

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT BY THE HAWAI'I ACCESS TO JUSTICE  
COMMISSION FOR THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF THE INDIGENT  
LEGAL ASSISTANCE FUND (ILAF), H.R.S. SECTION(S) 607-5 and 607-5.7

WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Access to Justice Commission (the Commission) was created by Rule 21 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Hawai'i to assist with making the delivery of civil legal services more available, widespread, and affordable for all of Hawaii's people,

WHEREAS, the 2007 Assessment of Civil Legal Needs and Barriers of Low- and Moderate-Income People of Hawai'i found that four out of five low- and moderate-income residents do not have their legal needs met and that legal service providers are only able to assist one in three who contact them for assistance,

WHEREAS, the Commission finds that in order to increase the delivery of legal services, more funding is necessary and can be generated by increasing the surcharge for indigent legal services, as recommended by the Access to Justice Hui, in its Community Wide Action Plan: Ten Steps to Increase Access to Justice in Hawai'i by 2010,

WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Consortium of Legal Services Providers has been working diligently together to strengthen and increase outreach and services to low income residents.

WHEREAS, each unique legal service provider requires a certain minimum amount of funding to meet basic expenses necessary to operate the respective non-profit organization or program,

NOW, THEREFORE, the Commission fully supports the proposed amendment increasing the filing fees surcharges under the Indigent Legal Assistance Fund (ILAF) program created under H.R.S. Sections 607-5 and 607-5.7. The Commission further finds it appropriate to change the allocation formula so that 30% of all funds distributed shall be provided equally to all organizations or programs that meet the qualifications for receipt of the funds in addition to a 70% distribution of all funds pro rata under the current formula.

The Commission urges the Hawai'i State Legislature and the Governor of Hawai'i to approve the proposed amendment of the ILAF statute, to help meet the civil legal needs of the people of Hawai'i.

DATED: Honolulu, Hawai'i, January 27, 2009.

Jill Hasegawa  
JILL HASEGAWA Vice-Chair

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT BY THE HAWAI'I ACCESS TO JUSTICE  
COMMISSION FOR CONTINUED STATE FUNDING FOR THE LEGAL  
AID SOCIETY OF HAWAI'I, HAWAII IMMIGRANT JUSTICE CENTER  
(FORMERLY KNOWN AS NA LOIO), AND VOLUNTEER LEGAL  
SERVICES OF HAWAI'I, AMONG OTHERS

WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Access to Justice Commission (the Commission) was created by Rule 21 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Hawai'i to assist with making the delivery of civil legal services more available, widespread, and affordable for all of Hawaii's people,

WHEREAS, the State of Hawai'i for many years has provided needed legislative funding to the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i, Na Loio, and Volunteer Legal Services of Hawai'i to assist with providing low-income legal services for the people of Hawai'i,

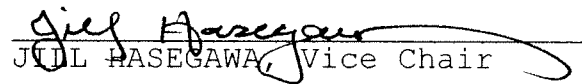
WHEREAS, the 2007 Assessment of Civil Legal Needs and Barriers of Low- and Moderate-Income People of Hawai'i found that four out of five low- and moderate-income residents do not have their legal needs met and that legal service providers are only able to assist one in three who contact them for assistance,

WHEREAS, the legal service provided by the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i, Hawai'i Immigrant Justice Center (formerly known as Na Loio), and Volunteer Legal Services of Hawai'i, among others, are essential to the delivery of legal services to people of low and moderate income,

NOW, THEREFORE, the Commission urges the Hawai'i State Legislature and the Governor of Hawai'i to continue previous

level of legislative funding through grant-in-aid or its equivalent for the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i, the Hawai'i Immigrant Justice Center (formerly known as Na Loio), and Volunteer Legal Services of Hawai'i, to help meet the civil legal needs of the people of Hawai'i.

DATED: Honolulu, Hawai'i, January 27, 2009.

  
JILL HASEGAWA, Vice Chair

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT BY THE HAWAI'I ACCESS TO JUSTICE  
COMMISSION FOR THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF THE DISTRICT  
COURT POWERS, H.R.S. SECTION 633-27, TO INCREASE  
THE JURISDICTION OF THE SMALL CLAIMS DIVISION

On January 26, 2009, the Hawai'i Access to Justice  
Commission voted to support an amendment to Hawai'i Revised  
Statutes Section 633-27, relating to the district court, that the  
jurisdictional maximum amount for cases in the small claims  
division of the district court be increased.

DATED: Honolulu, Hawai'i, January 30, 2009.

Jill Hasegawa  
JILL HASEGAWA, Vice Chair

