



The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i

**Testimony to the
House Committee on Judiciary**
Representative Chris Lee, Chair
Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 14, 2019, 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

by

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Bill No. and Title: Senate Bill No. 1286, S.D. 1, 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. 1286, S.D. 1.

Senate Bill No. 1286, S.D. 1, 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 Senate Bill No. 1286, S.D. 1, should correct this inconsistency.

The Judiciary respectfully requests that the effective date be amended to July 1, 2019.

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