



## *The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i*

### **Testimony to the Thirty-Third Legislature, 2025 Regular Session**

#### **Senate Committee on Judiciary**

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 9:45 am

State Capitol, Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

By

Michelle D. Acosta

Deputy Chief Court Administrator

First Circuit

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**Bill No. and Title:** House Bill No. 395, HD1, Relating to Jury Duty.

**Purpose:** Increases the amount each juror or prospective juror is paid for each day of actual attendance at court. Appropriates moneys.

#### **Judiciary's Position:**

The Judiciary strongly supports this bill, which is part of the Judiciary’s 2025 legislative package. This bill proposes to increase juror compensation from a fixed flat rate of \$30 to \$50 per day.

Juror compensation was last increased in 1989 from \$20 to \$30 per day. Since that time, the cost of living in the State of Hawai‘i has drastically increased. While juror compensation is not meant to serve as a substitute for wages, raising the daily rate would provide some relief for those who serve this important civic duty.

By comparison, jurors who serve in the United States District Court, receive \$50 per day. The National Center for State Courts recommends that at the very least, state courts should review compensation rates in relation to the prevailing federal rate.<sup>1</sup>

An increase in juror compensation helps ensure a diverse jury pool by allowing people from varying socioeconomic backgrounds to participate in the judicial system. It further

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<sup>1</sup> Center for Jury Studies, National Center for State Courts, Juror Compensation in the United States, (April 2022).



House Bill No. 395, HD1, Relating to Jury Duty  
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acknowledges the sacrifice our citizenry makes to serve on a jury and shows the state's appreciation for such service.

Any increase to the juror pay rate would require commensurate annual funding by the Legislature. We therefore also ask that the requested appropriation be supported by the Legislature and that any additional funding not supplant the Judiciary's other existing funding and budget requests.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 395, HD1.

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**Testimony of the Office of the Public Defender,  
State of Hawai'i to the Senate Committee on Judiciary**

March 13, 2025

H.B. 395 HD1: RELATING TO JURY DUTY

Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

The Office of the Public Defender **strongly supports H.B. 395 HD1:**

The Office of the Public Defender submits that there is a need to increase the compensation to the public for jury duty service. The increase from \$30 to \$50 is an acknowledgment that participation as a juror is a valuable and honored service to our communities and to the administration of justice. Jurors are the backbone of the constitutionally protected right to a jury trial in the criminal courts. It is understood that the fee is nominal. However, this increase helps offset the time away from work and family that our dedicated jurors spend participating in the administration of justice.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



**TESTIMONY**  
**Senate Committee on Judiciary**  
**Hearing: Thursday, March 13, 2025**

TO: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

FROM: Mark M. Murakami, HSBA President

RE: HB 395, HD1 - RELATING TO JURY DUTY

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide **STRONG SUPPORT** for HB 395, HD1 which would increase the amount each juror or prospective juror is paid for each day of actual attendance at court for that juror's service. Currently, jurors only receive \$30 per actual day in service, which is not extremely low as appreciation for a jurors' service. We strongly urge the court to raise this fee to \$50 per day to provide some additional compensation for jurors.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony in support.

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**HB-395-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 6:24:50 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/13/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Frank Schultz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this initiative.