

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1220

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 21 2025

RE: H.B. No. 280
H.D. 3
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred H.B. No. 280, H.D. 3, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH COURT,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to permanently establish and appropriate moneys for the Community Outreach Court as a division of the District Court of the First Circuit.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Judiciary, Department of Human Services, Office of the Public Defender, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, State Council on Mental Health, Waikiki Neighborhood Board No. 9, Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition, Hawai'i Health and Harm Reduction Center, Opportunity for Youth Action Hawai'i Kawaiiloa, and five individuals.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of the Attorney General.

Your Committee finds that since its inception as an independent and unfunded pilot project in 2017, the Community Outreach Court has helped more than six hundred participants, cleared nearly eleven thousand cases, lifted more than seven thousand license stoppers, and recalled more than nine hundred



bench warrants. Your Committee further finds that both the community and participants have benefitted greatly from the Community Outreach Court, as the burden on law enforcement has been reduced through recalled bench warrants and penal summons that previously languished unserved, while participants who were previously unable to attend court due to financial circumstances or the inability to travel have attended court to address and resolve their cases. This measure will recognize the positive impact the Community Outreach Court has had on the community and further support the continued collaboration among the Judiciary, Office of the Public Defender, and Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu by making the Community Outreach Court permanent.

Your Committee notes the testimony from the Department of the Attorney General regarding an agreement reached between the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu, Office of the Public Defender, and Department of the Attorney General to remove the Attorney General and any Deputy Attorney General from the definition of prosecuting attorney in this measure, to address instances where both the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu and Department of the Attorney General have different cases involving the same defendant.

Accordingly, your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Deleting language that would have included the Attorney General or any Deputy Attorney General within the definition of "prosecuting attorney";
- (2) Deleting language that would have appropriated an unspecified amount of funds for an unspecified number of Deputy Attorney General positions tasked with duties for the Community Outreach Court;
- (3) Inserting an effective date of April 23, 2057, to encourage further discussion; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.



As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 280, H.D. 3, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 280, H.D. 3, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary,



KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Third Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary
JDC

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HB 280, HD 3	JDC, WAM	3/18/25		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RHOADS, Karl (C)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike (VC)				✓
CHANG, Stanley	✓			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.	✓			
AWA, Brenton				✓
TOTAL	3			2
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes