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# 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 the imposition of  
2 excessive fines and fees has dire consequences for low-income  
3 individuals. Under Hawaii law, individuals who cannot afford to  
4 pay court-ordered fines or fees may have their driver's licenses  
5 suspended for failure to pay. For many individuals, especially  
6 those living in more remote areas with minimal or no public  
7 transportation, driver's license suspensions may deprive  
8 individuals of their only means of transportation to and from  
9 work. Furthermore, individuals with suspended driver's licenses  
10 who are unable to find alternative means of transportation may  
11 lose their employment. With limited or no income, individuals  
12 are even less likely to pay fines or fees, which may lead to  
13 greater penalties simply because those individuals are unable to  
14 pay initial fines or fees in one lump sum.

15           The purpose of this Act is to address the financial  
16 disparity imposed on low-income individuals who cannot afford to



1 pay court-ordered fines and fees by requiring the judiciary to  
2 establish a financial hardship task force.

3 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the judiciary  
4 the financial hardship task force to:

5 (1) Examine the financial disparity imposed on low-income  
6 individuals in the court system;

7 (2) Analyze other mechanisms regarding the nonpayment of  
8 fines rather than suspending driver's licenses;

9 (3) Coordinate with applicable agencies; and

10 (4) Analyze any other programs deemed necessary.

11 (b) The task force shall be composed of the following  
12 members or their designees:

13 (1) The chief justice, who shall serve as chair;

14 (2) The attorney general;

15 (3) The director of public safety;

16 (4) The director of transportation; and

17 (5) The chief of police of each county.

18 (c) Members of the task force shall serve without  
19 compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred,  
20 including travel expenses, necessary for the performance of  
21 their duties.



1 (d) The task force shall be exempt from chapter 92, Hawaii  
2 Revised Statutes.

3 (e) The task force shall submit a report to the  
4 legislature of its findings and recommendations, including any  
5 proposed legislation, no later than twenty days before the  
6 convening of the regular session of 2020.

7 (f) The task force shall cease to exist on June 30, 2020.

8 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



**Report Title:**

Judiciary; Task Force; Financial Hardship

**Description:**

Requires the Judiciary to establish a financial hardship task force. (HB903 CD1)

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

