
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the office of the
2 public defender provides necessary legal representation to
3 indigent individuals in criminal, involuntary commitment, and
4 family law cases as required by the United States and Hawaii
5 Constitutions, state statutes, and judicial opinions. The
6 legislature further finds that Act 9, Session Laws of
7 Hawaii 2020, defunded six positions in the office of the public
8 defender, and the positions were later abolished.

9 The purpose of this Act is to fund four deputy public
10 defender positions and require that one deputy public defender
11 be assigned to the family court section.

12 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$303,720 or so much
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for four
15 full-time equivalent (4.0 FTE) deputy public defender positions
16 within the office of the public defender (BUF151); provided that



1 one deputy public defender shall be assigned to the family court
2 section.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of the
4 public defender for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 3. In accordance with section 9 of article VII, of
6 the Constitution of the State of Hawaii and sections 37-91 and
7 37-93, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined
8 that the appropriation contained in this Act will cause the
9 state general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025
10 to be exceeded by \$, or per cent. The reasons
11 for exceeding the general fund expenditure ceiling are that the
12 appropriation made in this Act is necessary to serve the public
13 interest and to meet the needs provided for by this Act.

14 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

15

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 16 2024



H.B. NO. 1608

Report Title:

Office of the Public Defender; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates moneys for 4.0 FTE deputy public defender positions within the Office of the Public Defender (BUF151) and requires that one of the positions be assigned to the family court section.

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