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CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1843

February 3, 2022
2:00 p.m.
Room 325 and Videoconference

RELATING TO CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill No. 1843 appropriates \$750,000 in general funds in FY 23 to the Judiciary to purchase civil legal services from non-profit organizations for low and moderate income individuals.

B&F notes that the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

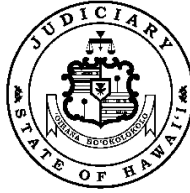
- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i

Testimony to the Thirty-First State Legislature, 2022 Regular Session

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Representative Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 2, 2022, 2:00 p.m.

Via Videoconference

by

Rodney A. Maile

Administrative Director of the Courts

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 1843, Relating to Civil Legal Services.

Purpose: House Bill No. 1843 appropriates moneys from the general fund for the Judiciary to purchase civil legal services for low and moderate income.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary strongly supports House Bill No. 1843 and the appropriation of \$750,000.00 for civil legal services providers to deliver civil legal services to low and moderate income persons. Civil legal services providers including, but not limited to Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii, Domestic Violence Action Center, and the Legal Aid Society of Hawai‘i, provide critical and essential legal services to the most vulnerable persons in our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1843.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 8:24:03 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Trever Asam	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am the current Board President of Volunteer Legal Services and am testifying in strong support of SB2392.

The bill provides needed funding to organizations providing civil legal services to Hawaii's low and moderate income residents. Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii is one such organization. We assist clients at no charge with matters including family law, guardianships, landlord-tenant disputes, veteran's benefits, trusts, wills, and other estate planning, bankruptcy, and collections matters. We also assist clients through the RACS program, which allows individuals with "license stoppers" to engage in community service (rather than paying fines) in order to recover their licenses.

Without our assistance, many residents would be forced to navigate these complex legal issues without an attorney. This leaves these residents in limbo, unable to resolve matters that would assist them in securing housing, employment, or benefits to which they are legally entitled. The COVID-19 pandemic has placed many families on the edge and with little buffer in the event of hardship. The services of legal providers such as Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii have never been more important.

I am also happy to report that, during the pandemic, Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii has increased its offerings to clients, and has expanded remote and online services. We hope to continue these services with the legislature's financial support.

Hawaii's justice system is only effective when all residents -- and not merely the wealthy -- have meaningful access to it. Organizations such as those that would receive funding through this bill help to ensure this access.

Thank you,

Trever Asam

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 8:27:41 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tred Eyerly	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support of this bill.

The bill provides needed funding to organizations providing civil legal services to Hawaii's low and moderate income residents. Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii is one such organization. We assist clients at no charge with matters including family law, guardianships, landlord-tenant disputes, veteran's benefits, trusts, wills, and other estate planning, bankruptcy, and collections matters. We also assist clients through the RACS program, which allows individuals with "license stoppers" to engage in community service (rather than paying fines) in order to recover their licenses.

Without our assistance, many residents would be forced to navigate these sometimes-complex legal issues without an attorney. This leaves these residents in limbo, unable to resolve matters that would assist them in securing housing, employment, or benefits to which they are legally entitled. The COVID-19 pandemic has placed many families on the edge and with little buffer in the event of hardship. The services of legal providers such as Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii have never been more important.

I am also happy to report that, during the pandemic, Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii has increased its offerings to clients, and has expanded remote and online services. We hope to continue these services with the legislature's financial support.

Hawaii's justice system is only effective when all residents -- and not merely the wealthy -- have meaningful access to it. Organizations such as those that would receive funding through this bill help to ensure this access.

Thank you,

Tred Eyerly

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 9:34:13 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Joanne Hoe	Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support of this bill.

The bill provides needed funding to organizations providing civil legal services to Hawaii's low and moderate income residents. Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii is one such organization. We assist clients at no charge with matters including family law, guardianships, landlord-tenant disputes, veteran's benefits, trusts, wills, and other estate planning, bankruptcy, and collections matters. We also assist clients through the RACS program, which allows individuals with "license stoppers" to engage in community service (rather than paying fines) in order to recover their licenses.

Without our assistance, many residents would be forced to navigate these sometimes-complex legal issues without an attorney. This leaves these residents in limbo, unable to resolve matters that would assist them in securing housing, employment, or benefits to which they are legally entitled. The COVID-19 pandemic has placed many families on the edge and with little buffer in the event of hardship. The services of legal providers such as Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii have never been more important.

I am also happy to report that, during the pandemic, Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii has increased its offerings to clients, and has expanded remote and online services. We hope to continue these services with the legislature's financial support.

