



The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i

Testimony to the Thirtieth State Legislature, 2020 Session

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 19, 2020, 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

by
Tom Mick
Policy and Planning Department Director

Bill No. and Title: Senate Bill No. 3080, S.D. 1, Relating to the Judiciary.

Purpose: To provide supplemental operating and capital improvement appropriations for FY 2021.

Judiciary's Position:

We greatly appreciate the support for our Capital Improvement Project (CIP) requests that this bill provides, and believe that our budget package bills that have already been heard by the Committees on Judiciary in the Senate (Senate Bill No. 2116) and House (House Bill No. 1785) adequately represent our operating and CIP needs. We also greatly appreciate the Senate Committee on Judiciary for passage, unamended, of Senate Bill No. 2116, as reflected in Standing Committee Report Number 2310. Accordingly, this bill may not be necessary. Nevertheless, if this bill is intended to capture the Judiciary's CIP needs alone, the Judiciary is in strong support.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Trever Asam
Board President

Angela Kuo Min
Executive Director



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**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF S.B. 3080, SD1 –
RELATING TO THE JUDICIARY
Committee on Ways and Means – Room 211
February 19, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair**

LATE

CHAIR DELA CRUZ, VICE CHAIR KEITH-AGARAN, AND MEMBERS OF THE
WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE:

Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii (“Volunteer Legal”) submits its testimony in support of S.B. 3080, SD1 – Relating to the Judiciary, for the continuous funding for purchase of service contract for general civil legal services of \$500,000. We request an amendment to \$750,000 in general revenue funding for general civil legal services, which was the funding level in FY17. We ask that in increasing this amount that the Judiciary budget not receive any decreases. Volunteer Legal is thankful and very appreciative to the Judiciary and this Committee for including funding for civil legal services through the Judiciary.

Said funding would go to funding civil legal services including but not limited to the delivery of civil legal services to low- and moderate- income individuals in Hawaii. In the last 38 years, Volunteer Legal has partnered with volunteer attorneys in the provision of civil legal assistance to individuals and families of Hawaii. In 2019, with Volunteer Legal’s 7 full time staff members, Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii conducted over 3,000 intakes. Volunteer Legal staff helped coordinate with our pro bono attorneys that resulted in over 1,500 services in legal advice and counsel, clinics, brief services and/or full representations and hundreds more received legal information at our education seminars and outreaches.

Volunteer Legal matches individuals with attorneys from the community that they would not otherwise would have been able to retain, assisting them in their family law, estate planning, bankruptcy, and/or various district court matters. If not for Volunteer Legal Services, these individuals would have gone without legal help. Volunteer Legal’s pool of attorneys logged over 3,200 pro bono hours and donated over \$800,000 value in legal services in 2019 alone. Volunteer Legal looks forward to continuing and expanding our programs to more residents of Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide this testimony. We respectfully request your passage of \$750,000 in funding for purchase of civil legal services in S.B. 3080, SD1 – Relating to the Judiciary.

Sincerely,
Angela Kuo Min
Executive Director

LATE

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

I am submitting testimony as treasurer of Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii. I have been working with VLSH for over 10 years. VLSH provided services to the indigent population that is underserved. I am in support of SB3080.SD1 to fund the civil services need for the State of Hawaii.

I also want to thank the committee for including VLSH and civil legal services in your bill.

Thank you very much for your support.

Joanne Hoe
Treasurer of Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii

SB-3080-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2020 10:40:19 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teresa Parsons	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-3080-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 1:11:18 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tred Eyerly	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support SB 3080.