



The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i
**Testimony to the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran , Vice Chair

Thursday, March 28, 2019, 10:15 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

by
Tom Mick
Policy and Planning Department Director

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 510, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, Relating to the Judiciary.

Purpose: To provide biennium operating and capital improvement appropriations for FYs 2020 and 2021.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary urges your support of House Bill No. 510, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, which reflects the Judiciary's resource requirements for FYs 2020 and 2021.

The Judiciary recognizes that while the Hawai‘i economy continues to still perform well overall, economic growth has declined from the previous year. We are also aware that even with a projected State budget surplus, funds will continue to be tight as there are many outstanding funding issues that need to be addressed, such as increasing health care costs and their effect on premiums, post-employment/unfunded liabilities, and recovery from the effects of recent natural disasters in Hawai‘i. Accordingly, in our biennium budget request, the Judiciary has been very prudent and focused only on its most pressing needs, primarily in the areas of essential staffing for court and administrative operations, and client services. Specifically, with these factors in mind, the Judiciary is requesting 29 new permanent positions and additional funding of \$1.75 million for FY 2020 and \$2.54 million for FY 2021, just 1.0% and 1.5% more, respectively, than our current budget base.



The Judiciary is very grateful to the Senate Committee on Judiciary (JDC) for supporting the 21 new permanent positions and funding of \$957K in FY 2020 and \$1.67 million in FY 2021 provided by the House Committees on Finance (FIN) and Judiciary (JUD) in House Bill 510, H.D. 2. These positions and funding were for new judges and supporting staff in First, Second, and Firth Circuits; a Staff Attorney for the Intermediate Court of Appeals; an additional \$100K for domestic violence intervention and support treatment services in the Second Circuit; and two social workers for the Mental Health Unit, a program manager/coordinator for the Hawai'i Zero to Three Court, two clerks for the Court Interpreting Services Section, and a bailiff and two clerks for the Community Outreach Court, all in the First Circuit. We are also especially pleased by JDC's restoration of positions and funding related to the new Keahuolū Courthouse in Kona, scheduled to open in the Fall of 2019, that had not been included in House Bill 510, H.D. 2. Specifically supported by JDC were: (1) one groundskeeper and five additional janitorial positions to fully staff these services for the new 140,000 square foot courthouse on 10 acres of property; (2) full funding for Facilities Manager and Building Maintenance Worker positions partially funded by the Legislature during its 2018 session; and (3) funding to support new building operating costs related to electricity, other utilities, annual maintenance contracts (e.g., elevators, air conditioning, fire alarms, energy management, water treatment, and refuse collection), and other expenses such as janitorial and building maintenance supplies. Additionally, we thank JDC for restoring our request for two social worker positions and funding of \$59K in FY 2020 and \$109K in FY 2021 for First Circuit's Adult/Juvenile Community Service and Restitution Unit.

Besides supporting all of the Judiciary budget requests, JDC provided an additional \$800K for civil legal services for low and moderate income individuals and \$53K for one social worker position for the Office of Public Guardian to handle cases dealing primarily with severe mentally ill persons. While the Judiciary fully supports the programs and purposes for which these funds are intended to be used, we are extremely concerned that JDC has eliminated 33 vacant positions and \$1.3 million to cover these costs totaling \$853K, as well as to cover another \$446K for the Community Outreach Court initially added by JUD and included in Part IV of House Bill 510, H.D. 2, S.D. 1. Specifically:

- (1) Sixteen of these positions eliminated by JDC affect a wide range of Judiciary programs and facilities including two janitors for the courthouse in Kapolei, five judicial clerks spread among various locations, two court documents clerks and three other clerks of which three are in the Court Operations – Legal Documents Division, a court reporter, a planner, a law clerk, and a social services assistant. All the positions are important and needed by the programs involved. Six of the positions have been vacant just six months or less. Almost all of these positions are in the interview process or have recently gone through the interview process with the selectee(s) subsequently deciding not to accept the job offer, thereby necessitating the start of the selection process again. The Judiciary as a whole is



very proactive in recruiting and in trying to fill its vacant positions as quickly as possible, especially since a filled position is important in ensuring that programs run as efficiently as possible and that court and administrative operations are not adversely affected.

