June 21, 2019

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

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki, Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives
Thirtieth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaii' 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 Hawaii'
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE JUDICIARY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I:

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

The purpose of this Act is to address the financial disparity imposed on low-income individuals who cannot afford to...
pay court-ordered fines and fees by requiring the judiciary to establish a financial hardship task force.

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

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

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

1. The chief justice, who shall serve as chair;
2. The attorney general;
3. The director of public safety;
4. The director of transportation; and
5. The chief of police of each county.

(c) Members of the task force shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred, including travel expenses, necessary for the performance of their duties.
(d) The task force shall be exempt from chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

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

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

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

APPROVED this 21 day of JUN, 2019

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII
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 HAWAIʻI

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 Hawaiʻi, Regular Session of 2019.

[Signature]
President of the Senate

[Signature]
Clerk of the Senate