



The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Wednesday, April 4, 2018, 10:30 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

By

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Office of Equality and Access to the Courts

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 1943, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, Relating to Language Access.

Purpose: Appropriates funds for the establishment of two full-time equivalent (2.00 FTE) permanent program specialist positions within the office of language access to assist state agencies and state-funded agencies in implementing the requirements of Hawaii's language access law. Effective 7/1/3000 (SD1).

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary supports House Bill No. 1943, H.D. 1, S.D. 1.

This measure appropriates funds for the establishment of two full-time permanent positions within the Office of Language Access (OLA) to assist state agencies and state-funded agencies in implementing the requirements of Hawai‘i’s language access law. The Judiciary recognizes that many people who require or receive Judiciary services may not be able to meaningfully participate due to limited English proficiency (LEP). Thus, the Judiciary has prioritized its resources over the years to enhance the language access services it provides for LEP court customers. Through its Office on Equality and Access to the Courts, the Judiciary is committed to providing meaningful access to court processes and services to persons with LEP. Since its establishment, the OLA has been extremely supportive of the Judiciary’s efforts to promote language access and has been a valuable collaborative partner on many language access



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projects. In order to sustain the assistance and support that the OLA provides the Judiciary and numerous other state agencies, the Judiciary supports the passage of House Bill No. 1943, H.D.1, S.D.1.

We appreciate the Legislature's action to support efforts that promote access to justice and respectfully request your support of House Bill No. 1943, H.D. 1, S.D. 1.

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