- (2) Of the 33 positions, the remaining 17 are juvenile detention workers or juvenile counselors for the Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) (Hale Ho‘omalū) in Kapolei. Loss of these positions could impact operations at the JDF, result in a loss of flexibility to address a sudden increase in juvenile population counts as many of these are temporary/intermittent positions, and increase the need for and use of overtime, something which First Circuit has made significant progress in reducing during this past year. Just because these positions are temporary or intermittent and lower on our priority of vacant positions does not mean that they are any less valuable or needed for the smooth, efficient overall operation of the JDF. Further, the difficulty in hiring for these positions is evidenced by the fact that there has been an average of almost four open competitive lists per position, without any qualified applicants emerging from the interview and background selection process.
- (3) The \$446K for the Community Outreach Court appears to be incorrectly interpreted as allocated to the Judiciary and considered as an add-on to the Judiciary’s budget. We believe this is incorrect because:
 - Part IV, Section 10 of House Bill 510, H.D. 2, S.D. 1 states that “there is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawai‘i the sum of \$445,768....for the community outreach court project.” It does not state this sum is appropriated to the Judiciary.
 - Part IV, Section 10(1) states that of the amount appropriated, the Office of Public Defender shall expend \$154,000 for three permanent positions for the community outreach court project, and transfer \$126,364 to the Judiciary and \$165,404 to the prosecuting attorney of the City and County of Honolulu for the community outreach court project. If the funds had been appropriated to the Judiciary, the Office of Public Defender could not be specifically designated to spend and transfer these funds.
 - The last sentence in Part IV, Section 10 states “The sums appropriated shall be expended by the Office of Public Defender (BUF151) for the purposes of this Act”; it does not state the Judiciary shall expend these funds.



House Bill No. 510, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, Relating to the Judiciary
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- Part II (PROGRAM APPROPRIATIONS) of House Bill 510, H.D.2, S.D. 1, which shows the amounts appropriated to each Judiciary program, does not reflect an increase of \$446K for the Community Outreach Court to any of the Judiciary programs.
- Communications with the Office of Public Defender and review of applicable worksheets confirm that this \$446K has been and remains a part of the Office of Public Defender's budget base, not the Judiciary's.

With regard to Capital Improvement Project (CIP) requirements, the Judiciary is highly appreciative of JDC's support and funding of all \$23.3 million requested for FY 2020 and \$15.9 million requested for FY 2021. This funding is to support projects to upgrade and modernize fire alarm systems and elevators, repair leaks into the basement evidence storage and communications rooms, and make atrium security renovations at Ka'ahumanu Hale in First Circuit; continue security improvements and begin parking structure piping renovations at Hoapili Hale in Second Circuit; continue the project to reroof and repair leaks and damages at Pu'uhonua Kaulike in Fifth Circuit; upgrade the air conditioning system at Ali'iōlani Hale in downtown Honolulu; and provide CIP lump sum monies to address both continuing and emergent building issues.

In summary, the Judiciary is extremely grateful for all the support provided by JDC, but also respectfully requests restoration of the 33 eliminated positions and related funding of \$1.3 million. With this change and the restoration of funding and positions, the Judiciary respectfully requests your support of House Bill No. 510, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, the Judiciary's biennium budget request.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**Appellate Section
Hawaii State Bar Association**

March 24, 2019

Hearing on H.B. No. 510, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, Senate Committee on Ways and Means,
March 28, 2019 at 10:15 a.m. (Decision Making)

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of our colleagues in the Hawaii State Bar Association's Appellate Section,¹ we write in strong support of H.B. 510, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, Relating to the Judiciary. As appellate practitioners, we write to draw the Committee's attention to one particular item: the need for an additional staff attorney at the Intermediate Court of Appeals (ICA).

We respectfully request that the committee support this particular appropriation. Our section is comprised of appellate specialists; the state appellate courts are of keen interest to us. The ICA's work includes the bulk of the appeals in our state courts. Because most appeals go to the ICA, the motions related to appeals also go to that court. The Judiciary's Annual Report includes statistics from Fiscal Year 2017-2018.² These statistics show that nearly 600 new appeals were filed with the ICA during the last fiscal year, and over 2,400 motions. In other words, the motions are filed at a rate of approximately *45 motions a week*. This is a massive influx of work. The ICA is not a large organization and resolving hundreds of motions requires a great deal of staff and judge time. Many motions require a detailed analysis of appellate jurisdiction, stays pending appeal, or the like. Others are simpler procedural matters, but still require an individualized analysis and response, as appropriate for each appeal. Regardless of the complexity of the motions, another staff attorney will significantly add to the ICA's capacity to handle the constant flood of appellate motions and assist in the resolution of appeals generally. This should free up more time for the ICA's judges to decide appeals.

Given the importance of the ICA to the entire state judicial system, the Judiciary's request for one more staff attorney for the ICA is a modest one. The Appellate Section asks that in considering the Judiciary's budget, this request be fully funded. Thank you.

