



*The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i*

**Testimony to the Twenty-Ninth State Legislature, 2017 Session**

**Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor**

The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 8, 2017, 9:10 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 016

by

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**Bill No. and Title:** Senate Bill No. 1229, Relating to the Environmental Courts.

**Purpose:** Exempts all proceedings relating to parking violations under certain administrative rules from the exclusive, original jurisdiction of the environmental courts.

**Judiciary's Position:**

The Judiciary supports Senate Bill No. 1229.

Exempting all proceedings relating to parking violations under certain administrative rules would help to alleviate the cases in Environmental Court by allowing the public to pay fines or to write a written statement, if applicable, instead of having to appear in court.

Environmental Court has been processing cases for the last 18 months and during this time 27% of the cases heard have been for motor vehicle infractions. For example, there were 293 charges for disregarding a parking sign at a small boat harbor a violation of Hawaii Administrative Rules 13-233-6(4). Taking these types of cases out of Environmental Court will allow the court to focus on more serious environmental cases.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 1229.