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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO IMMIGRATION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there are many  
2 immigrants who seek to continue legal residence or otherwise may  
3 be unaware of their rights and legal status in the country.

4           The legislature further finds that Hawaii has always  
5 embraced a welcoming attitude for people of all backgrounds,  
6 nationalities, and ethnicities. According to the 2017 American  
7 Immigration Council Fact Sheet, nearly eighteen per cent of  
8 Hawaii residents are immigrants, while more than one in seven  
9 residents is a native-born United States citizen with at least  
10 one immigrant parent. Immigrants are an integral part of  
11 Hawaii's diverse, multicultural community and make extensive  
12 contributions to the State.

13           The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the  
14 Judiciary to contract out to provide legal assistance and legal  
15 counsel to immigrants in determining legal status and  
16 citizenship, provide diversion to existing services, and  
17 otherwise provide counsel for existing rights.



1 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the  
4 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
5 2020-2021 to the judiciary to contract with the legal aid  
6 society of Hawaii to provide legal assistance and legal counsel  
7 to immigrants in determining legal status and citizenship,  
8 provide diversion to existing services, and otherwise provide  
9 counsel for existing rights.

10 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the judiciary  
11 for the purposes of this Act.

12 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on March 15, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Immigrants; Immigration Proceedings; Legal Counsel; Judiciary;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Makes an appropriation to the Judiciary to contract out to provide access to legal counsel to immigrants in immigration proceedings, diversion to existing services, and counsel for existing rights. (SB227 HD1)

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

