



## *The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i*

### **Testimony to the House Committee on Finance**

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 6, 2013 2:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

by  
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**Bill No. and Title:** House Bill No. 200, Relating to the State Budget.

**Purpose:** Appropriates funds for the operating and capital improvement budget of the Executive Branch for fiscal years 2013-2014 and 2014-2015.

### **Judiciary's Position:**

Although the Judiciary does not take a position on the overall Executive Budget, we would like to express our strong support for the Department of Public Safety (PSD) request for 16 additional deputy sheriff positions for court security, as noted on Budget Worksheets detailing PSD 503's request for new positions (SEQ#92-001, 92-002 and 92-003):

FY 2014: 16.0 positions, \$514,426 general funds  
FY 2015: 16.0 positions, \$845,299 general funds

The Judiciary is committed to making its facilities accessible and efficient to court users and the general public; however, the ability to maintain statewide building security and workplace safety is of great concern to the Judiciary. The approval of these 16 new sheriff positions is a critical start to increasing sheriff deputy staffing statewide at our Courthouse facilities and will significantly help to address current vulnerabilities and enhance safety for all Judiciary staff and the general public who visit our court facilities.

A significant safety and security need at each Court building has been identified to be the magnetometer and/or public access points. The best practice safety and security measure, also endorsed by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC), requires that at least one uniformed deputy sheriff must be assigned to each magnetometer and/or each main public ingress/egress



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location within each Court building. This recommendation is critical as the first line of response to deter and/or stop persons who attempt to bring weapons, explosives, etc., into the Court buildings. As such, to mitigate these threats and/or any event involving a disruptive person, an immediate response by law enforcement personnel is necessary. The positions, if approved by the Legislature, will provide this essential coverage for most of the Judiciary's courthouses throughout the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 200.