Michelle Comeau, Section Chair
Deirdre Marie-Iha, Legislative Liaison

¹ The views and opinions expressed here are those of the HSBA's Appellate Section. The HSBA Board has not reviewed or approved the substance of the testimony submitted.

² The Judiciary's 2018 annual report and the statistical supplement that accompanies it are available at https://www.courts.state.hi.us/news_and_reports/reports/reports (last visited March 24, 2019).

Trever Asam
Board President

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**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF H.B. 510 HD2 SD1
RELATING TO THE JUDICIARY
Committee on Ways and Means – March 28, 2019 10:15am – Conf. Rm. 211**

CHAIR DELA CRUZ, VICE CHAIR KEITH-AGARAN, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS:

Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii strongly supports the passage of H.B. 510 HD2 SD1 and the recommendation to appropriate funding in the sum of \$800,000 for civil legal services to low- and moderate- income individuals in Hawaii. We are thankful to be considered and included in the Judiciary Budget.

In the last thirty-seven years, Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii has partnered with volunteer attorneys in the provision of civil legal assistance to individuals and families of Hawaii. While Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii's only office is on Oahu, we service residents of Hawaii statewide. In 2018, with only a staff of 7, Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii qualified over 2,000 individuals. Volunteer Legal Services provided over 1,800 services in legal checkups, educational presentations, clinics, brief services and/or full representations. Twenty-Nine percent (29%) of those helped are homeless or at the risk of being homeless, 19% of those helped suffer from domestic violence, 9% of those helped were veterans, 25% of those helped are disabled, and 20% of those helped are seniors. If not for Volunteer Legal Services, these individuals would have otherwise gone without legal help.

Additionally, 61% of Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii's clients fall below the 125% federal poverty line, making just enough money to get by in Hawaii and definitely not enough money to hire a private attorney. Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii is honored that its pool of pro bono attorneys ranges from large law firm partners, associates, solo practitioners, public and private agency attorneys who are leaders in their areas of practice. With the 200+ attorneys we have volunteering their time through Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii, we were able to provide legal assistance to Hawaii residents in family law (divorce, child custody, child visitation, adoption, guardianship), estate planning (will, power of attorney, health care directive), Chapter 7 bankruptcy, collections, landlord-tenant, district court matters and veteran benefits issues.

In 2018, over 2,800 hours were donated by our pro bono attorneys, with services valued at over \$667,000.00 to our seniors, veterans, the homeless, children, and the community. Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii plays a critical role in facilitating the administrative support for volunteers to engage in meaningful pro bono service to meet community needs. Funding would restore and support general revenue funding for civil legal services in Hawaii statewide. Civil legal assistance, when used effectively can help reduce dependency on costly social services. Funding for civil legal aid services is an investment that not only provides our community with an important resource but makes fiscal sense.

We respectfully request your passage of H.B. 510 HD2 SD1 in support of the \$800,000 in funding for civil legal assistance for Hawaii residents. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.
Sincerely, Angela Kuo Min, Executive Director

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

I am submitting testimony as treasurer of Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii. I have been working with VLSH for over 10 years. VLSH provided services to the indigent population that is underserved. I am in support of HB 510 (version HD2 SD1) to fund the civil services need for the State of Hawaii.

Thank you very much for your support.

Joanne Hoe
Treasurer of Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii



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SOCIETY OF HAWAII

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Joanne Lo Grimes, Esq.
President, Board of Directors

M. Nalani Fujimori Kaina, Esq.
Executive Director

TESTIMONY ON HB510 HD2 SD1

Committee on Ways and Means – Room 211

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair

March 28, 2019 at 10:15 a.m.

The Legal Aid Society of Hawaii submits testimony in support of HB510 HD2 SD1 – Relating to the Judiciary, specifically with respect to Section 8 which provides \$800,000 for general civil legal services to low- and moderate-income residents.

This funding would go to ensure that general revenue funding for civil legal services is available. Civil legal services are critical in that they can provide real world solutions to help families in crisis find stability and hope.

Over the years, the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i has received general funds from the state which has enabled us to provide key civil legal services across the state. The Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i has provided civil legal services to the community for almost 70 years and we are the only legal services organization in the state to have offices on each of the major Hawaiian islands, including four offices on Oahu (Bethel Street, Chinatown, Waianae and Kaneohe) and two on Hawai'i Island (Kona and Hilo). Our staff regularly assist residents of Hawai'i to navigate and solve basic issues which require legal interventions. In 2018, our staff closed over 6,500 cases in legal areas ranging from family, housing, consumer, foreclosure, public benefits, elder law, homelessness, immigration, language access, and child welfare.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

M. Nalani Fujimori Kaina
Executive Director



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March 25, 2019

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Testimony – Supporting HB 510 Relating to the Judiciary Budget
Hearing March 28, 2019, at 10:15am

Aloha,

Chair Dela Cruz and Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 510, the proposed budget for the State Judiciary.

My name is Kai Lawrence and I am the Kauai Director on the HSBA Board. After meeting with the Kauai Bar Leadership, I write today personally and on behalf of the Kauai Bar regarding the above bill. The Kauai Bar **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** funding for an additional, and much-needed, family court judge position on Kauai, along with accompanying staff. We also ask this committee to **add back in the provisions for funding for much-needed repairs to the Kauai Judiciary Complex** (included in the initial proposed budget).

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. Although the current judge and staff are quite capable and efficient, the needs of the community have outgrown the current staffing allocation. The costs of the wait times are enormous considering that lengthy queues at court translate to higher bills for clients. The effect makes the already expensive costs of litigation significantly more prohibitive for local citizens. Adding a judge and staff will lighten the load, speed up wait times, and result in more persons gaining access to the court system.

Furthermore, the Kauai Bar continues to support the inclusion of the much-needed CIP request for repairs and improvements to the Kauai Judiciary Complex. The building is one of the nicest public buildings in the State and it would be a shame to let it fall to disrepair.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kai Lawrence,
Attorney, & HSBA Director for Kauai

MCBA

Maui County Bar Association

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



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TESTIMONY ON H.B. 510, H.D.2, S.D. 1 - RELATING TO THE JUDICIARY

March 27, 2019

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Maui County Bar Association (“MCBA”) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** H.B. 510, H.D. 2., S.D. 1, Relating to the Judiciary. This bill includes funding for a critically-needed additional District Court judge position in the Second Circuit, and necessary capital improvement project (“CIP”) funding for court facilities, including Hoapili Hale in Wailuku.

MCBA has submitted testimony in support of the Judiciary’s sister bill, S.B. 187, which adds an additional District Court position in the Second Circuit. It has been almost four decades since a District Court judge position was added to the Second Circuit (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. According to the Judiciary, there has in fact been significant increases in caseload – up 51% between fiscal years 2011 to 2016. The increase in filings puts significant demands on the current 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.

Access to justice is also an important and unique factor in Maui, because the Second Circuit encompasses three separate islands, as well as remote communities. A fourth District Court judge would allow the Judiciary and legal community to better serve the outer districts of Hana, Lahaina, Lanai, and Molokai.

The original version of H.B. 510 included CIP funding for court facilities, including Hoapili Hale, which were removed by a prior committee in the House, but then restored by the Senate Committee on Judiciary. MCBA urges this committee to maintain the CIP funding included in H.B. 510. Hoapili Hale is the main courthouse in Maui, serving three separate islands. The Judiciary’s CIP request is purposed to fund necessary security improvements at Hoapili Hale, as well as parking structure, sewer, storm drain, air conditioning, and fire sprinkler improvements at the complex. It is MCBA’s understanding that the

security for the parking structure, entry, and perimeter no longer satisfies best-practice standards for courthouse security. 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 takes place is secure and structurally compliant.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



TESTIMONY

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hearing: Thursday, March 28, 2019 (10:15 a.m.)

TO: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

FROM: Derek R. Kobayashi
HSBA President

RE: House Bill No. 510, HD2, SD1
Relating to the Judiciary (Biennium Budget)

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer comments from the Hawaii State Bar Association (HSBA) in **STRONG SUPPORT** of certain appropriations and capital improvement projects (CIP) requests included in House Bill No. 510, HD2, SD1.

In conjunction with this submission, we are mindful of and guided by our membership’s unified support of the first mission statement of the HSBA: “to unite and inspire Hawaii’s lawyers to promote justice, serve the public, and improve the legal profession.” A State court system with knowledgeable, impartial and fair justices and judges, and secure and safe facilities which are conducive to the conduct of judicial business, are essential to meeting HSBA’s core mission, and to serve the public in the facilitation of access to justice.

State court buildings funded with public resources should meet the needs of its users: judges, staff, litigants as well as the general public. Understandably, this goal must be accomplished without extravagance. Funding of personnel, judges and judicial staff, should be in line with the responsibilities these individuals must meet to fulfill the matters on their respective court calendars.

