



The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i

Testimony to the House Committee on Judiciary

Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair

Representative Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Wednesday, April 4, 2018, 2:30 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

by

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Resolution No. and Title: House Concurrent Resolution No. 141 & House Resolution No. 126, Urging the Department of Human Services and the Department of the Attorney General to Convene and Participate in the Hawai‘i Legal Aid Interagency Roundtable to Better Serve Low-Income, Vulnerable, and At-Risk Populations and Increase the Availability of Meaningful Access to Justice for Families and Individuals in the State

Judiciary's Position:

The Hawai‘i State Judiciary strongly supports HCR 141 and HR 126, which will improve collaboration among state programs and increase access to justice in Hawai‘i.

The Judiciary appreciates the Legislature’s interest in creating a legal aid interagency roundtable. The interagency roundtable suggested in these resolutions is similar to the White House Legal Aid Interagency Roundtable (LAIR) created by President Barack Obama in 2015 and is consistent with recent recommendations from Hawaii’s Justice for All Committee. The federal LAIR program 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 services 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.