



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

Tuesday, March 31, 2026 at 2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

By

Brandon Kimura
Administrative Director of the Courts

Measure No.: House Concurrent Resolution No. 193.

Title and Purpose: Requesting the establishment of a Court Security and Department of Law Enforcement Capacity Working Group to address systemic staffing shortages, expanded statutory responsibilities, and the escalating fiscal and accountability risks associated with private security contracting at state courts.

Judiciary's Position:

The Hawai‘i State Judiciary supports the intent of House Concurrent Resolution No. 193 and proposes an amendment for the Committee’s consideration.

We appreciate the Legislature’s attention to the significant operational and fiscal challenges stemming from structural staffing shortages within the Department of Law Enforcement’s Sheriff Division. These shortages directly affect the ability to ensure consistent and appropriate security at all state court facilities. The establishment of a working group provides an opportunity to continue to develop collaborative solutions.

The Judiciary is working with the leadership of the Department of Law Enforcement to address these challenges. We believe the proposed working group can formalize and enhance this partnership. However, we respectfully request that the important work of this group be understood as a process for developing structural solutions, not as a substitute for the Judiciary’s pending budget request for private security services at court facilities. The resources requested



in our budget are necessary to address immediate security needs while the working group conducts its review and formulates longer-term recommendations.

Proposed Amendment:

To enhance the effectiveness and flexibility of the working group, the Judiciary recommends the inclusion of a new clause allowing for the addition of members as needed. We respectfully propose insertion of the following language:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Court Security and Department of Law Enforcement Capacity Working Group is requested to invite and include additional individuals with relevant expertise or operational responsibilities to serve as working group members as the chair or co-chairs deem appropriate.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Thirty-Third Legislature, State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

March 31, 2026

H.C.R 193/H.R 183 – REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COURT SECURITY AND DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT CAPACITY WORKING GROUP TO ADDRESS SYSTEMIC STAFFING SHORTAGES, EXPANDED STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES, AND THE ESCALATING FISCAL AND ACCOUNTABILITY RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH PRIVATE SECURITY AND CONTRACTING AT STATE COURTS.

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO generally supports H.C.R 193/H.R 183, which requests the establishment of a Court Security and Department of Law Enforcement Capacity Working Group to address systemic staffing shortages, expanded statutory responsibilities, and the increasing reliance on private security contracting at state court facilities. This resolution appropriately recognizes that the Sheriff Division's responsibilities have expanded significantly, while staffing, recruitment pipelines, compensation structures, and training capacity have not kept pace. Persistent vacancies, hiring delays, compensation disparities, overtime dependency, and cross deployment away from core assignments have created real operational strain that continues to affect court security and broader public safety functions.

HGEA appreciates the intent of this measure because the State should be investing in and rebuilding the public Deputy Sheriff workforce, not allowing privatization to become the long term answer to staffing shortages. Court security is a core public safety function that should remain, to the greatest extent possible, in the hands of trained public law enforcement personnel who are subject to public accountability, transparency, and oversight. The growing use of private security should not become a substitute for filling vacancies, improving recruitment and retention, and restoring sufficient staffing capacity within the Sheriff Division. HGEA supports and urges that this working group focus on strengthening the public workforce and minimizing long-term dependence on private security contracting.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.C.R 193/H.R 183.

Respectfully submitted,


Randy Perreira
Executive Director