

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

291

Honolulu, Hawaii

**FEB 10**, 2025

RE: H.B. No. 401  
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2025  
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred H.B. No. 401 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DISTRICT COURT JUDGES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to establish an additional district court judgeship in the Third Circuit.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Judiciary; Office of the Public Defender; Hawaii State Bar Association; Collection Law Section of the Hawaii State Bar Association; Hawaii Financial Services Association; and three individuals.

Your Committee finds that there is a critical and urgent need to address the severe strain on the Kona District Court, where a single judge handles nearly 16,000 individual cases annually. Adding an additional district court judge will reduce the individual caseloads and allow the court to operate more efficiently, dispose of cases more promptly, and provide litigants and victims with timely and equitable justice.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

2025-1284 HB401 HD1 HSCR HMSO



- (1) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making a technical, nonsubstantive amendment for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 401, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 401, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Judiciary &  
Hawaiian Affairs,



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DAVID A. TARNAS, Chair



HSCR 29,

<b>Bill/Resolution No.:</b> HB401	<b>Committee Referral:</b> JHA, FIN	<b>Date:</b> 1/30/25		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
<b>The recommendation is to:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
JHA Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. TARNAS, David A. (C)	✓			
2. POEPOE, Mahina (VC)	✓			
3. BELATTI, Della Au	✓			
4. COCHRAN, Elle				✓
5. HASHEM, Mark J.				✓
6. KAHALOA, Kirstin	✓			
7. PERRUSO, Amy A.	✓			
8. TAKAYAMA, Gregg	✓			
9. TODD, Chris	✓			
10. GARCIA, Diamond	✓			
11. SHIMIZU, Garner M.	✓			
TOTAL (11)	9	0	0	2
<b>The recommendation is:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)				
<b>Vice Chair's or designee's signature:</b> _____				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original (White) – Committee              Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office              Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				