
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE JUDICIARY TO PREPARE A MASTER DEVELOPMENT PLAN,
INCLUDING A CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT REQUEST, TO UPGRADE
THE SOUTH KOHALA DISTRICT COURT.

1 WHEREAS, the South Kohala District Court complex is located
2 in Waimea, which is a one-hour drive from both Hilo and Kona,
3 the two larger population centers on Hawaii island; and
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5 WHEREAS, the population of Waimea has nearly doubled in
6 twenty years from seven thousand to nearly fourteen thousand
7 residents; and
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9 WHEREAS, neighboring communities in North Kohala, Kawaihae,
10 Waikoloa, Hamakua, Waikii, and the South Kohala Coast rely on
11 crucial government services in Waimea, including access to the
12 District Court; and
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14 WHEREAS, Waimea needs a bigger District Court complex, a
15 District Court Judge, and Circuit Court Judge to serve the large
16 geographical area and its growing population; and
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18 WHEREAS, the current complex does not have adequate seating
19 capacity and people often must wait outside; some days as many
20 as fifty individuals are forced to wait outside; and
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22 WHEREAS, Waimea is at nearly a two thousand seven hundred-
23 foot elevation level and is exposed to trade winds and rain; and
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25 WHEREAS, the restroom facilities are inadequate with just
26 one male and one female restroom, with one stall each, and are
27 located within the security check point and not easily
28 accessible to the parties waiting outside; and
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30 WHEREAS, the public has been told that they cannot file
31 family court documents at the South Kohala District Court,
32 forcing them to go to either Hilo or Kona; and



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WHEREAS, for temporary restraining order cases, there is no separate waiting area for the opposing parties, which creates stressful, if not dangerous, situations in which the opposing parties may encounter each other outside of the courtroom; and

WHEREAS, this serious lack of judiciary facilities in South Kohala can only be remedied by an objective evaluation of the demand for these facilities and a determination of how these needs can be met; and

WHEREAS, this evaluation and analysis would provide the necessary information to prepare a master development plan to upgrade the South Kohala District Court complex; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, that the Judiciary is requested to prepare a master development plan for the South Kohala District Court complex, including a cost estimate to plan, design, and construct the upgraded facility as a capital improvement project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Judiciary is requested to submit a capital improvement project request for the planning, design, and construction for an upgraded South Kohala District Court to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chief Justice and Administrator Director of the Courts.

OFFERED BY: *Dan James*

MAR 10 2023