



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2025**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 280, H.D. 2, RELATING TO THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH COURT.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

DATE: Monday, February 24, 2025 **TIME:** 12:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 308

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Mark S. Tom, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) provides the following comments and recommended amendments.

The purpose of this bill is to permanently establish, and appropriate funds for, the Community Outreach Court, as a division of the District Court of the First Circuit.

The Community Outreach Court is a specialty court created through the collaboration of the Judiciary, Office of the Public Defender, and the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu. This court began as an independent and unfunded pilot project among the three agencies and later received legislative support through Act 55, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017 (Act 55). The unique aspect of this court is its streamlined process, involving limited stakeholders to effectively assist its target population.

The Department recognizes the positive impact this court has on the target population and supports the continued collaboration among the three agencies currently involved. Since late 2023, the Department has undertaken the prosecution of all state-initiated cases. Although the Department was not initially included in Act 55, it has worked closely with the existing stakeholders to ensure all state-initiated cases are considered for the Community Outreach Court.

Based on an agreement reached between the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu, Office of the Public Defender, and the

Department of the Attorney General, the Department recommends the following revisions to the bill:

1. In section 2 of the bill, on page 3, line 17, to page 4, line 6, in the definition of "prosecuting attorney" in section -1 of the new chapter, **delete paragraphs (3) and (4) to read as follows:**
"Prosecuting attorney" means:
 - (1) The prosecuting attorney for the city and county of Honolulu;
and
 - (2) Any deputy prosecuting attorney of the department of the prosecuting attorney of the city and county of Honolulu.
2. **Delete section 7 of the bill**, on page 10, line 17, through page 11, line 4, which makes appropriations to establish one full-time equivalent deputy attorney general tasked with duties for the community outreach court. The subsequent sections will need to be renumbered accordingly.

The Department notes that these amendments were adopted by the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs in its oral decision making on February 5, 2025 (2:30:13)¹. However, it appears these amendments were inadvertently omitted from House Draft 2 of the bill. The Department respectfully asks that the Committee address this oversight.

We believe the Department's current process in the District Court of the First Circuit remains the most effective and efficient method for addressing state-initiated cases involving individuals interested in the Community Outreach Court. Expanding the definition of "prosecuting attorney" to include the Attorney General and deputy attorneys general would unnecessarily complicate the existing processes.

In the alternative, if the Committee decides to proceed with including the Department of the Attorney General within the definition of "prosecuting attorney," we recommend deleting the following sections in the proposed new chapter: **"§ -1**

¹ House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs – Hearing held February 5, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. Available online on YouTube at the 2:30:13 mark, <https://www.youtube.com/live/D7hubwv8JiQ>. Last accessed February 21, 2025.

Definitions" (page 3, line 11, to page 4, line 11), "**§ -4 Principles and components of the court**" (page 5 line 10, to page 6, line 8), "**§ -5 Court process**" (page 6, line 9, to page 8, line 2), and adding a rule section similar to section 604A-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for Environmental Court, to read as follows:

§ -3 Policies and procedures. The agencies involved shall jointly adopt policies and procedures regarding the administration, operation, and procedures of the Community Outreach Court.

All agencies involved with the Community Outreach Court have shown a willingness to continue working collaboratively to expand and strengthen this successful program. These amendments to the bill would allow for greater flexibility in adjusting policies and procedures as agreed upon by the current agencies involved and allow for participation by other agencies in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.

JON N. IKENAGA
STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER

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February 22, 2025

Committee on Finance
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
415 South Beretania Street, Conf. Rm. 308
State Capital
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Testimony in Support of H.B. 280
Hearing: February 24, 2025, 12:00 PM

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi and Committee Members:

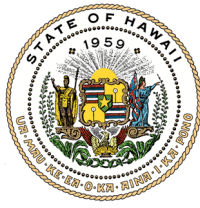
This letter is in support of H.B. 280 which would permanently establish and appropriate moneys for the Community Outreach Court ("COC") as a division of the District Court of the First Circuit.

