



The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i

Testimony to the Thirty-Third State Legislature 2026 Regular Session

Senate Committee on Judiciary

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 24 2026, 9:45 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 016 and Videoconference

by:

Brandon M. Kimura

Administrative Director of the Courts

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 2095, H.D. 2, Relating to the Judiciary.

Purpose: Appropriates supplemental moneys for the Judiciary for the fiscal biennium beginning 7/1/2025 and ending 6/30/2027.

Judiciary’s Position:

The Judiciary strongly urges your support of House Bill No. 2095, H.D. 2, which reflects the Judiciary’s supplemental resource requirements for Fiscal Biennium 2025–2027. We acknowledge the economic uncertainty currently facing the State and have carefully considered this context. We respectfully make the following supplemental requests with this in mind, along with the circumstances that underlie each request.

In total, the Judiciary requests for FY 2027 an increase of \$6.4M in operating funds and 4.0 permanent full-time equivalent (FTE) positions, and—due to the requested conversion of positions—a reduction of 3.0 temporary FTE and 1.0 FTE (Special Fund) positions. The Judiciary also requests for FY 2027 a total of \$55.4M in bond funds for capital improvement projects.



Operating Requests:

Operating requests include critical physical and cybersecurity resources in consideration of recent security related events nationwide and locally, funding to sustain critical services to court-users, and funding and position conversions for critical personnel. This testimony provides detail for each request.

Critical Security Resources

Supplemental Armed Private Security – The Judiciary requests \$3,250,000 to contract for private, armed security professionals to enhance perimeter security at Judiciary facilities statewide, to supplement the protective services of the Department of Law Enforcement (DLE). Despite best efforts, DLE has consistently struggled to staff “patrol” positions at the public entrances and key fixed locations within Judiciary facilities, usually due to vacant positions and sometimes due to leave, training, or the performance of duties outside courthouses or to support courthouse cellblocks. We make this to enhance the safety of all who enter Judiciary facilities. This includes many whose in-person presence is mandated and where hearings are sometimes contentious, even while we have shifted to remote venues for many hearings or appointments with litigants and clients. Individuals who enter Judiciary facilities are often experiencing among the most difficult period of their lives, while judges and probation officers make decisions that will in many instances change lives going forward. The Judiciary has contracted with private, unarmed security professionals to assist in screening those entering Judiciary facilities, but these individuals provide distinct services and this approach does not address the modern security needs at courthouses.

Cybersecurity – The Judiciary has two requests pertaining to cybersecurity. We request \$188,880 to restore funding for an Information Security Architect and to transfer a position count from the Computer System Special Fund to ITSD general funds for an Identity Architect. These positions are critical to strengthening the Judiciary’s cybersecurity program as courts nationwide face increasingly sophisticated cyber threats. Recent ransomware and malware incidents affecting state and federal court systems—including in Texas, Alaska, Kansas, California, and the federal courts—underscore the growing risk to judicial operations. Currently, fragmented security tools and processes across IT divisions can create gaps in coverage, including delays in deactivating user accounts after employee separations, vulnerabilities that cybercriminals routinely exploit.

The Information Security Architect and Identity Architect will address these enterprise-level cybersecurity gaps by establishing a centralized security architecture and strengthening identity and access management. Together, these complementary roles will improve system oversight, enhance onboarding and offboarding controls, and ensure that new technologies are securely integrated into the Judiciary’s IT environment from inception.



House Draft 2 does not support these requests related to cybersecurity. The Judiciary respectfully requests this Committee support these requests to safeguard sensitive data, reduce operational risk, and support a secure, resilient Judiciary infrastructure.

