

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 3108

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 18 2024

RE: H.B. No. 1914  
H.D. 1  
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-Second State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2024  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred H.B. No. 1914, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO COMPENSATION FOR COURT-APPOINTED COUNSEL,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to increase the rate of compensation and maximum allowable amounts per case for court-appointed counsel in criminal proceedings.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Judiciary, Office of the Public Defender, Hawaii Paroling Authority, Hawaii State Bar Association, ACLU of Hawai'i, and three individuals.

Your Committee finds that over the last decade there has been a dramatic decrease in qualified applicants to the court-appointed lists of each circuit, which has in turn caused a shortage of available qualified and competent counsel to take indigent defendant criminal cases statewide. A major factor driving this reduction is the low hourly rate of pay offered for these cases. Your Committee believes that in order to attract skilled and experienced individuals to serve as appointed counsel for indigent defendants, the State must ensure that appointed counsel are adequately compensated for their work. This measure will aid in



recruiting and retaining counsel who are qualified, experienced, and willing to be appointed in criminal proceedings.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting an appropriation amount of \$2,500,000 for the increased rate of compensation and maximum allowable amounts per case for court-appointed counsel in criminal proceedings; and
- (2) Making it effective on July 1, 2024.

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 H.B. No. 1914, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1914, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

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



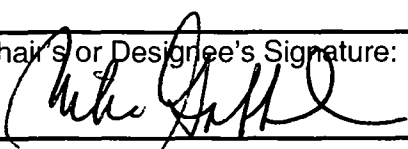
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KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate  
 Thirty-Second Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes  
 Committee on Judiciary  
 JDC**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>HB 1914 HD1</b>	Committee Referral: <b>JDC, WAM</b>	Date: <b>03/12/24</b>		
<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 type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311	<input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313		
<b>Members</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Aye (WR)</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Excused</b>
RHOADS, Karl (C)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike (VC)	✓			
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C.	✓			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.	✓			
AWA, Brenton			✓	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Adopted</b> <span style="margin-left: 200px;"><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Not Adopted</b></span>				
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