

Honolulu, Hawaii March 17, 2016

RE: S.B. No. 2106

Honorable Joseph M. Souki Speaker, House of Representatives Twenty-Eighth State Legislature Regular Session of 2016 State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred S.B. No. 2106 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WITNESSES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to support and encourage victims and other witnesses to report and pursue charges relating to criminal offenses that occur in Hawaii by:

- Increasing the per diem payments for out-of-state witnesses from \$145 to \$200 per 24-hour day; and
- Increasing the overnight supplement for inter-island witnesses who are required to stay overnight from \$90 to \$145 per 24-hour day, in addition to the \$55 per diem payment.

The Crime Victim Compensation Commission and the Prosecuting Attorneys for the County of Hawaii, City and County of Honolulu, and County of Kauai testified in support of this measure.

Your Committee finds per diem stipends to witnesses who travel from out-of-state or interisland have increased by only a small amount in the most recent 27 years. This small increase has not kept pace with inflation. The current per diem amount is insufficient to cover the witnesses' personal expenses for lodging and food. Witnesses must use their own money to pay for these expenses. This has reduced witness participation and the pursuit

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of charges against offenders, thus presenting an economic barrier to successful prosecution.

This measure alleviates the economic barrier at minimal cost. For example, based on the per diem amounts specified by this measure, Honolulu's Department of the Prosecuting Attorney's 2016 expenses would increase by only approximately \$12,500.

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 S.B. No. 2106 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Finance.

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

KARL RHOADS, Chair



HSCR 1069-16

State of Hawaii House of Representatives The Twenty-eighth Legislature

Record of Votes of the Committee on Judiciary

Bill/Resolution No.: SB 2106	JUD, FIN	Date: 03/15/16			
The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.					
The recommendation is to: Pass, unamended (as is) Pass, with amendments (HD) Hold Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)					
JUD Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused	
1. RHOADS, Karl (C)					
2. SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A. (V	C)				
3. BELATTI, Della Au					
4. BROWER, Tom					
5. CREAGAN, Richard P.	V				
6. HASHEM, Mark J.					
7. KAWAKAMI, Derek S.K.				/	
8. LEE, Chris					
9. MORIKAWA, Dee					
10. NAKASHIMA, Mark M.					
11. TAKAYAMA, Gregg					
12. WOODSON, Justin H.	V .				
13. McDERMOTT, Bob					
14. THIELEN, Cynthia					
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TOTAL (14)	10			4	
The recommendation is: Adopted I Not Adopted If joint referral, did not support recommendation.					
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:					
Distribution: Original (White) - Committee	Distribution: Original (White) - Committee Dyplicate (Yellow) - Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) - HMSO				