
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 funds 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) The judiciary shall establish a civil
14 legal services pilot program to provide civil legal services at
15 no cost to eligible parties. In accordance with chapter 103D,
16 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the judiciary shall contract with
17 nonprofit legal organizations to administer the pilot program.



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

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

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

7 (1) Has been sentenced to probation;

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

10 (3) Meets any additional eligibility criteria established
11 by the judiciary.

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

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

19 (2) The total amount expended in support of the pilot
20 program for the previous year;



- 1 (3) Recommendations on whether to extend the pilot
- 2 program; and
- 3 (4) Any proposed legislation.

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

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

17 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the judiciary for
 18 the purposes of this Act.

19 SECTION 6. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
 20 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
 21 begun before its effective date.



1 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

Judiciary; Civil Legal Services; Pilot Program; Reports;
Appropriation; Expenditure Ceiling

Description:

Requires and appropriates funds for the Judiciary to develop a three-year civil legal services pilot program to provide civil legal services at no cost to eligible parties. Requires reports to the Legislature. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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

