

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB - 7 2023

RE: S.B. No. 485

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2023
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred S.B. No. 485 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO JUDGES FOR THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to establish one additional judgeship in the District Court of the First Circuit.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Judiciary, Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii State Bar Association, and one individual.

Your Committee finds that at the outset of the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, the Judiciary quickly implemented remote hearings in order to continue providing vital services and ensuring litigants still had the opportunity to be heard. However, the District Court of the First Circuit found that remote and hybrid proceedings require additional resources and take longer than in-person proceedings. Over time, longer court sessions mean that fewer hearings can be scheduled per session. If left unaddressed, this could result in case backlogs.


Your Committee further finds that many of the cases that come before the District Court have become more complex, involving interdisciplinary issues that are reflected in the community.



This measure will add an additional judge to the District Court of the First Circuit, which will provide the District Court with the ability to better manage court dockets, be more responsive to the needs of the community, increase capacity in the rural courts, and develop and expand specialized court calendars.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 485 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary,

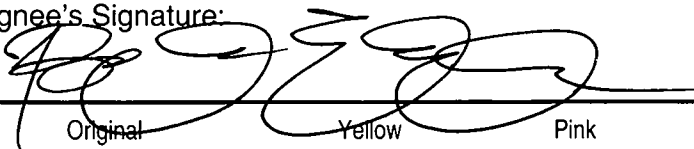


KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Second Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary
JDC

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 485	Committee Referral: JDC, WAM	Date: 1/31/23		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RHOADS, Karl (C)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike (VC)				✓
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C.	✓			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.	✓			
AWA, Brenton	✓			
TOTAL	4	-	-	1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes