



*The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i*

**Testimony to the House Committee on Judiciary**

Representative Chris Lee, Chair

Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 13, 2019, 2:01 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

by

Calvin C. Ching, Deputy Chief Court Administrator, First Circuit

Bess Palma, Acting Registrar of the Land Court

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**Bill No. and Title:** House Bill No. 653, House Draft 1 Relating to State Partitions.

**Purpose:** Requires that land court actions for partition by the State be given priority.

**Judiciary's Position:** The Judiciary respectfully opposes House Bill No. 653, House Draft 1.

The Judiciary respectfully opposes this bill as it would have significant negative impacts on Land Court. The proposed changes would adversely impact the general public who often are filing land court petitions prior to a sale of their property.

Currently, documents submitted to the Land Court are handled in the order in which they are received. All matters presented for hearing are set and heard as expeditiously as possible.

The court is only able to hold court hearings once a week (on Mondays). If this legislation were to pass, non-State cases would be delayed in order to accomplish the proposed change.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.