Hawaii's justice system is only effective when all residents -- and not merely the wealthy -- have meaningful access to it. Organizations such as those that would receive funding through this bill help to ensure this access.

Thank you,

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

February 3, 2022, 2:00 P.M.

Videoconference

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1843

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Committee members:

I'm writing in **support of HB 1843**, which appropriates funds for the Judiciary to purchase civil legal services for low- and moderate- income residents in Hawaii.

As a board member for the nonprofit Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii (VLSH), efforts to increase access to justice in our state 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 they have access to low- or no-cost legal information, professional support, and assistance.

Funding under HB 1843 is important to continue valuable services for Hawaii's low- and moderate-income residents through organizations like VLSH that expand access to justice in our communities. As an example, VLSH assists clients at no charge with matters including family law, guardianships, landlord-tenant disputes, trusts, wills, and other estate planning, bankruptcy, and collections matters. Our Re-Employment and Community Service (RACS) program allows individuals with "license stoppers" to engage in community service (rather than paying fines) in order to recover their licenses.

Mahalo for your consideration and the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 1843.

Sincerely,

Melissa Miyashiro
VLSH Board Member

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 1:05:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nickolas A Kacprowski	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support of this bill.

The bill provides needed funding to organizations providing civil legal services to Hawaii's low and moderate income residents. I am the vice president of the board of Volunteer Legal Services Hawai`i and a practicing attorney in Honolulu. We are one such organization in need of this funding. We assist clients at no charge with matters including family law, guardianships, landlord-tenant disputes, veteran's benefits, trusts, wills, and other estate planning, bankruptcy, and collections matters. We also assist clients through the RACS program, which allows individuals with "license stoppers" to engage in community service (rather than paying fines) in order to recover their licenses.

Without our assistance, many residents would be forced to navigate these sometimes-complex legal issues without an attorney. This leaves these residents in limbo, unable to resolve matters that would assist them in securing housing, employment, or benefits to which they are legally entitled. The COVID-19 pandemic has placed many families on the edge and with little buffer in the event of hardship. The services of legal providers such as Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii have never been more important.

I am also happy to report that, during the pandemic, Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii has increased its offerings to clients, and has expanded remote and online services. We hope to continue these services with the legislature's financial support.

Hawaii's justice system is only effective when all residents -- and not merely the wealthy -- have meaningful access to it. Organizations such as those that would receive funding through this bill help to ensure this access.

Thank you,

Nick Kacprowski



LEGAL AID
SOCIETY OF HAWAII

Telephone: (808) 536-4302 • Fax: (808) 527-8088
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 37375 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96837-0375
924 Bethel Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

J. Blaine Rogers, Esq.,
President, Board of Directors

M. Nalani Fujimori Kaina, Esq.
Executive Director

TESTIMONY ON HB1843

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Representative Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice-Chair

February 3, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

The Legal Aid Society of Hawaii submits testimony in strong support of HB1843 – Relating to Civil Legal Services. This funding would 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.

During the pandemic, the need for civil legal services rose significantly. In 2021, we received over 19,000 requests for assistance and were able to provide legal help in a little over 8,200 cases in legal areas ranging from family, housing, consumer, foreclosure, public benefits, elder law, homelessness, immigration, language access, and child welfare. In 2021, over 30% of our clients were homeless or at risk for homelessness, over 17% experienced domestic violence and over 11% spoke a language other than English.

Legal Aid also provided critical and crucial support to the community by providing legal information on eviction, unemployment, and public assistance, areas of legal need that many in the community had never faced prior to the pandemic.

While general revenue funding for general civil legal services was not provided in FY21 and FY22 because of the economic crisis in the state, our ability to continue to provide services was only possible through federal pandemic assistance which will expire and generous one-time support through foundations. With these supports ending, this bill is critical to ensuring that civil legal services continue to be provided across the state.

This bill would help to restore the funding last provided in FY20 and we ask that funding be restored to the \$750,000 which represents the amount provided through the purchase of service contract and a directed grant-in-aid to our organization.

These general funds from the state has enabled us to provide key civil legal services and allowed us to respond to changing and emerging needs. In partnering with the community for over 70 years, 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.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

M. Nalani Fujimori Kaina
Executive Director



www.legalaidhawaii.org
A UNITED WAY AGENCY

Trever Asam
Board President

Rachel Figueroa
Executive Director



545 Queen Street, Suite 100
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Phone: (808) 528-7050
Fax: (808) 524-2147
www.vlsh.org

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF H.B. 1843
RELATING TO CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES
Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs– February 3, 2022 2:00 p.m.**

CHAIR NAKASHIMA, VICE CHAIR MATAYOSHI, AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS:

Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii strongly supports the passage of H.B. 1843 and the recommendation to appropriate funding in the sum of \$750,000 for civil legal services to low- and moderate- income individuals in Hawaii.

In the last forty-one 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 2021, with only a staff of 7, Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii qualified over 1,000 individuals. Volunteer Legal Services provides legal checkups, educational presentations, clinics, brief services and/or full representations. Twenty-Three percent (23%) of those helped are homeless or at the risk of being homeless, 11% of those helped suffer from domestic violence, 8% of those helped were veterans, 26% of those helped are disabled, and 13% of those helped were aged 60 and over. If not for Volunteer Legal Services, these individuals would have otherwise gone without legal help.

Additionally, 65% of Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii's clients fall below the 125% federal poverty line, making just enough money to get by in Hawaii and 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 over 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 2021, over 2,900 hours were donated by our pro bono attorneys, with services valued at over \$725,000 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. 1843 in support of the \$750,000 in funding for civil legal assistance for Hawaii residents. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Rachel Figueroa, Executive Director



70170

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 4:18:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
David Hoftiezer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please accept my testimony in strong support of this bill.

This bill provides much-needed funding for civil legal services for Hawaii's low and moderate income residents. As an attorney, I try to volunteer my own time to support people in need of these services. Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii ("VLSH")--which is named in the bill and which would benefit from the proposed funding--is one of the organizations that I volunteer at.

VLSH provides invaluable support for our residents. The funding proposed by this bill would empower and enable VLSH (and other similar organizations) to continue offering free legal support for people struggling with family law issues, landlord-tenant disputes, access to veteran's benefits, and other legal matters. VLSH also helps residents participate in the RACS program, which allows individuals with "license stoppers" to engage in community service (rather than paying fines) in order to recover their licenses. Without organizations like VLSH, many residents would be forced to navigate the court system and confront complex legal issues without an attorney.

All of our residents should have access to Hawaii's justice system. This bill would help ensure that VLSH and organizations like it can continue to facilitate and protect that much-needed access.

Thank you.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 4:41:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
amy agbayani	Filipina Advocacy Network FAN	Support	No

Comments:

I am Amy Agbayani, co-chair of the Filipina Advocacy Network. Low-income persons and other vulnerable persons need access to legal services. I am very grateful to our community organizations that provide these services. They have high case loads and need resources to continue their work. Mahalo for your consideration and support.

AWAII JUSTICE FOUNDATION

P. O. Box 4750

Honolulu, Hawaii 96812-4750

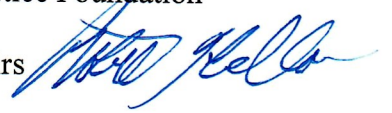
(tel) 808•537-3886 (fax) 808•528-1974

E-Mail: [hjff@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:hjf@hawaii.rr.com) Website: www.hawaiijustice.org

February 1, 2022

TESTIMONY FROM: Robert J. LeClair, Executive Director, Hawaii Justice Foundation

TO: House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Representative Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair



HEARING DATE/TIME: Thursday, February 3, 2022 2:00 p.m. Conf. Room 325

MEASURE NUMBER: TESTIMONY IN **STRONG SUPPORT OF**
HB1843, RELATING TO CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES

SUBMITTED BY WEB:

The Hawaii Justice Foundation (HJF) requests the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs approve HB1843, Relating to Civil Legal Services.

HJF provides Hawaii's legal service providers with awards arising from a variety of funding sources to help increase access to justice for Hawaii's people. HJF does not provide direct client services, but HJF has an unparalleled perspective on the seriousness of the unmet civil legal needs in the Islands and the significant efforts of the legal service providers to meet these needs. For several decades, HJF has worked in cooperation with Hawaii's legal service provider organizations.

- 1) **Funding through HB1843 will increase efficiency in the courts by helping with providing legal advice and other needed services to the numerous *pro se* ("by self") litigants in Hawaii's various courts.** District Courts and Family Courts have seen a virtual explosion of cases where people are unrepresented by counsel. The Hawaii State Judiciary has made valiant efforts to assist these litigants through information kiosks, self-help centers, and other programs. However, people representing themselves face two fundamental difficulties. First, they are unfamiliar with court procedures and forms. Second, litigants of any economic level are emotionally involved in their case, and this makes it very difficult to resolve the case without outside assistance. HB1843 will provide additional funds to our legal service providers for services to the Judiciary, and the providers will be able to give greater information, advice, and other services to litigants. **The services provided to the Courts under HB1843 will assist the Judiciary in processing cases in a more efficient and effective manner.**
- 2) **Legal service providers are currently experiencing severe financial difficulties, making the funding under HB1843 essential.** All of Hawaii's legal service providers

face serious economic challenges limiting their ability to meet legal needs of our low-income population. We are all painfully aware of the difficulties caused by COVID-19, including both financial and service delivery functions. Legal needs of people are higher than ever, due to current economic conditions. Legal service providers face potential cuts in governmental funding sources and reduced contributions from private donations. Traditional fundraising activities, such as dinners and other formal or informal in-person gatherings, are not now available as an option to the providers. All these pressures make it critical that HB1843 be approved to provide additional funding to Hawaii's legal service providers.

