Honorable Donna Mercado Kim  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2015  
State of Hawaii  

Madam:  

Your Committee on Judiciary and Labor, to which was referred S.C.R. No. 23 entitled:  

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE HAWAII ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION TO ASSEMBLE VARIOUS STATE AND COMMUNITY ENTITIES TO DETERMINE WHICH AGENCY OR ORGANIZATION SHOULD ADMINISTER FUNDING FOR CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES TO LOW- AND MODERATE-INCOME INDIVIDUALS,"

begs leave to report as follows:  

The purpose and intent of this measure is to request the Hawaii Access to Justice Commission to assemble a working group of interested government agencies and community entities to develop a plan for determining which agency or organization should administer funding for civil legal services and submit the plan to the Legislature prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2016.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawaii Access to Justice Commission, Legal Aid Society of Hawaii, and Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Office of Community Services.

Your Committee finds that "The 2007 Assessment of Civil Legal Needs and Barriers of Low- and Moderate-Income People in Hawaii" found that only one in five people has civil legal needs addressed and that only one in three people who contact a civil legal service provider is able to get assistance. Civil legal services
can support efforts to ensure that government is providing effective services to help those without an attorney navigate the complex legal system. However, funding for civil legal services has decreased over the years. This measure addresses the need for funding by requesting an examination of executive agencies, the Judiciary, and community agencies to determine which agency or organization is most appropriate and suitable to administer general funding for civil legal services to obtain the best results.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

(1) Adopting the language suggested by the Hawaii Access to Justice Commission that authorizes the Commission to invite any other stakeholders to participate in the working group; and

(2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary and Labor that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.C.R. No. 23, as amended herein, and recommends that it be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, in the form attached hereto as S.C.R. No. 23, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

GILBERT S.C. KEITH-AGARAN, Chair
The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.

If so, then the previous decision was to:

The Recommendation is:

- [x] Pass, with amendments
- [ ] Hold
- [ ] Recommit

Members

| KEITH-AGARAN, Gilbert S.C. (C) | Aye | Aye (WR) | Nay | Excused |
| SHIMABUKURO, Maile S.L. (VC) |    |          |    |         |
| ESPERO, Will                  |    |          |    |         |
| GABBARD, Mike                 |    |          |    |         |
| IHARA, Jr., Les               |    |          |    |         |
| THIELEN, Laura H.             |    |          |    |         |
| SLOM, Sam                     |    |          |    |         |

TOTAL

Recommendation:

- [ ] Adopted
- [ ] Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature:

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