The HSBA is aware of limited funding to meet the competing needs of State government. We also firmly believe the funding requests we are supporting are necessary for the optimal delivery of judicial services.

First, the HSBA continues to support the noted additional staffing requests:

- First Circuit Family Court judge and staff;
- First Circuit District Court judge and staff;
- Second Circuit District Court judge and staff;
- Fifth Circuit Family Court judge and staff; and
- Intermediate Court of Appeals one staff attorney.

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And second the HSBA continues its support the noted Oahu CIP funding requests and requests restoration of the noted Neighbor Island funding requests for the health and safety of facility occupants and facility guests:

- First Circuit Kaahumanu Hale replacement of the fire alarm system and elevators for safety, and Code and ADA requirements;
- First Circuit Kaahumanu Hale repair of significant water leaks in basement including evidence locker and communications room;
- First Circuit Kaahumanu Hale address security vulnerabilities;
- First Circuit Aliiolani Hale repair of air conditioning system for health and safety;
- Second Circuit Hoapili Hale address security vulnerabilities in parking structure, entry and perimeter;
- Second Circuit Hoapili Hale repair piping of wastewater, chilled water, storm drainage and fire sprinkler for Code compliance;
- Fifth Circuit Puuhonua Kaulike continue and complete repair of leaking roof and damages to the building; and
- Administration lump sum CIP for unforeseen or unanticipated maintenance and repairs.

The HSBA greatly appreciates the prior planning and construction funding of the Kona Judiciary Complex this Committee and the Legislature has generously approved. We have been informed that the Judiciary has managed this project efficiently in keeping with previously approved funding phases and that the Complex is scheduled to open in the fall of 2019 as originally forecasted.

A statewide network of safe secure facilities conducive to the conduct of judicial business is essential to the access to justice for the public.

Thank you for your review and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



DEREK R. KOBAYASHI
President, Hawaii State Bar Association

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

March 28 2019, 10:15 A.M.

Room 211

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee members:

I'm writing in **strong support** of the appropriation in **HB 510 HD2 SD1** to provide funding for civil legal services for low and moderate income residents as part of the Judiciary Budget.

As a board member for Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii, efforts to increase access to justice in Hawaii are near and dear to my heart. Not everyone can afford an attorney, but they may be able to find help to resolve legal issues if given the right information, professional support, and assistance.

Funding under HB 510 is important to help increase access to justice in civil legal matters for Hawaii's low and moderate income residents.

Mahalo for your consideration and the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Melissa Miyashiro

LATE



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Communication Secretary

March 27, 2019

STATE OF HAWAI'I
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

RE: HB510 – RELATING TO THE JUDICIARY

Dear Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

The West Hawai'i Bar Association is a Neighbor Island Bar Association consisting of 111 attorneys that practice law primarily in West Hawai'i. Our membership consists of attorneys in private practice, in the public sector working for both the State and the County, and non-profits. These attorneys practice in all different types of areas of law, including criminal law, family law, estate planning, elder law, civil litigation, and bankruptcy.

The West Hawai'i Bar Association, its general membership and its executive committee, **strongly supports** HB510 – RELATING TO THE JUDICIARY.

The West Hawai'i Bar Association asks for the approval of the funding and operational requests for the Third Circuit in HB510. The essential staffing and expenses for 1 groundskeeper and 5 janitorial positions for the new Keahuolū Courthouse in Kona is requested, as well as the full funding of the existing two maintenance staff positions for Keahuolū Courthouse. In addition,

the West Hawai'i Bar Association requests the funding for the additional utility and support expenses for Keahuolū Courthouse.

The West Hawai'i Bar Association attorneys are looking forward to the completion and opening of Kona's new courthouse. This building will provide one location for Kona's Family, District, and Circuit Courts. This full-service facility will provide our community with a centralized, convenient, and secure environment to take care of all court-related matters. Along with the courtrooms, the three-floor courthouse will include a self-help center, the driver's education office, temporary holding cells, juvenile and adult client services, a law library, administrative offices, and secure and confidential meeting rooms for attorneys.

The West Hawai'i Bar Association requests that funding be approved so that Keahuolū Courthouse will open on time and operate fully as intended. The importance of the Judiciary in Kona and all of services that are provided cannot be emphasized enough. Kona needs a fully staffed and functioning centralized courthouse so that the West Hawai'i Bar Association attorneys can continue to achieve their goal of providing quality legal services in a safe, secure, and convenient location. Your time, attention, and consideration of this matter are highly appreciated.

Very Truly Yours,



R. Hermann Heimgartner
President, West Hawai'i Bar Association