

JON N. IKENAGA
PUBLIC DEFENDER

DEFENDER COUNCIL
1130 NORTH NIMITZ HIGHWAY
SUITE A-254
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

HONOLULU OFFICE
1130 NORTH NIMITZ HIGHWAY
SUITE A-254
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

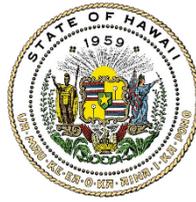
APPELLATE DIVISION
TEL. No. (808) 586-2080

DISTRICT COURT DIVISION
TEL. No. (808) 586-2100

FAMILY COURT DIVISION
TEL. No. (808) 586-2300

FELONY DIVISION
TEL. No. (808) 586-2200

FACSIMILE
(808) 586-2222



STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

HAYLEY Y. C. CHENG
ASSISTANT PUBLIC DEFENDER

HILO OFFICE
275 PONAHAHAWAI STREET
SUITE 201
HILO, HAWAII 96720
TEL. No. (808) 974-4571
FAX No. (808) 974-4574

KONA OFFICE
75-1000 HENRY STREET
SUITE #209
KAILUA-KONA HI 96740
TEL. No. (808) 327-4650
FAX No. (808) 327-4651

KAUA'I OFFICE
3060 EIWA STREET
SUITE 206
LIHUE, HAWAII 96766
TEL. No. (808) 241-7128
FAX No. (808) 274-3422

MAUI OFFICE
81 N. MARKET STREET
WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793
TEL. No. (808) 984-5018
FAX No. (808) 984-5022

February 2, 2026

HB 2181: RELATING TO THE JUDICIARY

Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

The Office of the Public Defender (OPD) **supports HB 2181**. This bill requires the Judiciary to develop and implement an automated court appearance reminder system for criminal and traffic cases and appropriates funds for that purpose. This bill will provide immediate and tangible benefits to the clients we represent and to the justice system as a whole.

Our clients frequently face significant barriers to timely court appearance that have nothing to do with willful noncompliance. Many are managing unstable housing, limited access to reliable transportation, inconsistent work schedules, childcare responsibilities, language barriers, or limited access to written notices. Missed court dates are often the result of confusion or logistical difficulty and not a disregard for the court.

This measure directly addresses these realities by requiring automated text message or email reminders that clearly communicate the date, time, and location of court appearances, including virtual appearance links where applicable, along with practical prompts to plan ahead. These reminders are a simple, common-sense tool that help people successfully meet their court obligations.

The OPD also acknowledges that many indigent clients lack consistent access to technology, do not own a personal mobile phone, or may be unable to reliably receive electronic communications. For those individuals, an automated reminder system will not, by itself, eliminate all barriers to court appearance. Nonetheless, this legislation represents an important and meaningful first step. By implementing a reminder system that reaches many court users, it will reduce avoidable failures to

appear and lay the groundwork for continued improvements that further promote access and fairness.

This measure will reduce unnecessary failures to appear and the cascading consequences that follow. A missed court date can result in bench warrants, arrests, additional charges, pretrial detention, and prolonged case resolution, all of which impose significant human and financial costs on defendants, their families, and the State. Preventing missed appearances through timely reminders promotes compliance without relying on punitive measures.

This bill also supports judicial efficiency. When fewer cases are delayed by failures to appear, court calendars operate more smoothly, resources are used more effectively, and judges, attorneys, and court staff can focus on resolving cases on their merits rather than managing avoidable procedural setbacks.

For these reasons, the Office of the Public Defender **supports** HB 2181.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i
Ka 'Oihana Ho'okolokolo, Moku'āina 'o Hawai'i

Testimony to the Thirty-Third Legislature, 2026 Regular Session

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 4, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

By

Michelle D. Acosta
Deputy Chief Court Administrator
District Court of the First Circuit

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 2181, Relating to the Judiciary

Purpose: 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.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary provides the following comments:

The Judiciary developed an eReminder system several years ago which remains available for use by parties to a case as well as members of the public free of charge. The eReminder system allows court users to sign up for text and/or email reminders for court cases. The electronic messages are sent seven days before, one day before, and at 6:00 a.m. on the court date. This service is available for Circuit Court Criminal, Circuit Court Civil, Family Court divorce, District Court traffic, criminal and civil cases. Since the inception, over 70,000 text messages have been sent through the system. More information on the system can be found on the Judiciary's web site at <https://www.courts.state.hi.us/ereminder>. The Judiciary recently made enhancements to the system consistent with the intent of this measure.



