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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

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RELATING TO THE HAWAII LEGAL AID INTERAGENCY ROUNDTABLE.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1       SECTION 1. Chapter 28, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended  
2     by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and to read  
3     as follows:

4           "PART       .   HAWAII LEGAL AID INTERAGENCY ROUNDTABLE

5           §28-       Establishment; definitions. There is established  
6     the Hawaii legal aid interagency roundtable. For the purposes  
7     of this chapter:

8           "Government agency" means any department, commission,  
9     authority, office, or other agency of the State or any county.

10          "Roundtable" means the Hawaii legal aid interagency  
11     roundtable.

12          §28-       Membership. (a) The attorney general and the  
13     director of human services, or their designees, shall serve as  
14     co-chairs of the roundtable, which shall also be composed of  
15     representatives from the following government agencies:

- 16           (1) The department of health;
- 17           (2) The executive office on aging;



1           (3)    The department of commerce and consumer affairs;  
 2           (4)    The department of labor and industrial relations;  
 3           (5)    The office of community services;  
 4           (6)    The Hawaii public housing authority;  
 5           (7)    The civil rights commission;  
 6           (8)    The office of Hawaiian affairs;  
 7           (9)    The department of Hawaiian home lands;  
 8           (10)   The department of public safety; and  
 9           (11)   Any other government agency the co-chairs may, from  
 10               time to time, designate.

11           (b)    The co-chairs may invite the participation of the  
 12    judiciary, access to justice commission, and Hawaii consortium  
 13    of legal service providers to the extent consistent with law and  
 14    legal obligations.

15           **§28-       Mission and function.**   (a)   The roundtable shall  
 16    work across government agencies to:

17           (1)    Improve coordination among state programs that help  
 18                   low-income, indigent, vulnerable, and at-risk  
 19                   populations, and include, where appropriate, legal  
 20                   services among the range of supportive services



1 provided by the state programs, so that those programs  
2 are more efficient and produce better outcomes;

3 (2) Increase the availability of meaningful access to  
4 justice for individuals and families, regardless of  
5 wealth or status;

6 (3) Develop policy recommendations that improve access to  
7 justice in state and local jurisdictions;

8 (4) Implement goal sixteen of the United Nation's 2030  
9 Agenda for Sustainable Development to promote just,  
10 peaceful, and inclusive societies that provide access  
11 to justice for all and build effective and accountable  
12 institutions at all levels;

13 (5) Advance relevant evidence-based research, data  
14 collection, and analysis of civil legal aid and  
15 indigent defense, and promulgate best practices to  
16 support the activities detailed in paragraphs (1) to  
17 (4); and

18 (6) On an ongoing basis, evaluate:

19 (A) How providing low-income, indigent, vulnerable,  
20 and at-risk populations with access to civil  
21 legal services may serve or further the missions,



1 responsibilities, and goals of government

2 agencies; and

3 (B) The use or potential use of federal grant money  
4 received by government agencies for the purposes  
5 described in subparagraph (A).

6 (b) The roundtable shall submit an annual report to the  
7 governor and the legislature no later than twenty days prior to  
8 the convening of each regular session on its success in  
9 achieving its mission, and shall include:

10 (1) Data from participating members on the deployment of  
11 state and other governmental resources that foster the  
12 roundtable's mission;

13 (2) A summary of the evaluation required under paragraph  
14 (6), including the amount of money spent, if any, by  
15 government agencies to facilitate access to civil  
16 legal services; and

17 (3) Policy recommendations to facilitate access to civil  
18 legal services.

19 (c) The roundtable shall submit a report to the governor  
20 and the legislature on the economic impact of funding access to  
21 civil legal services no later than January 1, 2020.



1        §28-        Administration. (a) The roundtable shall hold  
2 meetings at least three times a year and engage with federal,  
3 state, and local officials, technical advisors, and  
4 nongovernmental organizations, among others, as necessary to  
5 carry out its mission.

6        (b) The attorney general and director of human services,  
7 or their designees, shall convene regular meetings of the  
8 roundtable and supervise its work. The department of the  
9 attorney general's staff shall serve as the staff of the  
10 roundtable.

11        (c) The department of the attorney general shall, to the  
12 extent permitted by law and subject to the availability of  
13 appropriations, provide administrative services, funds,  
14 facilities, staff, equipment, and other support services as may  
15 be necessary for the roundtable to carry out its mission."

16        SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                    or so much  
18 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the  
19 Hawaii legal aid interagency roundtable.

20        The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
21 the attorney general for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: Quen A. Rucchi

JS  
[Signature]

JAN 24 2018



# H.B. NO. 2584

**Report Title:**

Hawaii Legal Aid Interagency Roundtable; Access to Justice;  
Attorney General

**Description:**

Establishes the Hawaii legal aid interagency roundtable to facilitate cooperation between various state agencies regarding civil legal services and access to justice. Requires the roundtable to report to the Governor and Legislature. Appropriates funds to the Department of the Attorney General for the roundtable.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

