



The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 14, 2019, 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

By
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Senior Judge, Deputy Chief Judge
Family Court of the First Circuit

Bill No. and Title: Senate Bill No. 1047, Relating to Domestic Violence.

Purpose: Amends the offense of abuse of family or household members to provide for misdemeanor and petty misdemeanor penalties. Allows the granting of a deferred acceptance of guilty plea in cases involving misdemeanor and petty misdemeanor abuse of a family or household member if certain conditions are met. Requires the judiciary to submit annual reports to the legislature on the number and outcome of abuse of family or household members cases. Repeals June 30, 2024.

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.