



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

June 21, 2019

GOV. MSG. NO. 1214

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,
President
and Members of the Senate
Thirtieth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki,
Speaker and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirtieth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on June 21, 2019, the following bill was signed into law:

HB903 HD1 SD1 CD1

RELATING TO THE JUDICIARY.
ACT 112 (19)

Sincerely,

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE JUDICIARY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the imposition of
2 excessive fines and fees has dire consequences for low-income
3 individuals. Under Hawaii law, individuals who cannot afford to
4 pay court-ordered fines or fees may have their driver's licenses
5 suspended for failure to pay. For many individuals, especially
6 those living in more remote areas with minimal or no public
7 transportation, driver's license suspensions may deprive
8 individuals of their only means of transportation to and from
9 work. Furthermore, individuals with suspended driver's licenses
10 who are unable to find alternative means of transportation may
11 lose their employment. With limited or no income, individuals
12 are even less likely to pay fines or fees, which may lead to
13 greater penalties simply because those individuals are unable to
14 pay initial fines or fees in one lump sum.

15 The purpose of this Act is to address the financial
16 disparity imposed on low-income individuals who cannot afford to



1 pay court-ordered fines and fees by requiring the judiciary to
2 establish a financial hardship task force.

3 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the judiciary
4 the financial hardship task force to:

- 5 (1) Examine the financial disparity imposed on low-income
6 individuals in the court system;
- 7 (2) Analyze other mechanisms regarding the nonpayment of
8 fines rather than suspending driver's licenses;
- 9 (3) Coordinate with applicable agencies; and
- 10 (4) Analyze any other programs deemed necessary.

11 (b) The task force shall be composed of the following
12 members or their designees:

- 13 (1) The chief justice, who shall serve as chair;
- 14 (2) The attorney general;
- 15 (3) The director of public safety;
- 16 (4) The director of transportation; and
- 17 (5) The chief of police of each county.

18 (c) Members of the task force shall serve without
19 compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred,
20 including travel expenses, necessary for the performance of
21 their duties.



1 (d) The task force shall be exempt from chapter 92, Hawaii
2 Revised Statutes.

3 (e) The task force shall submit a report to the
4 legislature of its findings and recommendations, including any
5 proposed legislation, no later than twenty days before the
6 convening of the regular session of 2020.

7 (f) The task force shall cease to exist on June 30, 2020.

8 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

APPROVED this 21 day of JUN, 2019



GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII



HB No. 903, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1

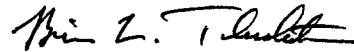
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: May 1, 2019
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019.



Scott K. Saiki
Speaker
House of Representatives





Brian L. Takeshita
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives

THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I

Date: April 30, 2019
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawai‘i, Regular Session of 2019.


President of the Senate


Clerk of the Senate