



The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i

**Testimony to the
Senate Committee on Transportation**
The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
The Honorable Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair

and

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
The Honorable Calrence K. Nishihara, Chair
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 13, 2019, 1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

By

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Deputy Chief Court Administrator
District Court of the First Circuit

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Bill No. and Title: Senate Bill No. 164, Relating to Unadjudicated Traffic Fines.

Purpose: Transfers certain fines and forfeitures collected for uncontested traffic infractions to the counties.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary takes no position as to the merits of this bill, but wishes to comment on certain operational and technical aspects. The Judiciary respectfully recommends that reference to paying the "administrative costs of the traffic violations bureau" be removed, and, should this bill move forward, a specific amount to be transferred be established.

Determining the exact "administrative costs" incurred in operating the TVB in four different circuits would be extremely complex and the accounting to do this would be expensive and time consuming. With respect to staff salaries, it is easy to identify the amounts for positions that are identified as dedicated to TVB positions; however, many of the District Court personnel, court



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administrators, and judges work in traffic violation activities but are not dedicated to those functions alone. With regard to support costs, they would include a large element of the Judiciary Information Management System (JIMS), the primary computer database for handling traffic offenses. In addition, there is the non-District Court “support staff” which plays an important role in TVB functions, such as JIMS staff, Information Technology and Communications Division staff, and fiscal officers. It should also be noted that the costs related to the printing of statewide traffic citations was \$175,005.48 in 2018.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 164.