Critical Services to Court Users

Purchase of Service (POS) Contracts (First Circuit, O‘ahu) – The Judiciary requests funds to restore First Circuit’s POS contract appropriations that were reduced by \$574,716. The Judiciary requests the restoration of funds for Purchase of Services (POS) contracts that provide substance abuse treatment services. These programs are critical to helping offenders overcome addiction, reduce criminal activity, and lower recidivism. Effectively treating addiction and mental illness significantly reduces reoffending and promotes long-term rehabilitation. Currently, the First Circuit Court’s Adult Client Services Branch (ACSB) supervises approximately 5,250 adult offenders, the majority of whom require substance abuse treatment. In 2024, 2,539 ACSB clients were referred for treatment, increasing to 2,848 referrals in FY 2025. As with other chronic diseases, early intervention leads to better results; immediate access to treatment is essential to recovery and relapse prevention. Delays in access can result in lost opportunities for recovery. The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted community supervision and treatment services. To ensure health and safety, face-to-face meetings and drug testing were suspended, resulting in fewer referrals and admissions to Judiciary-contracted treatment providers. The pandemic also placed considerable strain on these providers, as budget reductions resulted in decreased service capacity, staffing shortages, and limited admissions. Restoring funding for contracted treatment programs will expand access to essential services, support individuals in achieving recovery, and promote safe communities through reduced recidivism and sustained behavioral change.

Office of the Public Guardian – The Judiciary requests restored funding of \$33,162 in FY 2027 for a part-time Social Worker IV in Kaua‘i’s Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) program. OPG serves as court-appointed public guardian for incapacitated persons, safeguarding their rights, dignity, and quality of life. Referrals are primarily received from hospitals, long-term care facilities, Adult Protective Services, and the Department of Human Services. Upon appointment, OPG must address complex and individualized issues, including medical and mental health needs, financial and legal matters, benefits eligibility, family relationships, and end-of-life planning. Social Workers serving as guardians are responsible for investigations, crisis management, care planning, and ongoing oversight to ensure appropriate services and protections are in place.

The Social Worker IV position serves as the intake worker for Kaua‘i County and is essential for conducting assessments, responding to emergencies, consenting to services, and maintaining direct oversight of wards. Currently, Kaua‘i cases are managed by O‘ahu-based guardians, limiting the ability to conduct in-person visits and build the relationships necessary for



effective guardianship. While technology allows for some contact, it is not an adequate substitute for face-to-face interaction, particularly for cognitively impaired individuals.

Critical Staffing Resources

Commission on Salaries – The Judiciary statewide requests \$2,298,779 for FY 2027 for the requisite increases pursuant to the 2025 Commission on Salaries. The 2025 Legislature approved funding at the level required for FY26. Additional funds are required for FY27.

Court Operations Specialist (Third Circuit, Kona) – The Judiciary requests conversion of 1.0 FTE position from temporary to permanent and restored funding to a redescribed and modern need—Court Operations Specialist III, in the Kona Fiscal Office for \$59,532 in FY2027. In 2020, the Legislature removed funding for positions from the Third Circuit due to the economic uncertainty that the State was facing due to the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the positions defunded was a temporary Clerk III in the Fiscal Office at Courthouse in Kona. Although the needs of the Court and the public have evolved since the pandemic, it remains essential to use existing resources efficiently and proactively. Interpreter requests have also increased, particularly in multilingual and rural communities across the Third Circuit. Redescribing the defunded Clerk position into a permanent Court Operations Specialist will help address growing fiscal demands amid ongoing staffing challenges, reduce the challenge of coordinating an increasing volume of interpreter services, and strengthen the Court’s ability to respond to emerging needs throughout Third Circuit.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) (First Circuit, O’ahu) – The Judiciary requests a no-cost conversion of two (2) temporary Social Worker IV positions to permanent status for the CASA Program. CASA is staffed by eight (8) social workers, consisting of six (6) full-time permanent positions and two (2) full-time temporary positions. This staffing level is necessary to fulfill program functions and to maintain compliance with legal mandates and national certification standards required of Guardian ad Litem programs that utilize volunteer CASAs. A fully staffed program is essential to sustaining best practices and ensuring consistent, high-quality advocacy highly vulnerable children—those placed in foster care. CASA social workers and volunteers conduct monthly, face-to-face contact with all children served. Each CASA social worker attends court hearings, school and treatment meetings, youth circles, and home visits, and submits a court report at every review hearing. Conversion of the 2 temporary positions to permanent status would substantially improve program stability and continuity of services. Permanent employment would provide greater job security, allowing the CASA Program to retain experienced and qualified staff.

Capital Improvement Requests:

Capital Improvement Project (CIP) requirements continue to remain a major item of concern as the Judiciary’s infrastructure continues to age and deteriorate, and as the population served and services provided by the Judiciary continue to expand. We request CIP bond funds



totaling \$55.4 million for FY 2027 to address critical needs, nearly all of which relate to the health and safety of Judiciary employees, the public, and all who enter Judiciary facilities.