While amendments to Hawai‘i Revised Statutes § 803-6 may provide email or mobile telephone numbers in some cases, non-criminal traffic cases and criminal cases issued by citation often lack a phone number and an address for those who are houseless, much less an email address. Without this key data, the Judiciary will not be able to send a reminder.

A software code change to make phone number and email entries mandatory will require time and resources. However, making these fields mandatory may have the effect of law enforcement or prosecutors entering placeholder data in the common situation where they don’t have the information. With the current model, cell phone and email information must be entered into the eReminder application manually. Further, if a place holder or invalid cell phone or email is entered, this may result in exponential vendor costs to the Judiciary that may result in a number of reminders not being received by the intended individual.

Given message character limits, each eReminder currently includes two text messages, and we expect this to increase to five texts in order to include the new verbiage outlined in this bill. And, because the voluntary eReminder feature allows anyone to subscribe to receive text and email reminders, these users include the media, attorneys, and any member of the public interested in the case, such as family members of the defendant. Therefore, we expect the number of subscribers to be in addition to all of the defendants in traffic and criminal cases if the reminder program becomes mandatory. The Judiciary respectfully requests that the reminders remain voluntary.

However, in the event that this measure proceeds as written, the Judiciary appreciates the willingness to appropriate funds to address the costs of making significant changes needed for an opt-out system and annual increases in requisite funding to send more text messages. In 2025, the Judiciary had approximately 400,000 court hearings across all case types that could trigger multiple reminders.

We are continuing to assess the cost to implement these enhancements and annual costs of additional messages, and the time it would take to plan, design, and implement any system changes. We would require a delayed effective date to implement responsively.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, HI 96837-0158

Phone/E-Mail: [\(808\) 927-1214](tel:(808)927-1214) / kat.caphi@gmail.com

Today's Inmate; Tomorrow's Neighbor



COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Representative David Tarnas, Chair

Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Wednesday, January 4, 2026

2:00 pm

Room 325 & VIDEOCONFERENCE

STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB 2181 - COURT APPEARANCES

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies in Hawai'i for more than two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the 3,668 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars¹ and under the "care and custody" of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation on January 19, 2026. We are always mindful that 799 - 42.8% of Hawai'i's imprisoned male population are serving their sentences abroad -- thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Kanaka Maoli, far, far from their ancestral lands.

Community Alliance on Prisons appreciates this opportunity to testify in **strong support of HB 2181** that appropriates funds requiring 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.

¹ DCR Weekly Population Report, January 26, 2026

[Pop-Reports-Weekly-2026-01-26_.pdf](#)

Key Findings listed in a 2023 report from Lake County, Illinois² noted:

- Participants describe three major barrier domains: life responsibilities and challenges, logistical and technical concerns, and past experiences and emotional reactions. Over a third of participants, 36%, describe navigating more than one major barrier domain at the time of their court recorded absence.
- 60% of participants described life responsibilities and challenges as a primary barrier to getting to court as scheduled. This includes managing mental health challenges; serving as a primary caregiver; working; simultaneously navigating custody and divorce cases, and; securing shelter or navigating homelessness.
- Over a quarter of individuals, 28%, reported attending their court hearing would risk losing basic needs like food or shelter. 90% of individuals were not aware of either the Public Defender or Pretrial Services court reminder notification system.
- Of those who were not aware of this system, 90% said they would opt-in if offered again.
- Some individuals said they preferred in-person hearings compared to virtual hearings, even if attending virtually was logistically easier for them. They stated they preferred in-person because they perceived judges as more forgiving and kinder to people who attend in person.

An Issue Brief by Pew Research³ found that: Pew sent a questionnaire to the administrative office of the courts or the judicial branch in all 50 states, plus

² **UNDERSTANDING COURT ABSENCE AND REFRAMING “FAILURE TO APPEAR”**

By Justice System Challenge Partners

AMY DEZEMBER, Senior Associate, KEVIN KUEHMEIER, Senior Associate

CHERRELL GREEN, Senior Associate, DANAGAUTSCHI, Associate

[PowerPoint Presentation](#)

³ **States Underuse Court Date Reminders**

May 12, 2025

[States Underuse Court Date Reminders | The Pew Charitable Trusts](#)

50 STATE APPENDIX ON COURT REMINDERS

50-State%20Appendix%20on%20Court%20Reminder%20Programs%20REVISED.pdf

Washington, D.C. These central entities oversee the operations of local courts and have authority to set certain rules, processes, or requirements, including providing or requiring certain technology. If statewide reminder programs exist, these central entities would be responsible for them.

