

Language Services in the Hawai'i State Courts

The court provides free interpreters for all participants in court hearings.

The court also provides free language services to help you communicate with court staff outside of the courtroom.

If you need help in your language when you visit or call the court, tell court staff you need an interpreter.

Information about language services is available on the Judiciary website at http://www.courts.state.hi.us/services/language_assistance_services.html.

For more information, contact:

Office on Equality and Access to the Courts

Hawaii State Judiciary

426 Queen Street # B17

Honolulu, HI 96813-2914

Phone: (808) 539-4860

E-mail: OEAC@courts.hawaii.gov

Self-Help Centers

Self-Help Centers provide free legal information to people who do not have an attorney. Volunteer attorneys can answer your questions, help you fill out forms, and explain what will happen next in your case. Self-Help Centers are located in courthouses on Oahu, Maui, Kauai and Hawai'i Island.

Free interpreter services for most languages are available by telephone at the Self-Help Centers. You should inform court staff if such help is needed.

More information about Self-Help Centers is available on the Judiciary website at

http://www.courts.state.hi.us/general_information/access_to_justice_rooms_self_help_centers.html.

The funding for and development of this brochure has been provided by the Hawaii Access to Justice Commission. For more information about the Access to Justice Commission, visit the Commission's subpage at www.hawaiijustice.com. You may also write to: Intermediate Court of Appeals Associate Judge Daniel R. Foley, Chair, Hawaii Access to Justice Commission, 426 Queen Street, Room 201, Honolulu, HI 96813.

English

How to Request an Interpreter

Tips on Going to Court

*You have the right to a
free interpreter when you come to court*

How to Request an Interpreter Before the Hearing

1. Get the ***Request for Interpreter Services*** form. The form is available at all courthouses statewide and on the Judiciary website at http://www.courts.state.hi.us/services/language_assistance_services.html.
2. Fill out the form. Follow the instructions on the form.
3. Give or mail the completed form to the court 10 (ten) business days before your hearing date.
4. You must go to court to see the Judge on your hearing date.

Sending this form to the court before your hearing helps the Judge to get ready for your hearing and take care of your case more quickly.

How to Request an Interpreter At the Hearing

1. You must go to the court to see the Judge on your hearing date.
2. At the hearing, you may:
 - Ask the Judge for an interpreter.
 - Give the Judge a letter asking for an interpreter.
 - Show the Judge your Language ID Card, available at all courthouses statewide and on the Judiciary website at http://www.courts.state.hi.us/services/language_assistance_services.html.
3. Your attorney may ask the Judge for an interpreter for you, orally or in writing.

PLEASE NOTE: At your hearing, the Judge may ask you questions. The Judge will decide whether you may have an interpreter. If an interpreter is provided by the Judge, the interpreter is free.

TIPS on Going to Court

1. **Go to court on your hearing date.**
 - Dress neatly. Do not wear shorts, tank tops, or swimsuits.
 - Remove sunglasses and hats.
 - Do not bring weapons or illegal drugs to court.
 - **If you miss your hearing:**
 - You may lose your case.
 - You may be arrested.
2. **Go to the correct courtroom.**
 - Find out the correct courtroom location ahead of time.
 - If you are driving to court, make sure you plan for enough time to find parking.
 - Bring all court documents or information about your case with you.
 - Find the courtroom.
 - Go into the courtroom and tell court staff your name.
 - Show your court documents if you are asked to do so.
 - When your name is called, go to the front of the courtroom.
3. **When you are in court:**
 - Do not smoke in the courthouse.
 - Do not eat, drink, or chew gum in the courtroom.
 - Turn off your cell phone and other electronic devices.