



## *The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i*

### **Testimony to the House Committee on Judiciary**

Representative Chris Lee, Chair  
Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Monday, February 11, 2019, 2:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

By  
Christine E. Kuriyama  
Senior Judge, Deputy Chief Judge  
Family Court of the First Circuit

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**Bill No. and Title:** House Bill No. 491, H.D.1, Relating to Domestic Violence.

**Purpose:** Amends the offense of abuse of family or household members to provide for misdemeanor and petty misdemeanor penalties. Allows a deferred acceptance of guilty or no contest plea in cases involving misdemeanor and petty misdemeanor abuse penalties. Requires the Judiciary to submit annual reports to the Legislature on the number and outcome of abuse of family or household member cases.

### **Judiciary's Position:**

The Judiciary offers this testimony in strong support of this bill that allows greater flexibility in the sentencing options in HRS Section 709-906 while still emphasizing accountability of the defendant, safety of the victims, and increasing protection for the children in families wracked by domestic violence.

The Judiciary also wishes to reassure the Legislature that, if passed, this bill will not require additional judicial resources to implement.

The Judiciary reiterates its strong support of this attempt to provide more timely process to defendants without sacrificing community safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.