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# 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



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 \$150,000 or so much  
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 to the  
6 judiciary to contract with nonprofit organizations to provide  
7 legal assistance and legal counsel to immigrants in determining  
8 legal status and citizenship, provide diversion to existing  
9 services, and otherwise provide counsel for existing rights.

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

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



**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. (SD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