- 3) **HJF's income from the IOLTA funds has plummeted with the decrease in interest rates, which makes HB1843 funding even more essential.** HJF receives funds from the Interest on Attorney Trust Accounts (IOLTA) Program under Rule 11 of the Rules of the Hawaii Supreme Court, and these funds are then awarded to various legal service providers through yearly grants. COVID-19 has resulted in a serious decline of interest rates, and HJF's interest under the IOLTA program is 1/8th of what it was as recently as January, 2020 before the pandemic. This means that HJF's ability to fund legal service providers under the IOLTA Program is severely limited under current interest rates. HB1843 will help fill this serious revenue decline. Even with the requested HB1843 funding level, the additional funds will not be sufficient to replace IOLTA income under more "typical" federal funds target rates of 2.0% and higher.

Your favorable approval of HB1843 is essential. Passage of this bill will be a major step toward efforts to achieve access to justice for all.



*An Affiliate of
National Justice
for Our Neighbors*

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February 1, 2022

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Representative Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice-Chair

Hearing Date: February 3, 2022, 2 p.m.

Via Videoconference; Conference Room 325

**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1843
Relating to Civil Legal Services**

Chair Nakashima, Vice-Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee:

The Legal Clinic (“TLC”) submits this testimony in support of HB 1843, which would appropriate funds for the judiciary to purchase civil legal services for low- and moderate-income persons.

TLC provides legal services to Hawai'i's low- and moderate- income immigrant community. Like the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i, Volunteer Legal Services Hawai'i, Domestic Violence Action Center, and other non-profit organizations, TLC provides much needed legal services to a chronically underserved segment of our community. That part of our community, already at or below the margins of what should be acceptable in our society, has been especially hard hit by Covid-19. For the past two years, the pandemic has caused severe economic, social, and other dislocations, and significantly increased the need for legal services among those who can least afford them.

While the need for services has sharply increased, non-profits face greater hurdles in their fund raising. With all the competing needs, legal service providers face potential cuts in governmental funding, as well as in foundation giving. Private individual giving is increasingly difficult, with in-person fundraising events curtailed.

At a time like this, legal service providers need increased support. We urge you to pass HB 1843 out of committee to help the most vulnerable in our society gain access to justice and move us to a more equitable state for all.

Thank you.

Corey Park
President, Board of Directors
The Legal Clinic

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:09:07 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Joseph E Cardoza	Hawai`i Access to Justice Commission	Support	No

Comments:

Chair: Hon. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Vice Chair: Hon. Scot Z. Matayoshi Vice Chair

Committee: House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Testimony of: Joseph E. Cardoza, Chair

Organization: Hawai`i Access To Justice Commission

Hearing Date: Thursday, February 3, 2022

Hearing Time: 2:00 p.m.

Place: Via Videoconference

Conference Room 325

Hawai`i State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, Hawai`i

House Bill: HB No. 1843

Position: Support of HB1843 Relating to Civil Legal Services

Dear Chair Nakashima and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs:

The Hawai'i Access to Justice Commission strongly supports House Bill 1843, which would provide an appropriation through the Judiciary for the purchase of civil legal services for low- and moderate-income persons.

Several non-profit organizations provide critical legal services to residents who cannot afford a lawyer. The inability to access essential legal services can often lead to long-term consequences. Undoing the damage done by the inaccessibility to legal services is costly, both for the individual and society in general. The impact on the community is both social and economic. Non-profit organizations have served thousands of our residents over a long period of time, but their financial support varies from year-to-year. Unfortunately, there are many residents who cannot be served because of the financial constraints these organizations face. The Hawai'i Access to Justice Commission appreciates the support the Legislature has provided in the past, and is hopeful that our low- and moderate-income residents will have access to essential civil legal services in the future.

The Commission appreciates the Committee bringing this legislation forward and for the opportunity to present this written testimony.

I do not plan to testify during the videoconference hearing on this Bill.