Since 2017, the Office of the Public Defender ("OPD"), the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney ("PA") and the Judiciary have worked in concert to assist nonviolent offenders resolve pending and adjudicated offenses through alternative sentencing, including community service. It is the **collaborative efforts** of the Judiciary, OPD and PA that has led to the success of the program in the past, and these collaborative efforts will continue to ensure the success of the program in the future. Hence, **all parties should have equal input** into the "[e]stablishment of [the] coordinated strategy ... to respond to a defendant's compliance or noncompliance with the defendant's sentence[.]" COC has been instrumental in resolving thousands of cases with positive outcomes for both the offender and the community. The burden on law enforcement has been reduced through recalled bench warrants and penal summons that previously languished unserved. Participants who were previously unable to attend court due to financial and/or the inability to travel have attended court to address their cases. And both the community and offender benefitted greatly from completed community service. In order to continue to ensure success of the program, all parties must have equal input and weight into the resolution of the cases.

COC provides a vital service to the community. Not only is the court able to clear thousands of unresolved cases that would have otherwise remained pending, but social service providers also assist COC participants at no cost to the taxpayer. By the time the participants graduate from COC, the graduates are entrenched in or one step closer to stable housing, employment and have had their legal matters resolved. These milestones are necessary to end the cycle of homelessness which COC is tackling, one participant at a time. The permanent establishment of COC is integral and necessary for our community.

Thank you for taking these comments into consideration.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



MIKE LAMBERT
DIRECTOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT GOVERNOR
KE KE'ENA

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

Ka 'Oihana Ho'okō Kānāwai

715 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

JARED K. REDULLA
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 280, HOUSE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO COMMUNITY OUTREACH COURT
Before the House Committee on
FINANCE

Monday, February 24, 2025, 12:00 p.m.

State Capitol Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) strongly supports House Bill 280, House Draft 2. This bill seeks to permanently establish the Community Outreach Court as a division of the District Court of the First Circuit and provides essential funding for its continued operation. This represents a critical step forward in institutionalizing an effective alternative justice program that has demonstrated success in addressing nonviolent offenses involving homeless individuals.

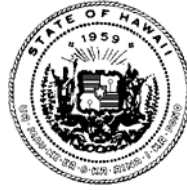
The Community Outreach Court serves as a vital tool in modern criminal justice reform, specifically designed to identify and address the unique needs of community members who, due to their circumstances, require support and assistance rather than traditional incarceration. The court's approach of combining alternative sentencing with coordinated social services aligns perfectly with contemporary evidence-based practices in criminal justice.

The permanent establishment of this court will enable law enforcement to work more effectively with other stakeholders, including the Office of the Public Defender and the City and County of Honolulu Prosecuting Attorney, to ensure appropriate case handling and service delivery. By holding hearings at community sites and implementing alternative sentencing strategies, this program helps reduce recidivism while addressing underlying social issues.

Like previous iterations of the Community Outreach Court program, the DLE anticipates the need for continued law enforcement presence during community-based court sessions to ensure safety and security. This presence is crucial for the successful operation of the court in various community locations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



RYAN I. YAMANE
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

TRISTA SPEER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

February 23, 2025

TO: The Honorable Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Ryan I. Yamane, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 280 HD2 – RELATING TO THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH COURT.**

Hearing: February 24, 2025, 12:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this bill and defers to the Judiciary, the Offices of the Public Defender, and Prosecutors. The community outreach court process assists non-violent individuals in addressing their pending legal issues that can be barriers to employment or the ability to secure housing. The community outreach court is a successful example of cross-branch collaboration to reduce homelessness, and it improves the public trust in the government.

PURPOSE: Permanently establishes and appropriates funds for the Community Outreach Court as a division of the District Court of the First Circuit. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)

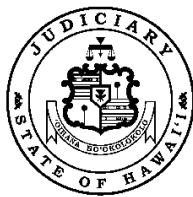
The Committee on Human Services & Homelessness amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

The Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs further amended this measure by:

- (1) Providing that the Community Outreach Court may only hear and dispose of cases involving nonviolent, nonfelony offenses under laws of the State and ordinances of the City and County of Honolulu determined to be appropriate by the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu;
- (2) Amending the process for the prosecuting attorney to select participants into the Community Outreach Court and enter into plea agreement negotiations;
- (3) Authorizing the Judiciary, pursuant to its appropriation for the operations of the Community Outreach Court, to enter into intergovernmental agreements or memorandums of understanding with any agency of the State or the City and County of Honolulu for the purpose of collaboration, cooperation, coordination, combination of resources, funding distribution, or the administration of Community Outreach Court; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.



The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i

Testimony to the Thirty-Third Legislature, 2025 Regular Session

House Committee on Finance

Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Monday, February 24, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

by

Thomas A. K. Haia
District Court, First Circuit

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 280, H.D. 2, Relating to Community Outreach Court.

