



The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i

**Testimony to the
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor**
Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

February 21, 2017, 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

By

Calvin C. Ching
Deputy Chief Court Administrator, District Court of the First Circuit

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Bill No. and Title: Senate Bill No. 98, Relating to Courts.

Purpose: Raises the district courts' jurisdictional limit for civil actions involving specific performance.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary supports Senate Bill No. 98.

Senate Bill 98 corrects an inconsistency in Hawai‘i Revised Statutes §604-5 that has developed in recent years. HRS §604-5 provides the jurisdictional limits for District Court. Historically, the limits within HRS §604-5 provided that the specific performance jurisdiction of the court was consistent with the overall jurisdiction of the court (now \$40,000). However, during the change in authority from \$20,000 to \$25,000 and a very recent change from \$25,000 to \$40,000, the specific performance authority was apparently overlooked and remained at \$20,000. The passage of SB98 should correct this inconsistency.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.