As the highest priority Judiciary CIP request this year, the Judiciary requests \$30.0 million in construction funds for a new South Kohala District Court. The existing South Kohala District Court presents significant concerns related to safety, space, temperature control, and noise, and is inadequate to meet the court-related needs the community. House Draft 2 provides for \$20.0 million of this requested amount for an initial phase of construction and the Judiciary is agreeable with this approach.

The Judiciary also request \$1.2 million each to upgrade and replace aging A/C equipment at Pu‘uhonua Kaulike on Kaua‘i and Hale Kaulike on Hawai‘i Island. The current chillers are nearing the end of their lifecycle, and current manufacturing challenges have resulted in extended lead times for replacement equipment. In addition, the Judiciary requests \$15.0 million to continue to upgrade and replace elevators at Ka‘ahumanu Hale, due to longstanding concerns for safety and reliability. Finally, the Judiciary requests \$8.0 million in lump sum bond funds to address both ongoing and emerging building issues statewide.

Impact of Amendments by House Draft 2

House Draft 2 supports all of the Judiciary’s requests except for two areas.

First, House Draft 2 does not support the Judiciary’s requests for additional cybersecurity resources. As indicated above, the Judiciary requests \$188,880 in general funds to restore funding for an Information Security Architect and to transfer a position from the Computer System Special Fund (CSSF) to general funds (part of the \$188,880) for an Identity Architect.

The House increased the *ceiling* of the CSSF, rather than appropriate general funds. Further, the House transferred a general-funded position to the CSSF, rather than the other way around. The critical nature of these positions is described in detail above. Stated briefly, they will address cybersecurity gaps by establishing and supporting a centralized security architecture for Judiciary IT staff and all Judiciary staff, and strengthen identity and access management for internals and externals. These complementary roles will improve system oversight, enhance onboarding and offboarding controls, and ensure that new technologies are securely integrated into the Judiciary’s IT environment from inception.

For these cybersecurity requests, the Judiciary seeks additional general funds to secure stable funding for these mission-critical IT functions—not a ceiling increase of special funds. CSSF-funded positions are temporary in nature and subject to funding availability. This uncertainty impacts the ability to recruit qualified candidates and impacts the stability of performance of these essential functions. Rather than a common request for new general-funded positions and accompanying funding that would increase the overall total number of positions, the



House Bill No. 2095, H.D. 2, Relating to the Judiciary
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Tuesday, March 24, 2026
Page 6

Judiciary seeks to transfer an existing vacant (general funded) position and restore funding for a previously defunded (general funded) position. In short, the Judiciary respectfully renews its original cybersecurity-related requests for this Committee's consideration.

Second, House Draft 2 supports \$20.0 million of the requested \$30.0 million in construction funds for a new South Kohala District Court. The Judiciary is agreeable and respectfully requests this Committee's agreement.

The Judiciary respectfully requests your support of House Bill No. 2095, H.D. 2, and consideration of the above pertaining to cybersecurity-related requests.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

The Hawai'i True Cost Coalition

March 24, 2026

Hawai'i State Legislature
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2095 HD2, Relating to the Judiciary

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard and esteemed members of the committee,

The Hawai'i True Cost Coalition is writing in strong support of HB 2095 HD2, relating to the Judiciary. This measure appropriates supplemental moneys for the Judiciary for the fiscal biennium beginning 7/1/2025 and ending 6/30/2027.

In particular, the Hawai'i True Cost Coalition supports the \$574,716 appropriation within the Judiciary's budget to restore funding for purchase-of-service contracts in the First Circuit Court that provide substance use disorder treatment for adult probationers on O'ahu. These contracts were significantly reduced during the COVID-19 pandemic, despite continued and growing need for treatment services. Restoring this funding is critical to ensuring access to effective interventions that promote rehabilitation, reduce recidivism, and strengthen community stability.

Hawai'i's safety net often goes unnoticed—until it begins to fray. It is built on community-based organizations that deliver essential services state agencies cannot provide alone, including shelter for at-risk youth, meals for seniors, behavioral health care, housing assistance, and crisis response for families in need. Yet decades of chronic underfunding have forced many organizations to reduce services, underpay staff, and rely heavily on private fundraising simply to remain operational. Members of the True Cost Coalition report working under contracts that have not received meaningful budget increases for more than ten years, despite rising costs for labor, facilities, and compliance. Without swift action, these pressures will continue to erode programs and leave Hawai'i's most vulnerable residents without the support systems they depend on.

Achieve Zero | Adult Friends for Youth | Aloha Care | Aloha Harvest | Arc of Kona | AUW | Big Brothers Big Sisters | Blueprint for Change | Boys and Girls Clubs of Hawaii | Catholic Charities | Child and Family Service | Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii | Community Alliance on Prisons | Community First Hawaii | Connecting Community LLC | DVAC | Easter Seals | Epic Ohana | Family Programs Hawaii | Full Life | Going Home Hawaii | Goodwill Hawaii | Hale Kipa | Hale Na'au Pono | Hale Opio Kauai, Inc. | HANO | Hawaii Afterschool Alliance | Hawaii Children's Action Network | Hawaii Community Benefit Consultants | Hawaii Community Foundation | Hawaii Data Collaborative | Hawaii Foodbank | Hawaii Housing Affordability Coalition | Hawaii Appleseed | Hawaii Public Health Institute | Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies | Helping Hands Hawaii | Hawaii State Coalition for Domestic Violence | Ho'ola Na Pua | Honolulu Habitat for Humanity | Honolulu International Film Festival | IHS | Imua Family Services | Cameron Center | Ka Po'e o Kaka'ako | Kamehameha Schools | Kinai 'Eha | Kui'kahi Mediation Center | Kumukahi Health and Wellness | Lanakila Pacific | Maui Economic Opportunity | Maui Family Support Services, Inc. | Maui United Way | Mediation Center of the Pacific | Mental Health Kokua | Metro YMCA | Mindful Living Group | Na Hale O Maui | Na Maka Haloa O Waipio | Nurturing Wahine | Olelo Community Media | PACT | Care | People Attentive to Children | PIC | PID Foundation | Responsive Caregivers of Hawaii | RYSE | Samaritan Counseling Center | Starting Over in Recovery | Susannah Wesley | The Spirit Horse Ranch Inc. | Transform Hawaii Government | U.S. Vets | Volunteer Legal Services of Hawaii | Women Helping Women | YMCA Honolulu | YWCA of Kauai | YWCA of Oahu

The Hawai'i True Cost Coalition is an alliance of more than 70 community-based nonprofit organizations serving over 500,000 residents statewide. Since its formation in 2020, the coalition has worked to strengthen partnerships between nonprofits and the State of Hawai'i to ensure public funds are allocated equitably, efficiently, and sustainably. By advocating for fair and realistic funding, the coalition helps safeguard critical programs for children, kupuna, individuals experiencing homelessness, people with disabilities, veterans, and survivors of domestic violence—ensuring that nonprofits can continue providing the vital care and support on which so many residents rely.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

Achieve Zero | Adult Friends for Youth | Aloha Care | Aloha Harvest | Arc of Kona | AUW | Big Brothers Big Sisters | Blueprint for Change | Boys and Girls Clubs of Hawaii | Catholic Charities | Child and Family Service | Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii | Community Alliance on Prisons | Community First Hawaii | Connecting Community LLC | DVAC | Easter Seals | Epic Ohana | Family Programs Hawaii | Full Life | Going Home Hawaii | Goodwill Hawaii | Hale Kipa | Hale Na'au Pono | Hale Opio Kauai, Inc. | HANO | Hawaii Afterschool Alliance | Hawaii Children's Action Network | Hawaii Community Benefit Consultants | Hawaii Community Foundation | Hawaii Data Collaborative | Hawaii Foodbank | Hawaii Housing Affordability Coalition | Hawaii Appleseed | Hawaii Public Health Institute | Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies | Helping Hands Hawaii | Hawaii State Coalition for Domestic Violence | Ho'ola Na Pua | Honolulu Habitat for Humanity | Honolulu International Film Festival | IHS | Imua Family Services | Cameron Center | Ka Po'e o Kaka'ako | Kamehameha Schools | Kinai 'Eha | Kui'kahi Mediation Center | Kumukahi Health and Wellness | Lanakila Pacific | Maui Economic Opportunity | Maui Family Support Services, Inc. | Maui United Way | Mediation Center of the Pacific | Mental Health Kokua | Metro YMCA | Mindful Living Group | Na Hale O Maui | Na Maka Haloa O Waipio | Nurturing Wahine | Olelo Community Media | PACT | Care | People Attentive to Children | PIC | PID Foundation | Responsive Caregivers of Hawaii | RYSE | Samaritan Counseling Center | Starting Over in Recovery | Susannah Wesley | The Spirit Horse Ranch Inc. | Transform Hawaii Government | U.S. Vets | Volunteer Legal Services of Hawaii | Women Helping Women | YMCA Honolulu | YWCA of Kauai | YWCA of Oahu



Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks! is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit committed to advocating for children and their families. Our core issues are safety, health, and education.

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary
Re: **HB2095 HD2 – Relating to the Judiciary**
Hawai'i State Capitol & Via Videoconference
March 24, 2026; 9:45 AM

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the committee,

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!, I am writing in **SUPPORT of HB2095 HD2**. This bill would appropriate supplemental funds for the Judiciary for the fiscal biennium beginning 7/1/2025 and ending 6/30/2027.

The supplemental funds in this bill would support Judiciary programs and operations as well as nonprofit partners serving children, youth, and families across Hawai'i. These resources are foundational to the effective functioning of family court, child protective proceedings, and other youth-related services.

Children experience court delays and under-resourced systems most acutely. When family court proceedings move slowly, children can remain in unsafe situations, experience prolonged instability, or face delays in permanency decisions.

Nonprofit organizations provide essential court-connected services such as supervised visitation, family strengthening, youth diversion, domestic violence support, and case management for court-involved families. Strengthening Judiciary funding helps stabilize these programs, improve court efficiency, and promote better outcomes for children.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Please pass this bill.

Thank you,

Nicole Woo
Director of Research and Economic Policy



TESTIMONY
Committee on Judiciary
Hearing: Tuesday, March 24, 2026

TO: Sen. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Sen. Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

FROM: Mark K. Murakami, HSBA President

RE: HB 2095 HD2 - RELATING TO THE JUDICIARY

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

The Hawaii State Bar Association (HSBA) appreciates the opportunity to offer testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 2095 HD2 – RELATING TO THE JUDICIARY.

The State Judiciary plays a vital governmental role in upholding a fair and civil society. Community reports indicate a growing demand for judicial services. It is our firm belief that the Judiciary has demonstrated and continues to exhibit fiscal responsibility. Considering these challenges, supporting the Judiciary's budget requests becomes imperative to ensure its ability to meet the growing demands efficiently.

The Judiciary is tasked with some of the most important of all State responsibilities. Individuals utilize court services during some of the most stressful times of their lives. Families rely on the Judiciary to settle disputes which tear at the fabric of their household. Business owners and entrepreneurs rely on the Judiciary to resolve contract or insurance issues which threaten their continued existence. Individuals who have been wronged, intentionally or unintentionally, by others rely on the Judiciary to make them whole. Those accused of crimes rely on the Judiciary to have an opportunity in court. The Judiciary is tasked with enforcing speedy trial constitutional rights and allowing all parties to be meaningfully heard.

The Judiciary requests a supplement to its operating budget of \$6.4M to cover expenses such as permanent full-time judicial and social worker positions, cybersecurity protection and armed security. They also are requesting a \$55.4M for CIP costs including construction funds for the South Kohala District Court, which currently operates in a building inadequate for court use. These requests are certainly reasonable and critical to the important role the judiciary has in protecting Hawaii's people.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit these comments in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 2095 HD2.

OFFICERS

Mark K. Murakami, President
Kristin E. Izumi-Nitao, President-Elect
Erin M. Kobayashi, Vice President
Lanson K. Kupau, Secretary
Jessica R. Domingo, Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Jocelyn W.C. Chong
Steven J.T. Chow
Michelle K. Correia
Geraldine N. Hasegawa (East Hawaii)
Chastity T. Imamura
Amanda M. Jones
Ronette M. Kawakami
Andrew M. Kennedy (West Hawaii)
Jacob K. Lowenthal (Maui)
Simeona L.L.A. Mariano
Emiko Meyers (Kauai)
Robert S. Miyashita
Arsima A. Muller
Paul W. Naso
Zale T. Okazaki

YLD PRESIDENT

Lauren K. Watanabe

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Mark M. Murakami

HSBA/ABA DELEGATE

Leslie A. Hayashi

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Catherine A. Betts

THOMAS D. FARRELL

Attorney at Law, LLC. Certified Family Specialist*

TESTIMONY OF THOMAS D. FARRELL
IN SUPPORT OF HB 2095 HD1
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Hon. Karl Rhoads Chair
March 24, 2026 9:45 a.m.

Good Morning Senator Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

Although I missed the opportunity to testify on the Judiciary's Supplemental Budget Request when it was making its way through the House, I trust my comments are not too late. I will address the operating appropriations, as I am less familiar with the CIP requests, and the staffing requests are *de minimus*, albeit needed.

Supplemental Armed Private Security: On any given weekday morning you may have as many as a hundred people on each of the two courtroom floors at Kapolei. On some of those days, there is one deputy sheriff on each floor. Many of the people who are on those floors are there either because they are victims or perpetrators of violence. Some of them are belligerent towards judges or court staff. I understand that the Sheriff's Department faces recruiting challenges (which this Legislature could improve by affording deputy sheriffs pay parity with their HPD colleagues) and that the department is stretched thin with other responsibilities (although I question why the department is now engaged in functions traditionally the exclusive province of HPD, such as traffic enforcement). However you choose to solve the problem, if you don't solve it, you will be asked to approve personal injury settlements when people get hurt in judiciary facilities due to inadequate security, and that will be more expensive. Certainly, one way to do that is to let the judiciary hire armed private security officers.

Cybersecurity: The bench and the bar have become extremely dependent on the JIMS/JEFS system for managing civil, criminal and family court cases. Frankly, it's a pretty good system, until someone hacks it, installs malware, or takes the data for ransom. The ask for an IT cybersecurity specialist is a modest one, and should be a no-brainer.

Purchase of Service (POS) Contracts (First Circuit, O'ahu): Many of these POS contracts have to do with substance misuse services in the context of probation and parole. You can spend a little to help maintain non-offending probationers and parolees in the community, or you can spend a lot to increase the capacity of our correctional facilities.

Office of the Public Guardian: OPG is the most effective tool in the state's limited arsenal to protect elderly and disabled adults from financial abuse and exploitation. A part-time social worker IV to handle OPG intakes on Kauai seems perfectly reasonable.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Divorce ♦ Paternity ♦ Custody ♦ Child Support ♦ TROs ♦ Arbitration
also handling national security cases involving revocation or denial of security clearances

700 Bishop Street, Suite 2000, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Telephone 808.535.8468 ♦ Fax 808.585.9568 ♦ E-mail tom@farrell-hawaii.com

*Certified by the National Board of Trial Advocacy. The Supreme Court of Hawaii grants Hawaii certification only to lawyers in good standing who have successfully completed a specialty program accredited by the American Bar Association.

HB-2095-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 11:13:50 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/24/2026 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Fairchild	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill to better fund the salaries of nonprofit workers.

HB-2095-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 11:18:06 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/24/2026 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Hatcher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senator Karl Rhoads and Senator Mike Gabbard,

I am writing to offer testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 2095. While I support this bill overall, I am writing specifically to emphasize the need for funds to construct a new South Kohala courthouse. I am a licensed attorney and spent years practicing in the South Kohala courthouse on a weekly basis. The current building, which some would describe as a quaint country court, is woefully inadequate. This courthouse serves three separate districts, North Kohala, South Kohala, and Hamakua, and these populations are growing. The building lacks a waiting area, which means that everyone, including opposing parties, must sit outside on a single bench that runs alongside the building, exposed to the elements, with no privacy whatsoever. There are no meeting areas where an attorney can have a private conference with their client before appearing before the Judge. Similarly, there are no secure meeting rooms to hold individuals in custody awaiting their proceedings. Instead, individuals in custody must wait outside in a transport van until their cases are called and it is in this van that they are expected to meet with their attorneys for private conferences. There is no dedicated space for monitoring security operations or for booking and processing individuals in custody. The courtroom itself is small and has issues with temperature control and ambient noise. The existing building has no space for other court-related agencies or services that support the community. A new courthouse would be instrumental in supporting the growing communities of the North Kohala, South Kohala, and Hamakua districts.

Thank you for considering this testimony in support of HB2095.