

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1220

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 21 2025

RE: H.B. No. 280
H.D. 3
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred H.B.
No. 280, H.D. 3, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH COURT,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to permanently
establish and appropriate moneys for the Community Outreach Court
as a division of the District Court of the First Circuit.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Judiciary, Department of Human Services, Office of the
Public Defender, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, State Council on
Mental Health, Waikiki Neighborhood Board No. 9, Hawaii Substance
Abuse Coalition, Hawai'i Health and Harm Reduction Center,
Opportunity for Youth Action Hawai'i Kailua, and five
individuals.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the
Department of the Attorney General.

Your Committee finds that since its inception as an
independent and unfunded pilot project in 2017, the Community
Outreach Court has helped more than six hundred participants,
cleared nearly eleven thousand cases, lifted more than seven
thousand license stoppers, and recalled more than nine hundred



bench warrants. Your Committee further finds that both the community and participants have benefitted greatly from the Community Outreach Court, as the burden on law enforcement has been reduced through recalled bench warrants and penal summons that previously languished unserved, while participants who were previously unable to attend court due to financial circumstances or the inability to travel have attended court to address and resolve their cases. This measure will recognize the positive impact the Community Outreach Court has had on the community and further support the continued collaboration among the Judiciary, Office of the Public Defender, and Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu by making the Community Outreach Court permanent.

Your Committee notes the testimony from the Department of the Attorney General regarding an agreement reached between the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu, Office of the Public Defender, and Department of the Attorney General to remove the Attorney General and any Deputy Attorney General from the definition of prosecuting attorney in this measure, to address instances where both the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu and Department of the Attorney General have different cases involving the same defendant.

Accordingly, your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Deleting language that would have included the Attorney General or any Deputy Attorney General within the definition of "prosecuting attorney";
- (2) Deleting language that would have appropriated an unspecified amount of funds for an unspecified number of Deputy Attorney General positions tasked with duties for the Community Outreach Court;
- (3) Inserting an effective date of April 23, 2057, to encourage further discussion; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.



As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 280, H.D. 3, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 280, H.D. 3, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary,



KARL RHOADS, Chair



**Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary
JDC**

*Only one measure per Record of Votes