

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 06 2025

RE: S.B. No. 266

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 S.B. No. 266 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DISTRICT COURT JUDGES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to establish one additional district court judgeship in the First Circuit.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Judiciary, Office of the Public Defender, one member of the Kaua'i County Council, Hawaii State Bar Association, Collection Law Section of the Hawaii State Bar Association, and Hawaii Financial Services Association.

Your Committee finds that it has been more than forty years since the last district court judge was authorized in 1982. Since then, there has been a significant increase in the population of the City and County of Honolulu. Your Committee also finds that to address specific issues in the community, such as the prevalence of those who experience mental illness or substance use disorders becoming involved in the justice system, the Judiciary has created specialized dockets including a mental health calendar, driving while intoxicated court program, and the Community Outreach Court. However, these types of cases take longer to resolve, require numerous hearings, and additional time and resources to assess competency to stand trial and other needs, such as referral to treatment services when appropriate. This



measure will enable the district court to better manage court dockets and be more responsive to the needs of the community while also increasing capacity in rural courts and developing and expanding specialized court calendars.

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 S.B. No. 266 and recommends that it pass Second Reading 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.:* SB 266	Committee Referral: JDC, WAM	Date: 01/26/25		
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input 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	5	—	—	—
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