



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

GOV. MSG. NO. **598**

May 2, 2006

The Honorable Robert Bunda, President
and Members of the Senate
Twenty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 003
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. President and Members of the Senate:

This is to inform you that on May 2, 2006, the following bill was signed into law:

HB2898 SD1

A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO
ARBITRATION.
(ACT 72)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Lingle".

LINDA LINGLE

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ARBITRATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Under the existing laws, the district courts
2 have exclusive jurisdiction over civil claims in which the
3 disputed amount is \$10,000 or less. However the circuit courts
4 have exclusive jurisdiction over disputes subject to arbitration
5 regardless of the amount in dispute. Many disputes subject to
6 arbitration are well below the \$10,000 limit at which the
7 district courts would normally have jurisdiction. The
8 legislature finds that this is not an economical or efficient
9 use of judicial resources and it discourages the use of
10 arbitration in the area of small disputes. Therefore, the mere
11 existence of an arbitration agreement should not impact which
12 court has jurisdiction over civil claims.

13 The purpose of this Act is to give the district courts
14 jurisdiction over civil actions subject to arbitration
15 agreements where the amount in dispute is less than \$10,000,
16 unless the arbitration is subject to chapter 89, chapter 377, or
17 the National Labor Relations Act.



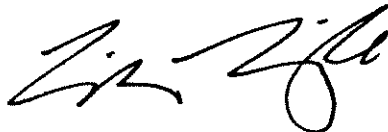
1 SECTION 2. Section 658A-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by amending the definition of "court" to read as
3 follows:

4 "Court" means [~~the~~] any district or circuit court [~~of the~~
5 ~~appropriate judicial circuit~~] of competent jurisdiction in this
6 State, unless otherwise indicated. In cases involving
7 arbitration subject to chapter 89, chapter 377, or the National
8 Labor Relations Act, "court" means the circuit court of the
9 appropriate judicial circuit."

10 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
11 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

12 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

APPROVED this 2 day of MAY, 2006

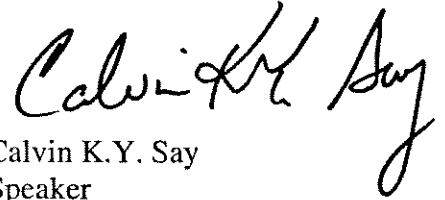


GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: April 17, 2006
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Twenty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006.



Calvin K.Y. Say
Speaker
House of Representatives



Patricia Mau-Shimizu
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives

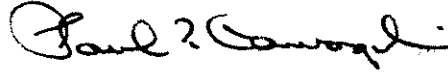
THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: March 24, 2006
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Third Reading in the Senate of the Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006.



President of the Senate



Clerk of the Senate