
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE JUDICIARY.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 601, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§601- Automated court appearance reminder system; requirements. (a) No later than July 1, 2027, the judiciary shall develop, implement, and administer an automated court appearance reminder system that will generate and transmit text message or electronic mail notifications to certain persons who are required to appear in court at a future date.

(b) The automated court appearance reminder system shall:

(1) Be used in all traffic and criminal cases in the district, family, and circuit courts; and

(2) Generate a text message or electronic mail notification for each scheduled future court appearance that:

(A) Is transmitted to the recipient no later than twenty-four hours prior to the recipient's



1 scheduled court date and time; provided that if
2 the court is unable to schedule the future court
3 appearance more than twenty-four hours in
4 advance, then the text message or electronic mail
5 notification shall be transmitted to the
6 recipient as soon as possible after the court
7 appearance is scheduled; and

8 (B) Includes the following information:

9 (i) The name of the person who is required to
10 appear in court;

11 (ii) The case number of the matter in which the
12 person is required to appear;

13 (iii) The date, time, and location of the
14 scheduled court appearance;

15 (iv) For court appearances that can be attended
16 virtually, provide the link to the virtual
17 court appearance in, at least, the final
18 reminder sent before the appearance;

19 (v) A recommendation that the person make a plan
20 to attend court, including marking their
21 calendar, setting an alarm, and arranging



1 for transportation, time off from school or

2 work, or childcare, as applicable; and

3 (vi) The potential consequences that may result

4 if the person fails to appear in court at

5 the scheduled date and time, such as the

6 issuance of a bench warrant for the person's

7 arrest.

8 (c) The automated court appearance reminder system may

9 generate and transmit multiple successive text message or

10 electronic mail notifications for each scheduled future court

11 appearance, but the timing of the last text message or

12 electronic mail notification shall comply with the requirements

13 of subsection (b) (2) (A) .

14 (d) The judiciary shall consult with the intake services

15 center division of the department of public safety or its

16 successor agency with respect to the design of the automated

17 court appearance reminder system and any additional elements not

18 specified by this section that should be considered for

19 inclusion.



1 (e) The judiciary may contract with a third party to
2 develop, implement, and administer the automated court
3 appearance reminder system."

4 SECTION 2. Section 803-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended as follows:

6 1. By amending subsection (a) to read:

7 "(a) At or before the time of making an arrest, the person
8 shall declare that the person is an officer of justice, if such
9 is the case. If the person has a warrant the person should show
10 it; or if the person makes the arrest without warrant in any of
11 the cases in which it is authorized by law, the person should
12 give the party arrested clearly to understand for what cause the
13 person undertakes to make the arrest, and shall require the
14 party arrested to submit and be taken to the police station or
15 judge. The person shall note in the arrest record the
16 arrestee's mobile telephone number or a mobile telephone number
17 at which the arrestee may be reliably contacted. This done, the
18 arrest is complete."

19 2. By amending subsection (c) to read:

20 "(c) The citation shall contain:



- 1 (1) The name and current address of the offender[+],
2 including the offender's mobile telephone number or a
3 mobile telephone number at which the offender may be
4 reliably contacted;
- 5 (2) The last four digits of the offender's social security
6 number;
- 7 (3) A description of the offender;
- 8 (4) The nature of the offense;
- 9 (5) The time and date of the offense;
- 10 (6) A notice of time and date for court appearance;
- 11 (7) The signature and badge number of the officer;
- 12 (8) The signature of the offender agreeing to court
13 appearance;
- 14 (9) Any remarks; and
- 15 (10) A notice directing the offender to appear at the time
16 and place designated to stand trial for the offense
17 indicated and a notice that failure to obey the
18 citation may result in a fine or imprisonment, or
19 both."

20 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so



1 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for
2 the judiciary to develop, implement, and administer the
3 automated court appearance reminder system required by section 1
4 of this Act.

5 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

7

INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' followed by a series of loops and a final flourish.

JAN 26 2026



H.B. NO. 2181

Report Title:

Judiciary; Court Appearances; Automated Reminder System;
Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Judiciary to develop, implement, and administer an automated court appearance reminder system that generates text message or electronic mail notifications for upcoming court appearances in certain types of cases. Appropriates funds.

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

