
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, statutes, and judicial opinions. The legislature
6 further finds that Act 9, Session Laws of Hawaii 2020, defunded
7 seven positions in the office of the public defender, six of
8 which were eventually 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 \$627,300 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 III
16 positions within the office of the public defender (BUF151);



1 provided that one deputy public defender shall be assigned to
2 the family court 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 April 14, 2112.



Report Title:

Office of the Public Defender; Expenditure Ceiling;
Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for four deputy public defender positions within the Office of the Public Defender and requires that one of the positions be assigned to the family court section. Declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded. Takes effect 4/14/2112. (SD1)

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