



The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i

Testimony to the House Committee on Judiciary
Representative Chris Lee, Chair
Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 18, 2019, 2:05 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

by
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WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Bill No. and Title: Senate Bill No. 227, S.D. 2, H.D.1, Relating to Immigration.

Purpose: Makes an appropriation to the Judiciary to contract out to provide access to legal counsel to immigrants in immigration proceedings, diversion to existing services, and counsel for existing rights.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary supports the intent of Senate Bill No. 227, S.D. 2, H.D. 1 to appropriate funds for legal assistance and legal counsel to immigrants.

For Fiscal Year 2018 – 2019, the Judiciary received a one-time appropriation of \$450,000.00 pursuant to Act 26, 2018 Haw. Sess. Laws, to purchase civil legal services for indigent residents of the State of Hawai‘i. As a result of this appropriation, the Judiciary awarded contracts to two civil legal service providers.

The Judiciary supports the increased funding for civil legal services, including assistance to immigrants. The Judiciary also respectfully requests that funding for these services not come at the expense of the Judiciary’s current budget request in House Bill No. 510, H.D.2, S.D.1, or by eliminating vacant Judiciary positions and related funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.