HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE JUDICIARY TO REPORT ON THE FEASIBILITY OF CREATING A FIFTH JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND CIRCUIT AND HOLDING SESSIONS ON MOLOKAI UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

WHEREAS, the second judicial circuit includes the islands of Maui, Molokai, and Lanai; and

WHEREAS, sessions of the Circuit Court of the second circuit are held at Wailuku, on Maui;

WHEREAS, the island of Molokai has a population of approximately eight thousand residents; and

WHEREAS, residents of Molokai must travel to the island of Maui to participate in court proceedings to which they are a party; and

WHEREAS, travelling to Maui for court proceedings presents a hardship and a financial burden for many residents of Molokai; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, that the Judiciary is requested to report on the feasibility of creating a position for a fifth judge of the Circuit Court of the second circuit and providing for sessions to be held at Kaunakakai on Molokai where one or more parties to a proceeding is a resident of Molokai who requests that proceedings be held on Molokai; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Judiciary is requested to work with the Molokai Police Department, the County of Maui Prosecuting Attorney's Office, State Public Defender's Office, Sheriff's Office, and private attorneys when conducting the feasibility study of creating a position for a fifth judge who shall hold sessions on Molokai; and

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 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Judiciary is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2009; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chief Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court and the Administrative Director of the Courts.