



The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:00 am
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

By

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Family Court of the First Circuit

Bill No. and Title: Senate Bill No. 1018, Relating to the Hawai‘i Zero to Three Court.

Purpose: Request funding for the Hawai‘i Zero to Three Court.

Judiciary’s Position:

The Judiciary respectfully supports this bill as submitted in that it is requesting additional funding for the Hawai‘i Zero to Three Court, with the understanding that: “(t)he purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to support the Hawai‘i zero to three court. It is not the legislature’s intent that the appropriated funds supplant the judiciary’s existing funding or budget request” (page 3, lines 14-17).

The Judiciary is deeply appreciative of the Keiki Caucus and the individual members of the Legislature for their continued support of and interest in the Hawai‘i Zero to Three Court, as well as the other programs that the Judiciary has initiated and maintained for the benefit of Hawaii’s children and families. The Keiki Caucus’ tireless advocacy and voice for children oftentimes too small or young to speak for themselves are always necessary and always welcomed. This bill speaks to that continuing advocacy and concern, and the Judiciary thanks the Caucus.

The Judiciary has included as part of its budget package, a no-cost conversion of the current Program Manager/Coordinator position to permanent status. This would give the Hawai‘i Zero to Three Court the necessary added stability to continue to grow and move



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forward, albeit not necessarily at the accelerated rate that is likely envisioned by the Keiki Caucus’ somewhat larger appropriations request for the Hawai‘i Zero to Three Court in this bill.

For the Committee’s consideration, the figures noted for the Program Manager and Case Manager on page 4, lines 3 and 4 are incorrect. The more accurate amounts are:

Program Manager (Social Worker V - SR24C) \$59,616
Case Manager (Social Worker IV - SR22C) \$52,956

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.