JAN 1 9 2024

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER.

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

- 1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the office of the
- 2 public defender provides necessary legal representation to
- 3 indigent individuals in criminal, involuntary commitment, and
- 4 family law cases as required by the United States and Hawaii
- 5 Constitutions, state statutes, and judicial opinions. The
- 6 legislature further finds that Act 9, Session Laws of
- 7 Hawaii 2020, defunded six positions in the office of the public
- 8 defender, and the positions were later abolished.
- 9 The purpose of this Act is to fund four deputy public
- 10 defender positions and require that one deputy public defender
- 11 be assigned to the family court section.
- 12 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
- 13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$303,720 or so much
- 14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for four
- 15 full-time equivalent (4.0 FTE) deputy public defender positions
- 16 within the office of the public defender (BUF151); provided that



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# S.B. NO. 2521

1	one deputy public defender shall be assigned to the family court
2	section.
3	The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of the
4	public defender for the purposes of this Act.
5	SECTION 3. In accordance with section 9 of article VII, of
6	the Constitution of the State of Hawaii and sections 37-91 and
7	37-93, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined
8	that the appropriation contained in this Act will cause the
9	state general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025
10	to be exceeded by \$ , or per cent. The reasons
11	for exceeding the general fund expenditure ceiling are that the
12	appropriation made in this Act is necessary to serve the public
13	interest and to meet the needs provided for by this Act.

INTRODUCED BY:

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

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## S.B. NO. 2521

#### Report Title:

Office of the Public Defender; Appropriation

### Description:

Appropriates moneys for 4.0 FTE deputy public defender positions within the Office of the Public Defender (BUF151) and requires that one of the positions be assigned to the family court section.

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