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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE JUDICIARY.

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

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

4           "§601-       Automated court appearance reminder system;  
5 requirements. (a) No later than July 1, 2027, the judiciary  
6 shall develop, implement, and administer an automated court  
7 appearance reminder system that will generate and transmit text  
8 message or electronic mail notifications to certain persons who  
9 are required to appear in court at a future date.

10           (b) The automated court appearance reminder system shall:

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

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

16           (A) Is transmitted to the recipient no later than  
17           twenty-four hours before 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 may be attended  
16 virtually, the link to the virtual court  
17 appearance, which shall be provided in, at  
18 minimum, the final reminder sent before the  
19 appearance;

20 (v) A recommendation that the person make a plan  
21 to attend court, including marking their



1 calendar, setting an alarm, and arranging  
2 for transportation, time off from school or  
3 work, or childcare, as applicable; and

4 (vi) The potential consequences that may result  
5 if the person fails to appear in court at  
6 the scheduled date and time, such as the  
7 issuance of a bench warrant for the person's  
8 arrest.

9 (c) The automated court appearance reminder system may  
10 generate and transmit multiple successive text message or  
11 electronic mail notifications for each scheduled future court  
12 appearance, but the timing of the last text message or  
13 electronic mail notification shall comply with the requirements  
14 of subsection (b) (2) (A).

15 (d) The judiciary shall consult with the intake services  
16 center division of the department of corrections and  
17 rehabilitation with respect to the design of the automated court  
18 appearance reminder system and any additional elements not  
19 specified by this section that should be considered for  
20 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       (f) Participation in the automated court appearance  
5 reminder system shall be voluntary. The automated court  
6 appearance reminder system shall permit a person the opportunity  
7 to opt out of participating in the system at any time.

8       (g) Any mobile telephone number or electronic mail address  
9 provided pursuant to this section shall not be:

10       (1) Used by law enforcement, corrections personnel, or any  
11 other government agency for investigative,  
12 intelligence, or enforcement purposes; or

13       (2) Shared with any third party, except as strictly  
14 necessary to facilitate court appearance reminders or  
15 as otherwise required by law.

16       (h) A person's refusal to provide a mobile telephone  
17 number or electronic mail address to a law enforcement officer,  
18 corrections personnel, or court staff shall not be:

19       (1) Held against the person for any purpose;

20       (2) Considered evidence of guilt; or



1       (3) Used adversely against the person in any criminal  
2           proceeding.

3       (i) The failure of the automated court appearance reminder  
4 system to send a text message or electronic mail notification,  
5 or the failure of a person to receive the notification, shall  
6 not relieve the person of the legal obligation to appear for a  
7 scheduled court appearance.

8       (j) The judiciary shall collect, maintain, and report data  
9 necessary to evaluate the administration and effectiveness of  
10 the automated court appearance reminder system, including:

11       (1) The number of persons enrolled in the system;

12       (2) The number of persons who opt out of the system;

13       (3) The number of persons for whom no mobile telephone  
14 number or electronic mail address is available; and

15       (4) The number of enrolled persons who fail to appear for  
16 a scheduled court appearance or fail to pay a  
17 citation.

18       The judiciary shall make this data publicly available or  
19 submit the data to the legislature on an annual basis."

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



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

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

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

17 "(c) The citation shall contain:

- 18 (1) The name of the offender;  
19 (2) The current address of the offender, if available;  
20 (3) To the extent practicable, the offender's mobile  
21 telephone number and electronic mail address or a



1           mobile telephone number and electronic mail address at  
2           which the offender may be reliably contacted;  
3       ~~[(3)]~~ (4)   The last four digits of the offender's social  
4           security number, if available;  
5       ~~[(4)]~~ (5)   A description of the offender;  
6       ~~[(5)]~~ (6)   The nature of the offense;  
7       ~~[(6)]~~ (7)   The time and date of the offense;  
8       ~~[(7)]~~ (8)   A notice of time and date for court appearance;  
9       ~~[(8)]~~ (9)   The signature and badge number of the officer;  
10       ~~[(9)]~~ (10) The signature of the offender agreeing to court  
11           appearance, unless the offender refuses, or is unable  
12           to sign;  
13       ~~[(10)]~~ (11) Any remarks; and  
14       ~~[(11)]~~ (12) A notice directing the offender to appear at the  
15           time and place designated to stand trial for the  
16           offense indicated and a notice that failure to obey  
17           the citation may result in a fine or imprisonment, or  
18           both;  
19   provided that omission of any of the information listed in  
20   paragraphs (1) to ~~[(11)]~~ (12) or any error in the citation shall  
21   not be a ground for dismissal of a charge or for reversal of a



1 conviction if the omission or error did not prejudice the  
2 defendant."

3 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for  
6 the judiciary to develop, implement, and administer the  
7 automated court appearance reminder system required by section 1  
8 of this Act.

9 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the judiciary for  
10 the purposes of this Act.

11 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
12 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

13 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000;  
14 provided that section 3 shall take effect on July 1, 2026.



**Report Title:**

Judiciary; Court Appearances; Automated Reminder System;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Beginning 7/1/2027, 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. Requires persons making an arrest or issuing a citation to obtain, to the extent practicable, the offender's mobile telephone number and electronic mail address. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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

