

**THE JUDICIARY, STATE OF HAWAII
NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION
FROM HRS CHAPTER 103D**

TO: Chief Procurement Officer

FROM: Office on Equality and Access to the Courts
Name of Requesting Division/Program

Pursuant to HRS § 103D -102 (b)(4) and HAR Chapter 3-120, The Judiciary requests a procurement exemption for the following:

<p>1. Describe the goods, services or construction:</p> <p>Act 248 (2023) appropriated \$20,000 to the Judiciary for FY 2023-2024 to conduct a study of court interpreter fees, including recommendations on adjustments to the fee rates. The study should address the following topics, among others:</p> <p>Compare Hawaii's court interpreter rates to state courts across the nation, to state courts with similar cost of living indexes/differentials, and to state courts with similar language needs.</p> <p>Examine compensation for travel compared with similarly situated states.</p> <p>Make recommendations for interpreter recruitment and retention in relation to fees.</p> <p>The study should be completed by December 31, 2023.</p>	
<p>2. Vendor/Contractor/Service Provider:</p> <p>National Center for State Courts</p>	<p>3. Amount of Request:</p> <p>\$20,000</p>
<p>4. Term of Contract From: To:</p> <p>Upon execution through June 30, 2024</p>	<p>5. Prior Judiciary Procurement Exemption No. (if applicable):</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>6. Explain in detail why it is not practicable or not advantageous for the Program/Division to procure by competitive means:</p> <p>OEAC intends to contract with the National Center for State Courts to do the study on court interpreter fees. NCSC has been helping courts improve for over 50 years and is the premier organization dedicated to our nation's state courts. NCSC's Language Access Services Section focuses on assisting courts in matters related to language access - such as interpreter testing and training, disseminating best practices, working with CCJ/COSCA, and providing technical assistance. NCSC houses and supports the Language Access Advisory Committee, a joint initiative of the Conference of Chief Judges and the Conference of State Court Administrators, and the Council of Language Access Coordinators, a partnership of member states that has pooled financial and other resources to develop, maintain and administer court interpreting exams to support states' court interpreter certification programs and other language-access services. NCSC is uniquely positioned to assist Hawaii in a study of interpreter rates because NCSC alone manages the Language Access Advisory Committee and the Council of Language Access Coordinators, and is the only national organization with the connections and depth of experience with judiciary language access staff across the country necessary to compile and analyze the information required to result in an informed look at national practices, comparable jurisdictions, and emerging trends.</p>	
<p>7. Explain in detail, the process that will be or was utilized in selecting the vendor/contractor/service provider:</p> <p>The vendor was selected based on its expertise in research, existing relationships with language access staff in the various state courts, and knowledge of state court interpreter programs, including interpreter fee structures.</p>	

8. Identify the primary responsible staff person(s) conducting and managing this procurement. (Appropriate delegated procurement authority and completion of mandatory training required).

*Point of contact (Place asterisk after name of person to contact for additional information).

Name	Division/Program	Phone Number	email address
Debi Tulang-De Silva	OEAC	808-539-4861	OEAC@courts.hawaii.gov

All requirements/approvals and internal controls for this expenditure is the responsibility of the Division/Program. I certify that the information provided above is, to the best of my knowledge, true and correct.

/s/ Susan P. Gochros

Department/Division/Program Head Signature

08/30/2023

Date

For Chief Procurement Officer Use Only

Date Notice Posted: _____

Inquiries about this request shall be directed to the contact named in Item 8. Submit written objection to this NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION within seven (7) calendar days, or as otherwise allowed, from the Date Notice Posted to:

Chief Procurement Officer – The Judiciary
Financial Services Department
Contracts & Purchasing Office
1111 Alakea Street, 6th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-2807

Chief Procurement Officer (CPO) Comments:

Approved

Disapproved

No Action Required

Chief Procurement Officer Signature

Date