



Office of the Administrative Director of the Courts – THE JUDICIARY • STATE OF HAWAII
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Rodney A. Maile
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December 5, 2023

Via electronic submission

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, HI 96813

The Honorable Scott Saiki
Speaker of the House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear President Kouchi and Speaker Saiki:

In accordance with House Concurrent Resolution No. 88, Regular Session of 2023, the Judiciary is transmitting a copy of its *Report on a Master Development Plan to Upgrade the South Kohala District Court*.

In accordance with Section 93-16, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, we are also transmitting a copy of this report to the Legislative Reference Bureau Library.

The public may view an electronic copy of this report on the Judiciary's website at the following link: https://www.courts.state.hi.us/news_and_reports/reports/reports.

Should you have any questions regarding this report, please feel free to contact Karen Takahashi of the Judiciary's Legislative Coordinating Office at 808-539-4896, or via e-mail at Karen.T.Takahashi@courts.hawaii.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rodney A. Maile".

Rodney A. Maile
Administrative Director of the Courts

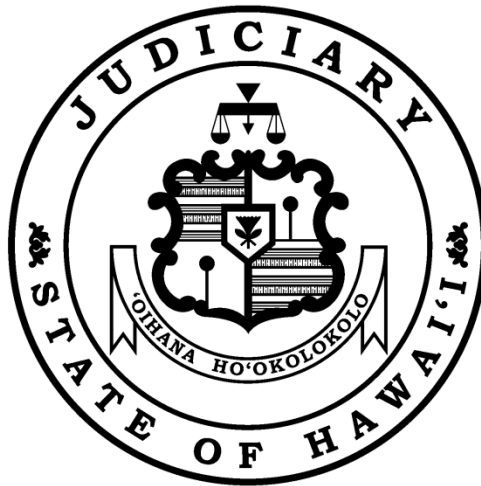
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c: Legislative Reference Bureau Library

**REPORT TO THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
2024 REGULAR SESSION**

**A Report on a Master Development Plan to Upgrade the
South Kohala District Court**

**In Accordance With House Concurrent Resolution No. 88,
Regular Session of 2023**



Prepared by:

The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i

December 2023

**REPORT TO THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
2024 REGULAR SESSION**

**A Report on a Master Development Plan to Upgrade the
South Kohala District Court**

**In Accordance With House Concurrent Resolution No. 88,
Regular Session of 2023**

This report is respectfully submitted in accordance with House Concurrent Resolution No. 88, Regular Session of 2023, requesting the Judiciary to prepare a master development plan for the South Kohala District Court complex, including a cost estimate to plan, design, and construct an upgraded facility as a capital improvement project. The resolution further requests that the Judiciary submit a capital improvement project (CIP) request for the planning, design, and construction for an upgraded South Kohala District Court to the 2024 Legislature.

The South Kohala District Court is located on the Waimea Civic Center grounds at 67-5187 Kamamalu Street, Kamuela, Hawai'i, 96743. The courthouse is a single-story structure of approximately 3,000 square feet, constructed in 1982.

The Judiciary recognizes the need for physical and operational improvements for the South Kohala District Court. Previous studies commissioned by the Judiciary documented some of the issues facing the South Kohala District Court, primarily that the Waimea community has grown and the current facility is too small and lacks sufficient space and functionality for the public and staff.

In October 2022, the Judiciary submitted a Project Initiation Request to the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) for a planning project to expand and upgrade the South Kohala District Court. In conjunction with DAGS, the Judiciary has made progress with hiring consultants to review record drawings and conduct site visits and a physical assessment of the facility.

In April 2023, a first site visit at the South Kohala District Court was conducted with officials from the Judiciary, DAGS, and architectural consultants. After review of the existing facility and in light of the costs and complications associated with upgrading the courthouse to meet current and future needs, it was determined that the more prudent approach is to seek construction of a new facility, located on a vacant, adjacent site on the same parcel.

Accordingly, the Judiciary has submitted a revised Project Initiation Request to DAGS requesting a plan for a new courthouse for the Third Circuit in South Kohala. This request will result in a Project Development Report and Master Plan for a new courthouse that will include cost estimates and recommendations to resolve the problems related to the lack of space for court staff and users, courthouse security improvements, and access.