



The Judiciary, State of Hawaii

Testimony to the House Committee on Judiciary

Representative Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair

Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

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State Capitol Auditorium

by

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Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 301, Relating to the Judiciary Computer System Special Fund.

Purpose: To provide that fees prescribed by supreme court rule for electronic document certification and copies, and for providing bulk access to electronic court records and compilations of data shall be deposited into the Judiciary Computer System Special Fund.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary strongly supports this bill, which is part of the Judiciary's 2011 legislative package. This bill would amend HRS § 601-3.7, and HRS § 607-1 through 607.2, to provide that fees prescribed by supreme court rule for electronic document certification and copies, and for providing bulk access to electronic court records and compilations of data shall be deposited into the Judiciary Computer System Special Fund (JCSSF).

In 1996, the Legislature established the JCSSF to provide a source of revenue "to enable the judiciary to upgrade its computer system," "increase its efficiency, productivity, and accessibility by computer-based digital and electronic document filing," purchase "hardware and related software," and pay "for other expenses relating to new technology in traffic enforcement and civil, criminal, and appellate case processing and management, including operations and maintenance." The fund has been used for a number of major technology initiatives to improve the efficiency, productivity, and accessibility of the judicial process, the cornerstone project of which is the implementation of the Judiciary Information Management System (JIMS), an automated integrated case management system that will improve court operations and



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revolutionize the way courts do business and interface with the public. JIMS has already been implemented for the Traffic and Appellate courts, as well as the statewide Jury system.

The Judiciary seeks this change to help it offset the reduction in revenues to the JCSSF as well as to support additional operational, personnel, system and equipment costs that the Judiciary will incur in continuing the JIMS implementation. The Judiciary already charges court users and members of the public for the costs of searching, reproducing, certifying, transmitting, and handling court documents.

The recent implementation of JIMS for the Appellate court provides the means for court documents to be electronically filed, served, certified, and verified, thus allowing increased information accessibility by the public, since non-confidential dockets and pleadings can be immediately posted and viewed over the Internet. The system also allows for the near 24-hour electronic filing of court documents, and electronic service of court documents, thus saving litigants the costs of postage, paper, and courier services; reduces paper storage costs; and provides for the electronic transmission of court documents.

JIMS lets the Judiciary to be more responsive to public requests for court information by allowing electronic transmissions of such information. JIMS extends the court's ability to answer public needs by providing an electronic filing system, as well as an electronic public access system. In providing these capabilities, the court incurs additional operational, personnel, system, and equipment costs. The proposed bill permits the supreme court to set fees by supreme court rule for providing electronic access to court documents. In addition, the proposed bill provides that the fees collected support the future improvements and hardware replacements that such access will require by depositing the fees to the JCSSF. The fees charged for providing electronic access to court records will help offset the costs of providing the service. This will assist the courts in matching future upgrades to project revenues, in keeping rates at a reasonable level, and in avoiding both excess income and shortfalls.

The implementation of JIMS is crucial to the Judiciary's technological future and the ability of Judiciary staff to serve the people of Hawai'i efficiently and effectively. The Judiciary strongly urges your support for this bill and thanks you for the opportunity to testify regarding this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.