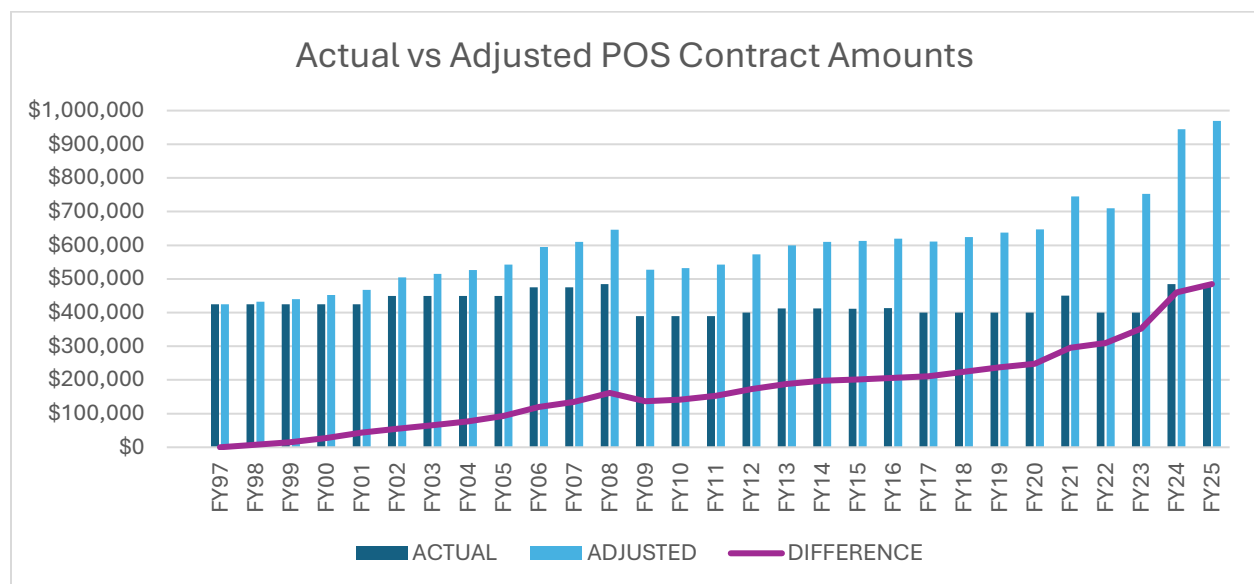


The Center for Alternative Dispute Resolution (CADR) SUPPORTS this measure.

Services provided by the Judiciary's contractors are vital not only to court functions, but to legislative programs. Accordingly, adjusting the Judiciary's contracts to account for inflation as proposed by HB2369/SB2442 is not merely an added compensatory benefit to Judiciary contractors, but one that will help compensate the organizations that have been assisting the State perform its essential functions for decades.

CADR has contracted the same community-based organization, Mediation Centers of Hawai'i (MCH), since the early 1990s to provide mediation and related dispute resolution services for appropriate cases in the judicial circuits. Since 1997, CADR has not significantly increased the amount of funding provided to MCH despite the inflation rate rising year over year.

CADR's contracts remained at around \$400,000 per Fiscal Year (FY) from 1997 to 2025. Using the Consumer Price Index for Urban Consumers (CPI-U)¹ to calculate inflation rates each year, the following table was generated. It shows the difference between the actual funding amounts provided in CADR's contracts and what they would be like if adjustments had been made for inflation.



As of FY 2024-2025, CADR's mediation contract had roughly 50% of the dollar value it would have had in 1997.

The mediation services provided by MCH are essential for our community. The Judiciary is committed to providing access to justice, especially for vulnerable populations. CADR's mediation contracts allowed certain victims of the 2023 Maui Wildfires stave off eviction, eased the influx of post-pandemic eviction proceedings via Act 57 (H.B. 1376, 2021), and provided the public with cost-effective alternatives to litigation. In addition, Act 278 (S.B. 825, 2025) launches its pilot program with MCH on February 5, 2026, expanding the pre-filing residential

¹ Consumer price index for all urban consumers (CPI-U). (2025). Retrieved from <https://ir.mit.edu/projects/cpi-u/>

eviction program implemented in the wake of the Maui Wildfires. These programs contribute to legislative efforts to combat the housing crisis and are executed by the community organizations who also support HB2369/SB2442.

As mediation and other alternative dispute resolution services become more available and widespread in Hawai‘i, it is imperative that the Legislature bolster support for the community-based organizations who in turn support the public and the courts.

¹ Consumer price index for all urban consumers (CPI-U). (2025). Retrieved from <https://ir.mit.edu/projects/cpi-u/>