Rigorous research has found that these court date reminders are consistently effective at reducing missed court hearings. A recent review of the research found that reminders boosted court appearance in 11 of 12 studies, with relative reductions in the failure-to-appear rate ranging from 11% to 61%. Cases for lower-level offenses, such as misdemeanors and traffic violations, saw even more improvement when the reminders were sent.

Despite the research supporting court date reminders, there was no centralized information about where these programs were being deployed and in what way. Researchers from The Pew Charitable Trusts sought to fill this gap by surveying states in the second half of 2024 about whether and how reminders are being used across the country. The results show that many states don't offer reminders. And, of those that do, the reminders may not be as effective as they could be because of enrollment and design features. In particular, the study found:

The Pew study found that:

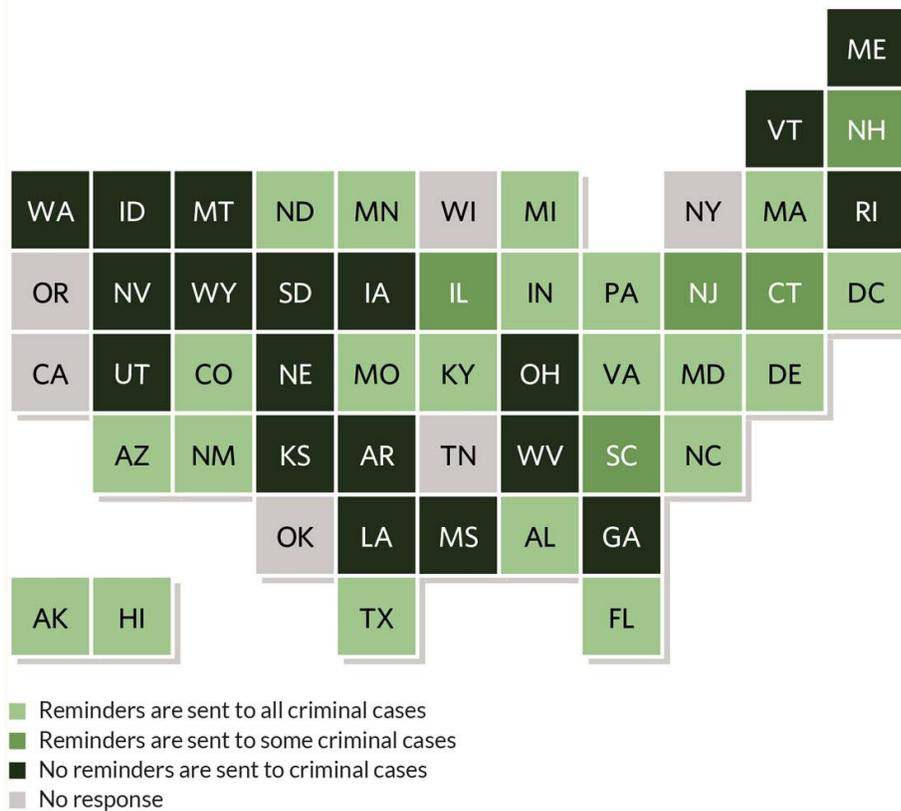
- **18 states (and D.C.) have statewide court date reminder programs.** In these states, courts in all jurisdictions send reminders to at least some people with court hearings for at least some cases.
 - **19 states do not have statewide reminder programs.** Jurisdictions in some of these states may send reminders on their own initiative, but there is no obligation, and the state does not provide technology to send reminders.
 - **10 states have a state-run program that serves some jurisdictions.** Some states in this group offered the program to all jurisdictions, but only some courts have chosen to use it. In other states,
-

the court date reminder program was provided only to courts already using certain technology, such as court case management systems.

Figure 2

Reminders Are Often Available for Criminal Cases, but Not All Criminal Cases Are Covered

Eligibility of statewide court reminder programs, by state



Note: California, Oregon, and Wisconsin have reminder programs but did not provide this information.

