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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE COMMUNITY COURT OUTREACH PROJECT.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the community court  
2 outreach project started in January 2017 as a collaborative  
3 pilot project among the judiciary, department of the prosecuting  
4 attorney for the city and county of Honolulu, and office of the  
5 public defender. Act 55, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017,  
6 established a permanent community court outreach project in the  
7 city and county of Honolulu to help nonviolent offenders who  
8 face problems such as drug abuse and mental health challenges  
9 obtain basic services and necessities, like food and shelter.  
10       According to the judiciary's annual report, the community  
11 court outreach project has held eighteen sessions and cleared  
12 five hundred twenty-eight cases. Thirty-six out of fifty-four  
13 project participants, including repeat offenders, completed  
14 their sentences by performing a total of five hundred forty-two  
15 hours of community service. Furthermore, the court made eighty-  
16 five referrals to essential services such as shelter, food, and  
17 human services. The legislature further finds that the project



1 has positively impacted the community with some participants  
2 finding employment and housing. Due to the success of the  
3 community court outreach project during its first year of  
4 operation, it is the intent of the legislature to expand the  
5 project to other areas.

6 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the  
7 judiciary:

- 8 (1) To conduct an evaluation study to assess the impact of  
9 the community court outreach project in reducing  
10 administrative burdens within the judicial system; and  
11 (2) For any staff and technology necessary for conducting  
12 the community court at community sites outside of  
13 traditional courtroom settings.

14 SECTION 2. The judiciary shall conduct an evaluation study  
15 to assess the impact of the community court outreach project in  
16 reducing administrative burdens within the judicial system. The  
17 judiciary shall submit a report to the legislature with its  
18 findings no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the  
19 regular session of 2019.



SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for:

(1) An evaluation study by the judiciary to assess the impact of the community court outreach project in reducing administrative burdens within the judicial system; and

(2) Expenses, including the hiring of staff and purchase of technology resources necessary for conducting the community court at community sites outside of traditional courtroom settings.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the judiciary for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

INTRODUCED BY:

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# H.B. NO. 2752

**Report Title:**

Community Court Outreach; Evaluation Study; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the Judiciary to conduct an evaluation study to assess the impact of the community court outreach project in reducing the administrative burdens within the judicial system and for any staff and technology necessary for conducting the community court at community sites.

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