



The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i

Testimony to the House Committee on Finance

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair

Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 9, 2016, 11:00 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 308

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

by

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Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 1700, Relating to the State Budget.

Purpose: To adjust and request appropriations for Fiscal Biennium 2015-2017 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary is in strong support of the allocation to the Hawai‘i Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) to develop the Alder Street property in partnership with the Judiciary. *See* page 59, Item No. 18.00.

The Judiciary is pleased to support this partnership with HHFDC. The Judiciary feels that this is a truly unique project that meets some of the most pressing needs facing our community. This project provides for creative use of limited resources to address several social needs in our community that impact juveniles, the community and its safety. The needs of our youth and families at risk are great. They are faced with a housing market that is beyond their ability to afford and is shrinking through the loss of rentals to the vacation rental market. Families must have two income providers and/or work multiple jobs to provide for the basics such as housing and food for their families often leaving little time for more traditional family activities and child rearing. These realities mean that families face economic, social and educational challenges that often result in their entering the justice system. The court is ill equipped to deal with these challenges without partnerships with the executive branch around housing; substance abuse and



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mental health services, job training etc. The more the branches of government can partner to provide a full safety net aimed at restoring families to a full and productive place in our community, the safer the community will be. This partnership, the first of its kind between the Judiciary and the Executive Branch, is an example of how such partnerships can maximize the use of scarce resources to provide for multiple needs within our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this portion of House Bill 1700.