Source: Pew analysis of questionnaire responses

© 2025 The Pew Charitable Trusts

Community Alliance on Prisons strongly supports establishing a real court reminder system so that people struggling with a myriad of life issues can be reminded to show up for their court dates. We hope the committee passes HB 2181 and doesn't penalize people who have legitimate reasons for missed court appearances.

Mahalo for this chance to share our research on this important issue!



1411 K Street N.W.
Suite 900
Washington, D.C. 20005
202-525-5717

Free Markets. Real Solutions.
www.rstreet.org

Testimony from:
Lisel Petis, Policy Director, R Street Institute

Testimony in Support of HB 2181: “Relating to Pretrial Release.”

February 5, 2026

Hawai’i House Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee

Chairman Tarnas and members of the committee,

My name is Lisel Petis, and I am the policy director of criminal justice and civil liberties at the R Street Institute, a nonprofit, nonpartisan public policy research organization. R Street engages in policy research and analysis dedicated to common sense solutions that make government work smarter and more effectively. Given our commitment to pragmatic policies that improve fairness, public safety, and government accountability, we have a strong interest in House Bill 2181.¹

Today, nearly 98 percent of Americans own a cell phone, and automated reminders have become not just available, but expected in daily life.² Dentists, restaurants, and even hair salons routinely use automated reminders to reduce missed appointments and reservations—and they have proven effective. As these tools become a standard part of how we manage appointments, courts have a meaningful opportunity to do the same, particularly given the more serious consequences of missing a court date. Especially given research shows that most people who miss court because they forgot, lacked transportation or child care, or experienced a personal crisis, not to evade the law.³

Currently in Hawai’i, defendants must proactively “opt in” to receive court reminders—an extra step that often becomes a barrier to access.⁴ Behavioral science shows that even small hurdles like this can dramatically reduce participation.⁵ In fact, several opt-in reminder states show enrollment rates of only two to 30 percent.⁶

¹ https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=HB&billnumber=2181&year=2026

² <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/fact-sheet/mobile/>

³ “What Really Prevents Court Appearance?” Crime and Justice Institute, February 2025.
<https://www.cj institute.org/assets/sites/2/2025/02/What-Really-Prevents-Court-Appearance.pdf>.

⁴ “eReminders for Court Dates,” Hawai’i State Judiciary, “last accessed Feb. 3, 2006.”
<https://www.courts.state.hi.us/ereminder>.

⁵ Samantha Hammer et al., “Smart Court Appearance Strategies: Court Date Reminders,” Ideas42, last accessed Feb. 3, 2006. <https://www.ideas42.org/blog/smart-court-appearance-strategies-court-date-reminders>.

⁶ “States Underuse Court Date Reminders,” Pew, May 12, 2025.
<https://www.pew.org/en/research-and-analysis/issue-briefs/2025/05/states-underuse-court-date-reminders>;

In response, states are increasingly shifting to automated, default enrollment court reminder systems. At least six states have passed legislation mandating these reminders, with several more pursuing similar measures this year.⁷ Where implemented, automated reminders have resulted in enrollment rates of 70 to 90 percent and have reduced failure-to-appear (FTA) rates by 20 to 40 percent on average.⁸ These simple nudges—reminding individuals of their upcoming court date and the consequences of not appearing—are highly effective.

The benefits go beyond the individual. Automated court reminders improve system efficiency by reducing wasted court time, minimizing the burden on attorneys and victims who appear for unattended hearings, conserving law enforcement resources used to serve bench warrants, and reserving jail space for individuals who present a genuine risk to public safety—not those who simply missed a court date.

While there are modest upfront costs to developing or integrating an automated reminder system, the long-term savings are significant. Most courts have implemented such programs for between \$35,000 and \$600,000, with ongoing costs under \$1 per case.⁹ In contrast, a single court nonappearance can cost taxpayers up to \$1,500 per occurrence, once you account for staff time and other resources.¹⁰

As a former prosecutor, I understand the frustration of arriving in court only to find that a defendant has failed to appear. As a former victim advocate, I've seen how distressing it can be for victims when court proceedings are delayed and a defendant's whereabouts are uncertain. And now, as a policy researcher, I recognize that this simple, evidence-based tool can significantly improve both the efficiency of the court system and the fairness of its outcomes.

