



The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i

Testimony to the House Committee on Judiciary

Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair

Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 7, 2018 2:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

by

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 2586, Relating to the Hawai‘i Legal Aid Interagency Roundtable.

Purpose: Establishes the Hawai‘i legal aid interagency roundtable to facilitate cooperation between various state agencies regarding civil legal services and access to justice. Requires the roundtable to report to the Governor and Legislature. Appropriates funds to the Department of the Attorney General for the roundtable.

Judiciary's Position:

The Hawai‘i State Judiciary strongly supports House Bill No. 2586, which will improve collaboration among state programs and increase access to justice in Hawai‘i.

This bill’s creation of an interagency roundtable is consistent with recent recommendations from Hawaii’s Justice for All Committee. In 2015, President Barack Obama issued a Presidential Memorandum formally establishing the White House Legal Aid Interagency Roundtable (LAIR). According to President Obama’s memorandum, LAIR was established to “increase the availability of meaningful access to justice for individuals and families and thereby improve the outcomes of an array of Federal programs[.]”

Inspired by the federal LAIR program and based on feedback received during statewide network partner meetings, Hawaii’s Justice for All Committee recommended the creation of a local interagency roundtable in its December 2017 Final Report. The envisioned roundtable



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would bring together government agencies to coordinate ways to streamline government services and improve meaningful access to civil legal justice here in Hawai'i.

The Judiciary has representation on the Justice for All Committee and would welcome the opportunity to participate with the Hawai'i legal aid interagency roundtable once established.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.