

JAN 18 2023

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that legal services are
2 often prohibitively expensive for low- and moderate-income
3 persons. The legislature further finds that several nonprofit
4 and volunteer organizations in the State provide quality legal
5 services to persons who require, but lack the resources to pay
6 for, services. These organizations include, without limitation,
7 Volunteer Legal Services Hawai'i, Domestic Violence Action
8 Center, and the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i. While these
9 organizations generally function on a volunteer or not-for-
10 profit basis, they still require funding for operating costs and
11 other expenses. The legislature has regularly made annual
12 appropriations for the judiciary to secure civil legal services
13 for low- and moderate-income persons and in 2022 appropriated
14 \$1.2 million for this purpose.

15 The purpose of this Act is to support nonprofit and
16 volunteer organizations that provide legal services to low- and



S.B. NO. 35

1 moderate-income persons by appropriating funds for the judiciary
2 to purchase civil legal services for these persons.

3 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,200,000 or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the
6 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
7 2024-2025 for the purchase of civil legal services for low- and
8 moderate-income persons.

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

11 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

12

INTRODUCED BY: Kal Rho



S.B. NO. 35

Report Title:

Civil Legal Services; Judiciary; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for the Judiciary to purchase civil legal services for low- and moderate-income persons.

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