I urge the committee to support House Bill 2181 and take a critical step toward a more just and effective pretrial system. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you,

Lisel Petis
Senior Fellow
R Street Institute
lpetis@rstreet.org

⁷ Pew.

<https://www.pew.org/en/research-and-analysis/issue-briefs/2025/05/states-underuse-court-date-reminders>;

⁸ Ibid; Alissa Fishbane et al, "Improving Court Attendance: The Essential Guide to Court Reminder Programs," Ideas42, May 2025. https://www.ideas42.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/i42-1530_RemindersRpt_Final.pdf.

⁹ Katilyn Levinson, "Report: Text reminders for court hearings can help boost justice system efficiency," Route Fifty, May 15, 2025.

<https://www.route-fifty.com/digital-government/2025/05/report-text-reminders-court-hearings-can-help-boost-justice-system-efficiency/405352>; Alex Chohlas-Wood et al, "Automated reminders reduce incarceration for missed court dates: Evidence from a text message experiment," *Science Advances* 11:40 (Oct. 1 2025).

<https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.adx7483>.

¹⁰ Fishbane et al, "Improving Court Attendance: The Essential Guide to Court Reminder Programs,"

https://www.ideas42.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/i42-1530_RemindersRpt_Final.pdf.

HB-2181

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 8:26:59 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire	Ohana Unity Party & Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

****Aloha Chair and Honorable Members of the Committees,****

As Chairman of the Ohana Unity Party and a lifelong advocate for the protection of Hawaii’s keiki, the restoration of ‘ohana values, and the dismantling of systems that allow neglect, abuse, or exploitation of our children and youth, I submit this written testimony in the strongest possible support of ****House Bill 2181****. This vital legislation establishes an independent statewide Office of the Ombudsman for Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice—an impartial, external guardian dedicated to investigating complaints, monitoring agency performance, and ensuring that every child in state care or custody receives safety, dignity, fairness, and justice. HB2181 creates an autonomous Office of the Ombudsman for Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice, appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, with comprehensive authority to: - Receive and investigate confidential complaints from children, youth, families, foster parents, staff, and concerned citizens regarding treatment, placement decisions, safety concerns, delays in services, abuse, neglect, retaliation, or violations of rights within Child Welfare Services (DHS), Juvenile Justice (DOCR/Judiciary), and related state agencies; - Conduct unannounced site visits to foster homes, group homes, shelters, detention facilities, and other child-serving settings; - Access all relevant records, conduct private interviews with children and youth, and issue public reports with findings, recommendations, and timelines for corrective action; - Recommend policy changes, training improvements, personnel actions, or legislative reforms; - Submit annual reports to the Legislature, Governor, and public, identifying systemic issues, patterns of concern, and progress on prior recommendations. This office is not duplicative of existing internal mechanisms—it provides true independence, free from agency influence, retaliation, or conflict of interest, which is essential for credible oversight.

****Why I Stand Strongly in Support of HB2181****

1. ****Hawaii’s Children and Youth Face Unacceptable Risks and Systemic Gaps**** Our state continues to struggle with serious deficiencies in child welfare and juvenile justice: - Native Hawaiian children are disproportionately represented in foster care (over 50% of placements despite being ~20% of the child population). - The average age of first sexual exploitation in trafficking cases is 11, with documented cases as young as 4 on the Big Island. - 64% of identified trafficking survivors are Native Hawaiian. - 75% of trafficking victims are homeless at the time of exploitation. - 23% of child trafficking victims are exploited by family members. - Persistent reports of delayed investigations, inappropriate placements, inadequate mental health

services, and retaliation against youth or families who speak out. - Recent multi-agency operations (e.g., “Shine the Light,” January 2026) recovered 8 at-risk teens on Oahu—highlighting ongoing vulnerabilities that require stronger, independent oversight. These are not isolated failures—they are symptoms of a system that lacks external, fearless accountability. HB2181 fills this critical gap.

2. ****Alignment with Aloha, Pono, and Our Kuleana to Protect Keiki**** The Dalai Lama teaches: “If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion.” Mahatma Gandhi reminds us: “The true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members.” HB2181 embodies these eternal truths by giving our keiki and their ‘ohana an independent, trusted voice when agencies fall short. In a state where Native Hawaiian children face disproportionate removal, trauma, and exploitation, this office is an act of pono—restoring balance, protecting innocence, and fulfilling our kuleana to future generations.

