

THE SENATE
KA 'AHA KENEKOA

THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2025

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Thursday, January 30, 2025
TIME: 9:15 AM
PLACE: Conference Room 016 & Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

PHOTO ID REQUIRED FOR ENTRANCE TO THE STATE CAPITOL
BUILDING HOURS: 7AM TO 5PM, MONDAY - FRIDAY

The Legislature is accepting written, videoconference, and in-person testimony at public hearings.
A live stream of all Senate Standing Committee meetings will be available on the [Senate YouTube Channel](#).

A G E N D A

SB 286 Status & Testimony	MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR CAREER CRIMINAL PROSECUTION. Appropriates moneys to the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu for the career criminal prosecution unit.	JDC, WAM
SB 287 Status & Testimony	MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE VICTIM WITNESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. Appropriates moneys as a grant-in-aid to the City and County of Honolulu Department of the Prosecuting Attorney for the Victim Witness Assistance Program.	JDC, WAM
SB 289 Status & Testimony	RELATING TO ETHICS ADMINISTRATIVE FINES. Establishes uniform provisions for the assessment of administrative penalties under the State Ethics Code and Lobbyist Law.	JDC, WAM
SB 304 Status & Testimony	RELATING TO THE JUDICIARY. Establishes positions and appropriates funds for Adult Services Probation of the First Circuit Court.	JDC, WAM
SB 311 Status & Testimony	PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE HAWAII STATE CONSTITUTION REGARDING THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH. Proposes an amendment to the Hawaii State Constitution to provide that freedom of speech protected under the Hawaii State Constitution does not include the expenditure of money to influence elections.	JDC, WAM

SB 313 Status & Testimony	RELATING TO A WEALTH ASSET TAX. Establishes a wealth asset tax of one per cent of the state net worth of each individual taxpayer who holds \$20,000,000 or more in assets in the State.	JDC, WAM
SB 361 Status & Testimony	RELATING TO THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH COURT. Permanently establishes and appropriates funds for the Community Outreach Court as a division of the District Court of the First Circuit.	JDC, WAM
SB 428 Status & Testimony	RELATING TO WITNESS FEES. Increases the fees paid to witnesses in civil and criminal trials. Changes the fees paid for travel expenses from 20 cents a mile to the mileage allowance prescribed by the Administrator of General Services. Authorizes reimbursement to witnesses in civil trials for use of common carriers.	JDC, WAM
SB 435 Status & Testimony	RELATING TO VOTING. Requires the Office of Elections to include a notice to voters that a digital and print voter information guide is available. Requires the notice to be in thirty-two-point font and enclosed as a separate insert with each ballot. Requires the Office of Elections to maintain a notice on its website providing certain information about the voter information guide. Requires the Office of Elections to make the digital voter information guide available to the public no later than twenty-one days before the primary election and no later than fifty days before the general election.	JDC, WAM
SB 526 Status & Testimony	RELATING TO THE WOMEN'S COURT. Establishes a temporary three-year woman's court pilot program within the second, third, and fifth circuits. Establishes temporary positions. Requires a report. Appropriates funds. Sunsets 6/30/2028.	JDC, WAM
SB 598 Status & Testimony	RELATING TO PROTECTIVE ORDERS. Establishes the Hawaii Hope Card Program within the Department of the Attorney General to issue hope cards upon request to those holding a long-term protective order, with specified relevant information about the protective orders and all covered parties. Establishes the Hawaii Hope Card Special Fund. Appropriates funds.	JDC, WAM
SB 722 Status & Testimony	RELATING TO PROPERTY FORFEITURE. Restricts civil asset forfeiture to cases involving the commission of a felony offense where the property owner has been convicted of an underlying felony offense. Directs forfeiture proceeds to the general fund. Amends the allowable expenses for moneys in the Criminal Forfeiture Fund. Requires the Attorney General to adopt rules necessary to carry out the purpose of the Hawaii Omnibus Criminal Forfeiture Act. Amends the deadline for the Attorney General to report to the Legislature on the use of the Hawaii Omnibus Criminal Forfeiture Act. Limits the transfer of certain forfeiture property to federal agencies. Establishes records requirements.	JDC, WAM

Decision Making to follow, if time permits.

All testimony received by the Hawai'i Senate is posted on the Hawai'i Legislature's website, which is accessible to the public. Please do not include private information that you do not want disclosed to the public.

Please go to the Legislature's website, <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov>, to submit **written testimony** at least 24 hours prior to the hearing. Create a free account on the website, or sign in to an existing account, then click on the "Participate" drop down menu and select the "Submit Testimony" option to get started. While submitting your written testimony, you will be prompted to indicate if you would also like to testify at the hearing in-person or remotely via videoconference.

Please note the following:

- The number of oral testifiers and/or time allotted to each testifier may be limited by the Chair when necessary to adhere to the committee hearing schedule. We may not be able to accommodate everyone who requests to testify orally.
- Testifiers for this hearing will be limited to **2 minutes** each.

If you wish to **testify via videoconference** during the hearing, please review the detailed step-by-step instructions for testimony procedures before you submit your written testimony. Here's a direct link to the instructions: <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/docs/testimonyinstructions.pdf>

For general help navigating the committee hearing process, please contact the Public Access Room at (808) 587-0478 or par@capitol.hawaii.gov. You can also visit their website at <https://lrb.hawaii.gov/par/>.

For special assistance: The cable TV broadcast and/or live stream of this meeting will include closed captioning. If you need an auxiliary aid/service or other accommodation due to a disability, please call the committee clerk at the telephone number listed below or email JDCcommittee@capitol.hawaii.gov. Requests made as early as possible have a greater likelihood of being fulfilled.

For amended notices: Measures that have been deleted are stricken through and measures that have been added are underscored. If a measure is both underscored and stricken through, that measure has been deleted from the agenda.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL THE COMMITTEE CLERK AT (808) 587-7211.

Senator Karl Rhoads
Chair