Purpose: Permanently establishes and appropriates funds for the Community Outreach Court as a division of the District Court of the First Circuit.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary offers its unconditional support for and urges the passage of House Bill No. 280, H.D. 2. Since 2017, with the passage of Act 55, Community Outreach Court has reached and helped to improve the lives of hundreds of our most vulnerable population, those dealing with poverty and homelessness.

House Bill No. 280, H.D. 2 is an opportunity for Community Outreach Court to become a permanent court in the First Circuit. Community Outreach Court has been instrumental in helping its participants address legal matters through alternative sentences like community service work hours and has provided participants a warm handoff to social service providers in order to help them get back on their feet, while also helping to lift driver's license stoppers in order to allow participants obtain Hawai‘i driver's permits and licenses. These seemingly insignificant achievements, which most take for granted, can mean the difference between being unsheltered and unemployed to being on a pathway to a better life for the participants, as well as their families and loved ones.



Following the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs hearing on HB280 HD1, the agencies agreed to cooperatively work together through memoranda of understanding and/or agreement in order to smoothly coordinate the resolution of cases prosecuted by the Department of the Attorney General through Community Outreach Court.

Passage of House Bill No. 280, H.D. 2 also offers an opportunity to expand the court's reach by adding additional sites to its existing ones, which include the Hawai'i Health Harm and Reduction Center in Kakaako, Lili'uokalani Trust kipuka in Kaneohe and Waimanalo, Waianae Public Library, and Moiliili-McCully Public Library near Waikiki.

As Chief Justice Recktenwald highlighted in his State of the Judiciary Address, there is a continuing need for the Judiciary to evolve as our society does. In this regard, the chief justice spoke of Community Outreach Court's meeting people in the communities where they live, from Waianae to Waimanalo. With the passage of House Bill No. 280, H.D. 2, Community Outreach Court will become permanent and its efforts can be built upon and expanded. Imagine holding court in our community parks, at beach parks, in areas where many unsheltered communities exist.

Since its inception under the late Judge Darolyn Lendio, Community Outreach Court has helped more than 600 participants, cleared nearly 11,000 cases, lifted more than 7,000 license stoppers and recalled more than 900 bench warrants. And, with the passage of House Bill No. 280, H.D. 2 the court looks forward to doing much more.

The Judiciary looks forward to the passage of House Bill No. 280, H.D. 2 in order to further its goal of providing equal access to justice for those vulnerable members of our community. Along with our partners, including Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i, America Job Center, Lifeline Cell Service, the Department of Human Services and others, we look forward to the passage of this legislation in order to continue this essential work.

In order to honor the agencies' agreement to remove the Department of the Attorney General from the definition of "Prosecutor" and to permit consistency between the Senate and House versions of the bill, the Judiciary humbly suggests the following amendments to language of House Bill No. 280, H.D. 2 as follows:

1. Delete paragraphs 3 and 4 from the definition of Prosecutor at lines 4 through 6 on page 4.
2. In paragraph 5(d), page 7, line 9-10, please remove the reference "or representative of the attorney general."
3. Delete the entirety of Section 7, page 10, lines 1 through 9, referring to the Department of the Attorney General.
4. Amend the language in paragraph 5(d) to read: "The prosecuting attorney shall review the potential participant list and may select from the list those defendants who the prosecuting attorney determines may be appropriate for participation in the court.



House Bill No. 280, H.D.2, Relating to Community Outreach Court
House Committee on Finance
Monday, February 24, 2025
Page 3

The prosecuting attorney shall enter into plea agreement negotiations with the public defender for disposition of defendant’s cases that the prosecuting attorney determines are appropriate.”

The Judiciary appreciates the Legislature’s difficult job of finding funding to address the myriad matters facing our communities across the state; however, the need to address and assist O’ahu’s homeless communities is more urgent than ever. We appreciate this committee’s consideration of this measure, which represents a step towards greater compassion for vulnerable individuals who have accepted responsibility for legal missteps and wish to help themselves.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of House Bill No. 280, H.D.

2.