3. ****Real-World Example: The Urgent Need for Independent Advocacy**** The Epstein files revealed how systemic failures allow powerful networks to exploit vulnerable youth, including those in foster care. Hawaii faces parallel risks: foster system vulnerabilities, trafficking through tourism and online platforms, and lack of centralized, independent accountability. Without an external Ombudsman, complaints are often handled internally—delayed, minimized, or dismissed. HB2181 changes this: It creates a dedicated, independent advocate who can investigate patterns of neglect or abuse, intervene early in high-risk cases, and drive systemic reforms—ensuring no child is left voiceless or unprotected.

4. ****Fiscal and Long-Term Community Benefits**** Independent child advocacy offices in other jurisdictions (e.g., Washington, Oregon, New York) reduce costly litigation, prevent escalation of harm, identify systemic waste early, and improve outcomes for children—leading to lower long-term social service and corrections costs. In Hawaii, where child welfare and juvenile justice spending is substantial and Native Hawaiian overrepresentation is so stark, this office will deliver measurable savings and better life outcomes through early intervention and accountability.

5. ****Support for Native Hawaiian and Marginalized Keiki**** Native Hawaiian children are overrepresented in foster care, juvenile justice, and trafficking statistics. HB2181 ensures the Ombudsman office includes cultural expertise, prioritizes culturally appropriate services, and focuses on family reunification and community healing—honoring our ancestral values of aloha ‘āina and kākou. This bill is a step toward breaking generational cycles of trauma and safeguarding our future. ****Conclusion and Urgent Call to Action**** HB2181 is urgent, necessary, and long overdue. It will give our keiki an independent voice, hold agencies accountable, prevent exploitation and neglect, and restore trust in systems meant to protect them. Guided by the profound wisdom of the Dalai Lama and Mahatma Gandhi, let us embrace compassion and justice—establish this statewide Office of the Independent Ombudsman for Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice and demonstrate that Hawaii puts its children first.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration and service to our islands. I am available for questions or oral testimony if needed. In solidarity for our keiki, justice, and ohana,

Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire, HRM Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands, H.I. Ohana Unity Party, Chairman www.Ohanaunityparty.com Presidentbillionaire@gmail.com

HB-2181

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 11:47:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorene Godfrey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

HB-2181

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 12:38:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terri Yoshinaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

HB-2181

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 7:16:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carrie Ann Shirota	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe and Committee Members,

I strongly support **HB2181 Relating to the Judiciary** which requires the Judiciary to develop, implement and administer an automated court appearance reminder system that generates text message or email notifications for upcoming court appearances in certain types of cases.

A brief from Pew in June 2025 highlighted the underuse of Court date reminders despite clear data showing that reminders can help people get to court - and reduce the cost of missed hearing.

Relatedly, as noted by R Street, many jurisdictions struggle with failure to appear in court. However, a simple technological solution exists:

" Nationwide, jurisdictions using these systems have reduced FTAs by 10 to 60 percent (with most seeing a 20 to 40 percent decline). Yet only six states—Arizona, Colorado, Indiana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, and Texas—provide this type of opt-out reminder system. Automated court reminders save taxpayer dollars, reduce unnecessary jail bookings, improve court efficiency, and help people take responsibility for showing up."

R Street's conclusion:

"Automated court reminders are a practical solution to a preventable problem. Missed court dates cost taxpayers, delay justice, and disrupt lives—often for preventable reasons. In a polarized time, automated reminders are a rare win-win. They help people meet their obligations, ensure accountability, and avoid wasting law enforcement and court resources. Jurisdictions that use them also report fewer warrants and fewer delays. Adoption in every state would reflect a data-informed, cost-effective response to a persistent court problem."

<https://www.rstreet.org/commentary/why-every-jurisdiction-should-have-automated-court-reminders/>

Mahalo nui to Representative Reyes Oda and the co-sponsors Representative Cochran, Garcia, Iwamoto, Iwamoto, Kusch, Matsumoto, Olds, Poepoe, Shimizu and Takenouchi for introducing this data-driven bipartisan measure.

I urge this Committee to pass HB2181!

Sincerely,

Carrie Ann Shirota, Esq.

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813