

JAN 19 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



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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