



The Judiciary, State of Hawaii

**Testimony to the
House Committee on Finance**
Representative Sylvia J. Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Tuesday, April 5, 2016, 2:31 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

by
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Bill No. and Title: Senate Bill No. 2569, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, Relating to the Community Court Outreach Project.

Purpose: Establishes a community court outreach project in the city and county of Honolulu, subject to the availability of funds and memoranda of agreements from the judiciary, prosecuting attorney of the city and county of Honolulu, and the public defender. Appropriates funds.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary supports Senate Bill No. 2569, S.D. 1, H.D. 1.

The district court criminal calendars include numerous cases involving nonviolent offenders, many of whom face multiple life challenges, such as substance abuse, mental health issues and the inability to provide themselves and/or their families with basic needs of food and housing. In an effort to address some of these cases, the community court outreach project ("community outreach court") would allow the Judiciary to collaborate with the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, the Office of the Public Defender and various community organizations to provide meaningful solutions to the problems facing these nonviolent offenders and to prevent recidivism.

The Judiciary can provide: 1) staffing for the community outreach court – a judge, court clerk and bailiff; 2) the ability to hold court sessions at locations (other than traditional courthouses) where offenders can more easily access court proceedings without taking time off



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from work, traveling substantial distances to traditional courtrooms and/or securing necessary child care; and 3) data on the progress of the community outreach court using the Judiciary's Information Management System (JIMS).

Safety and security is a concern when taking the court staff to other locations away from traditional courthouses; therefore, assistance from the Department of Public Safety will be required when court sessions are convened at locations other than traditional courthouses.

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