STATE OF HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378, Room 256
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH
Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
In Support of H.B. 280 H.D.2
RELATING TO COMMUNITY OUTREACH COURT
February 24, 2025 12:00 noon., Room 308 and Video

CHAIRPERSON
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1st VICE CHAIRPERSON
Kathleen Merriam,
LCSW CSAC

2nd VICE CHAIRPERSON
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Ray Rice, MEd
Asianna Saragosa-Torres
Forrest Wells, MSCP, LMHC
Kristin Will, MA, CL, CSAC

EX-OFFICIO:

Marian Tsuji, Deputy Director
Behavioral Health
Administration

Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

Hawaii law, HRS §334-10, established the State Council on Mental Health as a 21-member body to advise on the allocation of resources, statewide needs, and programs affecting more than one county as well as to advocate for adults with serious mental illness, children with serious emotional disturbances, individuals with mental illness or emotional problems, including those with co-occurring substance abuse disorders. Members are residents from diverse backgrounds representing mental health service providers and recipients, students and youth, parents, and family members. Members include representatives of state agencies on mental health, criminal justice, housing, Medicaid, social services, vocational rehabilitation, and education. Members include representatives from the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances and county service area boards on mental health and substance abuse.

The State Council on Mental Health ("Council") fully supports HB280 HB2. This legislation acknowledges the success of the Community Outreach Court (COC) project in O'ahu and takes a crucial step toward establishing it as a permanent program.

The Council recognizes that individuals experiencing homelessness or transience often encounter legal challenges stemming from circumstances beyond their control. A permanent COC provides an essential alternative to traditional legal proceedings, preventing unnecessary and costly entanglements with the criminal justice system. This approach prioritizes public health, rehabilitation, and cost-effectiveness while ensuring that individuals receive appropriate support rather than punitive measures.

By solidifying the COC as a long-term solution, this measure not only enhances the well-being of affected individuals but also reduces strain on law enforcement, courts, and public resources. It represents a forward-thinking strategy that aligns with evidence-based practices for addressing homelessness and mental health challenges in our communities.

For these reasons, the Council strongly urges the passage of this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support. Should you have any questions, please contact us at DOH.SCMHChairperson@doh.hawaii.gov.

VISION: A Hawaii where people of all ages with mental health challenges can enjoy recovery in the community of their choice.

MISSION: To advocate for a Hawaii where all persons affected by mental illness can access necessary treatment and support to live full lives in the community of their choice.



HB280 HD2 Outreach Court

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair

Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Monday, Feb 24, 2025: 12:00: Room 308 Videoconference

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Supports HB280 HD2:

ALOHA CHAIR, VICE CHAIR, AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the current chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide organization for substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health disorder treatment and prevention agencies and recovery-oriented services.

HSAC supports Alternative sentencing of offenders for established needs for substance abuse treatment and mental health services following shelter or other social services.

Formal substance abuse treatment such as residential and intensive outpatient is still the most effective approach to achieve functionality and lasting recovery for offenders and community people.

Substance use disorder treatment coupled with mental health services is essential for offenders because it addresses the underlying issues that often contribute to criminal behavior and helps break the cycle of addiction and recidivism. Here's why this is important:

1. **High Rates of Substance Abuse Among Offenders:** Many offenders struggle with substance use disorders. Studies show that a significant proportion of crimes, including theft, assault, and drug-related offenses, are committed under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
2. **Reduces Recidivism:** Treating substance abuse can lower the likelihood of reoffending. Offenders who receive effective treatment are more likely to develop coping skills and lead crime-free lives after release.
3. **Addresses Root Causes of Criminal Behavior:** Substance abuse often coexists with mental health issues, trauma, or socioeconomic challenges.

Treatment programs can provide a comprehensive approach to addressing these interconnected factors.

4. **Improves Public Safety:** By helping offenders overcome addiction, substance abuse treatment reduces the risk of substance-fueled criminal activity, thereby improving community safety.

5. **Economic Benefits:** Providing treatment is often less expensive than incarceration. It also reduces the costs associated with repeated arrests, court proceedings, and imprisonment.

6. **Promotes Rehabilitation:** Substance abuse treatment supports offenders in reintegrating into society, securing employment, and rebuilding relationships, which are crucial for long-term success.

7. **Legal Mandates and Support:** Courts increasingly mandate substance abuse treatment as part of sentencing or probation, recognizing its importance in addressing criminal behavior effectively.

By addressing addiction, offenders are given an opportunity to rebuild their lives, contributing positively to society rather than being trapped in cycles of crime and incarceration.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and are available for questions.



The Institute for Human Services, Inc.
Ending the Cycle of Homelessness

TO: Honorable Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita
Chair, House Committee on Finance

Honorable Rep. Jenna Takenouchi
Vice Chair, House Committee on Finance

FROM: Angie Knight, Community Relations Manager
IHS, Institute for Human Services, Inc.

RE: HB280 HD2 - RELATING TO THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH COURT.

