
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HAWAII LEGAL AID INTERAGENCY ROUNDTABLE.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and
3 to read as follows:

4 "PART . HAWAII LEGAL AID INTERAGENCY ROUNDTABLE

5 §346- 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 §346- 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 **§346- 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



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

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

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

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

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

(6) On an ongoing basis, evaluate:

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



responsibilities, and goals of government

agencies; and

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

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

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

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

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

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



1 **§346- 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 human
9 services' staff shall serve as the staff of the roundtable.

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

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

19 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
20 human services for the purposes of this Act.

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



Report Title:

Hawaii Legal Aid Interagency Roundtable; Access to Justice;
Department of Human Services

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 DHS for the Roundtable. (HB2586 HD1)

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