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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES.

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

1 PART I

2 SECTION 1. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
3 amended by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and  
4 to read as follows:

5 "PART . HAWAII LEGAL AID INTERAGENCY ROUNDTABLE

6 §346- Establishment; definitions. (a) There is  
7 established the Hawaii legal aid interagency roundtable.

8 (b) For the purposes of this chapter:

9 "Government agency" means any department, commission,  
10 authority, office, or other agency of the State or any county.

11 "Roundtable" means the Hawaii legal aid interagency  
12 roundtable.

13 §346- Membership. (a) The attorney general and the  
14 director of human services, or their designees, shall serve as  
15 co-chairs of the roundtable, which shall also be composed of  
16 representatives from the following government agencies:

17 (1) The department of health;



- 1 (2) The executive office on aging;
- 2 (3) The department of commerce and consumer affairs;
- 3 (4) The department of labor and industrial relations;
- 4 (5) The office of community services;
- 5 (6) The Hawaii public housing authority;
- 6 (7) The civil rights commission;
- 7 (8) The office of Hawaiian affairs;
- 8 (9) The department of Hawaiian home lands;
- 9 (10) The department of public safety; and
- 10 (11) Any other government agency the co-chairs may, from
- 11 time to time, designate.

12 (b) The co-chairs may invite the participation of the  
13 judiciary to the extent consistent with law and legal  
14 obligations.

15 **§346- Mission and function.** (a) The roundtable shall  
16 work across government agencies to:

- 17 (1) Improve coordination among state programs that help
- 18 low-income, indigent, vulnerable, and at-risk
- 19 populations, and include, where appropriate, legal
- 20 services among the range of supportive services



1 provided by the state programs, so that those programs  
2 are more efficient and produce better outcomes;

3 (2) Increase the availability of meaningful access to  
4 justice for individuals and families, regardless of  
5 wealth or status;

6 (3) Develop policy recommendations that improve access to  
7 justice in state and local jurisdictions;

8 (4) Advance relevant evidence-based research, data  
9 collection, and analysis of civil legal aid and  
10 indigent defense, and promulgate best practices to  
11 support the activities detailed in paragraphs (1) to  
12 (4); and

13 (5) On an ongoing basis, evaluate:

14 (A) How providing low-income, indigent, vulnerable,  
15 and at-risk populations with access to civil  
16 legal services may serve or further the missions,  
17 responsibilities, and goals of government  
18 agencies; and

19 (B) The use or potential use of federal grant money  
20 received by government agencies for the purposes  
21 described in subparagraph (A).



1 (b) The roundtable shall submit an annual report to the  
2 governor and the legislature no later than twenty days prior to  
3 the convening of each regular session on its success in  
4 achieving its mission, and shall include:

5 (1) Data from participating members on the deployment of  
6 state and other governmental resources that foster the  
7 roundtable's mission;

8 (2) A summary of the evaluation required under paragraph  
9 (a)(6), including the amount of money spent, if any,  
10 by government agencies to facilitate access to civil  
11 legal services; and

12 (3) Policy recommendations to facilitate access to civil  
13 legal services.

14 (c) The roundtable shall submit a report to the governor  
15 and the legislature on the economic impact of funding access to  
16 civil legal services no later than January 1, 2021.

17 **§346- Administration.** (a) The roundtable shall hold  
18 meetings at least three times a year and engage with federal,  
19 state, and local officials, technical advisors, and  
20 nongovernmental organizations, among others, as necessary to  
21 carry out its mission.



1 (b) The attorney general and director of human services,  
 2 or their designees, shall convene regular meetings of the  
 3 roundtable and supervise its work. The department of human  
 4 services' staff shall serve as the staff of the roundtable.

5 (c) The department of human services shall, to the extent  
 6 permitted by law and subject to the availability of  
 7 appropriations, provide administrative services, funds,  
 8 facilities, staff, equipment, and other support services as may  
 9 be necessary for the roundtable to carry out its mission."

10 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
 11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
 12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the  
 13 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
 14 2020-2021 for the Hawaii legal aid interagency roundtable.

15 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
 16 of human services for the purposes of this part.

17 PART II

18 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
 19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$800,000 or so much  
 20 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the  
 21 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year



1 2020-2021 for the judiciary to purchase civil legal services for  
2 low and moderate income persons.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the judiciary  
4 for the purposes of this Act.

5 PART III

6 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

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INTRODUCED BY: Allen A. Pelletti

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# H.B. NO. 1452

**Report Title:**

Hawaii Legal Aid Interagency Roundtable; Civil Legal Services

**Description:**

Establishes and appropriates funds for the Hawaii Legal Aid Interagency Roundtable to facilitate cooperation between various state agencies regarding civil legal services and access to justice. Appropriates funds for the Judiciary to purchase civil legal services for low- and moderate-income persons.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