DATE: February 21, 2025

POSITION: IHS supports the passing of HB280 HD2

IHS, The Institute for Human Services, supports the passing of HB280 HD2 to permanently establish the Community Outreach Court. The Community Outreach Court exists to help connect individuals with non-violent offenses to opportunities for bettering of self and resources to stable, permanent housing.

Community Outreach Court's intention is to divert individuals from further involvement in the criminal justice system to resources focused on rehabilitation and community integration. By intervening earlier, potential barriers can be snuffed before they become even more limiting or daunting to face/overcome on one's own. Many people who have lost their housing quickly accumulate citations, fines, and criminal records for nonviolent, misdemeanor offenses such as expired vehicle registrations, sitting or lying on sidewalks, or remaining in parks after hours. Fines and criminal history then become a barrier to gainful employment and housing.

With the emphasis on community-based organization (CBO) support for individuals participating in Community Outreach Court, we suggest including monetary support to ensure CBOs can provide dedicated staff to share available resources or service opportunities.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 280, HD 2

TO: Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, & FIN Committee Members

FROM: Nikos Leverenz
Policy & Advancement Manager

DATE: February 24, 2025 (12:00 PM)

Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHHRC) **strongly supports** HB 280, HD 2, which would appropriate funds and make permanent the Community Outreach Court (COC) as part of the District Court of the First Circuit. The Community Outreach Court has been a successful collaboration between the Judiciary, the Public Defender and the Honolulu Prosecutor's office along with support from community-based agencies such as HHHRC.

HHHRC is proud to have supported the COC from the beginning by providing on-site case management to the participants, and for the past year has hosted the COC in HHHRC's offices in Kaka'ako to make the court accessible to those needing its services in town. HHHRC has seen firsthand how participants of the COC thrive once their cases are resolved, and is also a site for the community-based hours that are needed from participants in order to satisfy their requirements. HHHRC has found it easier to house COC participants, and has seen the collaboration thrive to ensure some of our most vulnerable get the support they need. Our community needs this court to be permanent.

HHHRC's mission is to reduce harm, promote health, create wellness, and fight stigma in Hawai'i and the Pacific. We work with many individuals impacted by poverty, housing instability, and other social determinants of health. Many have behavioral health problems, including those related to substance use and mental health conditions, and have also been deeply impacted by trauma related to histories of physical, sexual, and psychological abuse.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Opportunity for Youth Action Hawai'i

KAWAIILOA

February 24th, 2025

House Committee on Finance

Hearing Time: 12:00 PM

Location: State Capitol Conference Room 308

Re: HB280 HD2, Relating to The Community Outreach Court

Aloha e Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Opportunity for Youth Action Hawai'i hui, we are writing in **support of HB280 HD2 relating to the community outreach court**. This bill permanently establishes and appropriates funds for the Community Outreach Court as a division of the District Court of the First Circuit.

Permanently establishing and funding a community outreach court with a dedicated function for those who cannot consistently access court appointments is a significant step forward in improving efficiency and equity within our judicial system. It further ensures that non-violent offenders are not ingrained in the criminal justice system by the issuance of bench warrants. Given that homeless individuals often lack reliable transportation and other effective means to attend court, they are disproportionately affected by strict court attendance requirements. This challenge is especially prevalent among homeless youth accused of non-violent crimes, who are often victims of their circumstances rather than choosing to neglect their legal responsibilities to the court.

A steady court record with multiple bench warrants not only perpetuates legal struggles but also significantly impedes reintegration efforts by making these efforts to secure employment and stability more difficult. By permanently implementing a community outreach court, we can begin to change the cyclical relationship between homelessness and criminal charges and provide a pathway toward rehabilitation and services rather than repeated punishment. Ultimately, we see this proposal as a highly beneficial addition to the criminal justice system and hope the state will follow through with its establishment.

Opportunity for Youth Action Hawai'i is a collaboration of organizations and individuals committed to reducing the harmful effects of a punitive incarceration system for youth; promoting equity in the justice system; and improving and increasing resources to address adolescent and young adult mental health needs. We seek to improve the continuity of programs and services for youth and young adults transitioning from minor to adult status; eliminate youth homelessness and housing market discrimination against young adults; and promote and fund more holistic and culturally informed approaches among public/private agencies serving youth.

Please support HB280 HD2

HB-280-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 12:58:39 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Denise Boisvert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I FULLY SUPPORT this much needed bill.

HB-280-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 1:54:19 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Jorgensen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT this much needed bill.