

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **152**

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 10 2025

RE: S.B. No. 361
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 S.B. No. 361 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 funds 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, Office of the Public Defender, Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition, and Opportunity for Youth Action Hawai'i.

Your Committee finds that many homeless persons who receive citations for nonviolent crimes are unable to attend court or have misplaced their paperwork due to the transient and unstable nature of homelessness, which leaves the courts no option but to issue a bench warrant. Bench warrants can be traumatic for the defendant and expends law enforcement officers' time and resources. To help address this, the Judiciary, Office of the Public Defender, and Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu established a Community Outreach Court project to make court appearances more accessible to homeless persons. Since its inception, the Community Outreach Court program has addressed more



than ten thousand cases, recalled more than nine hundred bench warrants, lifted more than six thousand driver license stoppers, and assisted more than six hundred participants with social services or referrals. The Community Outreach Court program removes some of the many barriers that homeless people face when trying to secure basic necessities such as employment, income assistance, and housing and should be a permanent program.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting an effective date of April 23, 2057, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making a technical, nonsubstantive amendment for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

Your Committee notes that this measure contains unspecified appropriation amounts and unspecified numbers of positions. Your Committee further notes that your Committee has requested the Judiciary, Department of the Attorney General, Office of the Public Defender, and Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu to provide your Committee with the exact appropriation amounts and numbers of positions needed to implement the Community Outreach Court program established by this measure.

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. 361, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 361, 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,

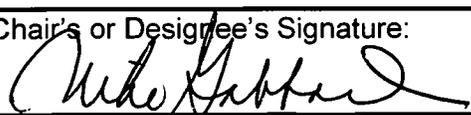


KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Third Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary
JDC

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB 361	JDC, WAM	11/30/25		
<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	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