

JAN 23 2020

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO IMMIGRATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there are many
2 immigrants who seek to continue their legal residence or
3 otherwise may be unaware of their rights and legal status in the
4 country.

5 The legislature further finds that Hawaii has always
6 embraced a welcoming attitude for people of all backgrounds,
7 nationalities, and ethnicities. According to the 2017 American
8 Immigration Council Fact Sheet, nearly eighteen per cent of
9 Hawaii residents are immigrants, while more than one in seven
10 residents is a native-born United States citizen with at least
11 one immigrant parent. Immigrants are an integral part of
12 Hawaii's diverse, multicultural community and make extensive
13 contributions to the State.

14 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the
15 judiciary to contract out to provide legal assistance and legal
16 counsel to immigrants in determining legal status and



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1 citizenship, provide diversion to existing services, and
 2 otherwise provide counsel for existing rights.

3 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
 4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
 5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 to
 6 the judiciary to contract with nonprofit organizations to
 7 provide legal assistance and legal counsel to immigrants in
 8 determining legal status and citizenship, provide diversion to
 9 existing services, and otherwise provide counsel for existing
 10 rights.

11 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the judiciary for
 12 the purposes of this Act.

13 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

14

INTRODUCED BY: *AC. Hoch-Dogera*




S.B. NO. 2829

Report Title:

Immigration Proceedings; Legal Counsel; Judiciary; Appropriation

Description:

Makes an appropriation to the judiciary to contract with nonprofit organizations to provide legal assistance and legal counsel to immigrants in determining legal status and citizenship, provide diversion to existing services, and otherwise provide counsel for existing rights.

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