
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that some persons who
2 have been sentenced to probation would benefit from civil legal
3 help. Employment, housing, marriage, child custody, and other
4 aspects of a person's life may be complicated by the person's
5 involvement with the criminal justice system. The legislature
6 believes that judges and probation officers can sometimes
7 identify persons on probation who are especially in need of free
8 civil legal representation.

9 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require and
10 appropriate moneys for the judiciary to establish a civil legal
11 services pilot program to provide free civil legal services for
12 certain persons who have been sentenced to probation.

13 SECTION 2. (a) Notwithstanding chapter 103D, Hawaii
14 Revised Statutes, or any other law to the contrary, the
15 judiciary shall establish a civil legal services pilot program
16 to provide civil legal services at no cost to eligible parties.
17 The judiciary shall contract with the Legal Aid Society of



1 Hawaii, Volunteer Legal Services of Hawaii, or other nonprofit
2 legal organizations, to administer the pilot program.

3 (b) The judiciary may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91,
4 Hawaii Revised Statutes, to effectuate the purposes of this Act.

5 (c) The civil legal services pilot program shall cease to
6 exist on June 30, 2027.

7 (d) For purposes of this Act, "eligible party" means a
8 party to a civil legal matter who:

9 (1) Has been sentenced to probation;

10 (2) Was referred to the civil legal services pilot program
11 by a court or probation officer; and

12 (3) Meets any additional eligibility criteria established
13 by the judiciary.

14 SECTION 3. The judiciary shall submit a report of its
15 findings and recommendations regarding the civil legal services
16 pilot program to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
17 to the convening of the regular sessions of 2025, 2026, and
18 2027. The report shall include:

19 (1) The number of cases funded by the pilot program in the
20 previous year;



- 1 (2) The total amount expended in support of the program
- 2 for the previous year;
- 3 (3) Recommendations on whether to extend the pilot
- 4 program; and
- 5 (4) Any proposed legislation.

6 SECTION 4. In accordance with section 9 of article VII, of
7 the Constitution of the State of Hawaii and sections 37-91 and
8 37-93, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined
9 that the appropriation contained in this Act will cause the
10 state general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025
11 to be exceeded by \$, or per cent. The
12 reasons for exceeding the general fund expenditure ceiling are
13 that the appropriation made in this Act is necessary to serve
14 the public interest and to meet the need provided for by this
15 Act.

16 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of or so much
18 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for the
19 civil legal services pilot program.

20 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the judiciary for
21 the purposes of this Act.



H.B. NO. 2234

1 SECTION 6. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
2 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
3 begun before its effective date.

4 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.
5

INTRODUCED BY: _____

JAN 22 2024



H.B. NO. 2234

Report Title:

Judiciary; Civil Legal Services; Pilot Program; Reports;
Appropriation; General Fund Expenditure Ceiling Exceeded

Description:

Requires and appropriates moneys for the Judiciary to develop a 3-year civil legal services pilot program to provide civil legal services at no cost to eligible parties. Requires reports to the Legislature prior to the convening of the Regular Sessions of 2025, 2026, and 2027. Declares that the appropriation exceeds the state general fund expenditure ceiling for 2024-2025.

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

