

Honolulu, Hawaii

, 2026

MAR 25

RE: S.B. No. 2446

S.D. 2

H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred S.B. No. 2446, S.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE JUDICIARY,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to increase the number of associate judges on the Intermediate Court of Appeals from six to seven.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Judiciary and Community Alliance on Prisons. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Office of the Public Defender.

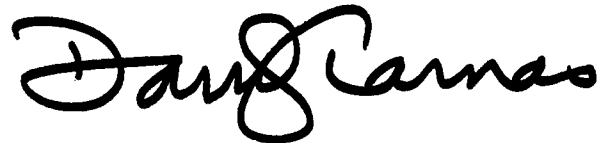
Your Committee finds that the Intermediate Court of Appeals continues to experience a growing caseload that requires timely review to preserve the efficient administration of justice. Your Committee further finds that increasing the number of associate judges from six to seven will enhance the court's capacity to manage its workload and reduce delays in appellate decisions. This measure helps ensure that the Judiciary can meet the State's ongoing needs for fair and efficient appellate review.



Your Committee has amended this measure by changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2446, S.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2446, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.

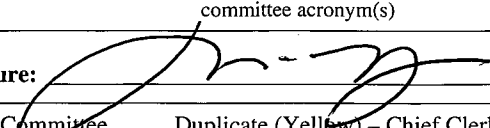
Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary &
Hawaiian Affairs,



DAVID A. TARNAS, Chair



Record of Votes of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Bill/Resolution No.: SB 2446 (D2)	Committee Referral: JHA, FIN	Date: 3/19/2026		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
JHA Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. TARNAS, David A. (C)	✓			
2. POEPOE, Mahina (VC)	✓			
3. BELATTI, Della Au				✓
4. COCHRAN, Elle	✓			
5. HASHEM, Mark J.	✓			
6. KAHALOA, Kirstin	✓			
7. SAYAMA, Jackson D.				✓
8. TAKAYAMA, Gregg	✓			
9. GARCIA, Diamond	✓			
10. SHIMIZU, Garner M.	✓			
TOTAL (10)	8	0	0	2
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: 				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				