



The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

Tuesday, April 5, 2016 9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

by
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Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 1700, House Draft 1 Relating to the State Budget.

Purpose: To adjust and request appropriations for Fiscal Biennium 2015-2017 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs. (HD1)

Judiciary's Position:

Although the Judiciary does not take a position on the overall Executive Budget, we respectfully express strong support for a supplemental appropriation to the Department of Public Safety (PSD) to increase deputy sheriff positions, as shown in House Bill 1700, House Draft 1, page 40, line 42.

Like other State entities, the Judiciary works closely with PSD to provide open, yet safe, public access to our facilities. The ability to maintain building security and workplace safety continues to be of great concern.

The approval of additional deputy sheriff positions is critical to address current vulnerabilities and enhance safety and security. For example, best practice safety and security measures such as uniformed deputies at magnetometers and/or main public ingress/egress locations in public buildings are essential as the first line of response to deter and/or stop persons who attempt to enter with weapons, explosives, etc. To mitigate these types of threats or any event to disrupt government operations, an immediate response by law enforcement personnel is necessary. These positions will provide essential coverage for this purpose.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.