
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO WITNESS FEES IN CRIMINAL CASES.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 621-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "**§621-7 Fees; criminal cases.** (a) ~~[Every]~~ Except as
4 otherwise provided in subsection (c), every witness legally
5 required to attend a state court or grand jury in any criminal
6 case, other than a public officer or employee, shall be entitled
7 to \$20 for each day's attendance and a reasonable mileage fee to
8 be established pursuant to rules adopted by the judiciary for
9 each mile actually and necessarily traveled on the ground each
10 way, including travel to and from the nearest airport when
11 required to travel from another island or from outside the
12 State.

13 In addition to witness' fees, every witness:

14 (1) Who attends a state court from outside the State shall
15 be entitled to the actual round-trip cost of plane
16 travel, plus \$200 per twenty-four-hour day; or



(2) Who attends a state court from any island in the State other than that on which the court holds session shall be entitled to the actual round-trip cost of plane travel, plus \$55 per twenty-four-hour day; provided that when the witness is required to stay overnight, the witness shall be entitled to an additional \$145 per twenty-four-hour day.

These per diem payments shall cover all personal expenses, [~~such as~~] including board and lodging, and shall be computed on the basis of quarter day periods of time.

(b) Any police officer or other public officer or employee (except the county attorney, prosecuting attorney, or deputy county attorney or deputy prosecuting attorney), who attends a state court as a witness from a district other than that in which the court is holding session, shall be allowed the police officer's, public officer's, or employee's travel cost and mileage fees as provided in this section. A public officer or employee, if not salaried, shall receive witness fees.

(c) Every expert witness legally required to attend a state court or grand jury in any criminal case, other than a public officer or employee, shall be entitled to reasonable



1 applicable fees associated with the testimony, consultation, and
2 preparation associated with the expert witness' testimony and
3 attendance in court.

4 In addition, every expert witness who attends a state court
5 from:

6 (1) Outside the State shall be entitled to the actual
7 round-trip cost of plane travel, plus \$200 per twenty-
8 four-hour day; or

9 (2) Any island in the State other than that on which the
10 court holds session shall be entitled to the actual
11 round-trip cost of plane travel, plus \$55 per twenty-
12 four-hour day; provided that when the expert witness
13 is required to stay overnight, the expert witness
14 shall be entitled to an additional \$145 per twenty-
15 four-hour day.

16 Any per diem payment made pursuant to this subsection shall
17 cover all personal expenses, including board and lodging, and
18 shall be computed on the basis of quarter-day periods of time.

19 (d) As used in this section, "expert witness" includes any
20 witness subpoenaed on behalf of the State in a criminal case, or
21 on behalf of a defendant at the expense of the State in a



1 criminal case, who is subpoenaed for the expert witness'
2 specialized knowledge, skill, experience, training, or education
3 to assist a grand jury, trial jury, or judge in understanding
4 the evidence or determining a fact at issue in the case."

5 SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
6 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.

8



Report Title:

Honolulu Prosecuting Attorney Package; Witness Fees;
Reimbursements; Per Diem Payments

Description:

Clarifies applicable reimbursement to the State or a defendant for expert witness fees, as it pertains to testimony, preparation, and in-court attendance in state court criminal proceedings. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

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

