise investment for our state as it proves its success as veteran by veteran is graduating to a better way of life to become productive citizens of our community. The BIVTC has been able to leverage other resources and community support. They were able to secure a three year Federal grant by the IJA to fund this program by approximately \$310,000.

In addition the Judiciary has provided services by judges, clerks and the Veterans Treatment Court coordinators. Also partnering are the Office of the Prosecutor, Public Defender, VA Clinic, Veteran Justice Outreach Support, St of Hi Dept. of Veteran Services, Volunteer Mentors, private community based treatment providers, Hi Community Corrections staff and sheriffs, police officers, Veteran Community groups, Justice For Vets and National Assn. of Drug Court Professionals and the Friends of the Big Island Drug Court.

All of the leveraging and collaboration help create a strong argument for cost effectiveness, and is also fundamental to how the BIVTC operates on a daily basis and is critical to helping our veterans participants be successful.

As a member of the Friends of the Drug Court, I attended a graduation ceremony three days ago for a veteran who worked very hard and successfully completed the program. To my surprise he was someone I hired at the gasoline station of a large retail store in Hilo. After all these years, I remembered him because he was an excellent worker. He was in the Vietnam War and had many challenges that made life difficult for him. But he was determined to work at getting his life back together so that he could go back to his family, and he did.

I also am involved with a nonprofit group called Going Home Hawaii that is a consortium of many community organizations working toward helping men, women and youth who were released from correctional institutions with re-integration into community life through employment, training and appropriate supportive services. These participants have many challenges to overcome, much like the veterans. This program is about giving second chances to those willing to work hard to overcome their past and to become good citizens and help keep Hawaii Island safe and healthy. Our veterans have even more difficulties to overcome as their sacrifices that put themselves in harm's way affected them in many negative ways, but because of their sacrifices, we have the freedom we enjoy today.

I also am a co-founder of a program called STARS (Surviving to Thriving: Advocacy, Resources and Support) who worked with our Hawaii Island Prosecutor's Office to form a support group for families of victims lost because of homicide. We have been working to help make the grieving and healing process more manageable for the many who have suffered the loss of their loved ones. Our group is helped by the Going Home Consortium as they sponsored our Memorial Peace Garden located in the parking lot of the Prosecutor's Office. Recently the Drug Court participants have helped maintain the Peace Garden.

As you can see, here on our Big Island collaboration and working as a team runs deep in many programs. Please help support the work of the Big Island Veterans Treatment Court (BIVTC) by approving SB 469 so that their work can continue.

The lives of 48 veterans and their families can be positively impacted by the passing of the funding needed for SB 469. Past successes of the program have been proven by those who graduated successfully.

Thank you for every consideration given to support BIVTC.

Sincerely,

Irene Nagao

33 Palani Street

Hilo, Hi 96720

Tel (808) 987-8262



LATE

TO: Chair Nishimoto
Vice Chair San Buenaventura
Members of the Judiciary Committee

FR: Nanci Kreidman, M.A.
Chief Executive Officer

RE: SB 469, SD2

Aloha!

The Judiciary Budget is important to the entire community. Justice is at the core of a healthy, thriving community. Access to justice has been a nationwide commitment to enable those in our communities with the fewest protections the opportunity for their voices to be heard and their rights to be safeguarded. The Domestic Violence Action Center has worked in service to the community of survivors (adults and children) who need safety from abuse, remedies for exploitation, and rights to be upheld. We have received key funding support from the Judiciary for more than 25 years. Unfortunately, we don't see the problem of domestic violence abating just yet. The need for help is steady and could be available to many more, if resources were made available. Our staff appears in Family Court representing clients in complex, potentially lethal cases and our advocates provide outreach, crisis support, safety planning and information about the process (in civil and criminal court). What would victims do without us? It seems like a foreign language is in use and certainly the process is unfamiliar.

The Family Court is in need of expanded resources to meet the demand in their calendars. There is currently a position for a District Family Court judge but without funding. Family Court judges have a robust case count in their courtroom (approximately 2,600). There are approximately 3,000 (2,924 in FY 2016) TRO's filed annually; the hearings are potentially life saving. Certainly life altering. With such a large caseload, it is logistically impossible to devote the required attention to the parties and sufficiently address the urgent issues.

Please see that the Judiciary budget receives the funding appropriation necessary to continue its vital work to our island families. Thank you.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACTION CENTER

ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 3198, HONOLULU, HI 96801-3198

LEGAL HELPLINE: (808) 531-3771

TOLL-FREE NEIGHBOR ISLAND HELPLINE: (800) 690-6200

WEBSITE: WWW.DOMESTICVIOLENCEACTIONCENTER.ORG

EMAIL: DVAC@STOPTHEVIOLENCE.ORG