
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CONDOMINIUMS.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 514B, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§514B- Hearings. (a) If a dispute is not resolved by
5 mediation as provided in section 514B-161, in addition to any
6 other legal remedies that may be available, any party that
7 participated in the mediation may file a request for a hearing
8 with the office of administrative hearings as follows:

9 (1) The party requesting the hearing shall be a board of
10 directors of an association registered pursuant to
11 section 514B-103 or a unit owner who is a member of an
12 association registered pursuant to section 514B-103;

13 (2) The request for hearing shall be filed within thirty
14 days from the final day of mediation;

15 (3) The request for hearing shall name one or more parties
16 that participated in the mediation as an adverse party
17 and identify the statutory provisions in dispute; and



1 (4) The subject matter of the hearing before the hearings
2 officer may include any matter that was the subject of
3 the mediation pursuant to section 514B-161.

4 (b) The office of administrative hearings shall accept no
5 more than thirty requests for hearing per fiscal year under this
6 section.

7 (c) The party requesting the hearing shall pay a filing
8 fee of \$25 to the department of commerce and consumer affairs,
9 and the failure to do so shall result in the request for hearing
10 being rejected as an incomplete filing. All other parties shall
11 file a response, accompanied by a filing fee of \$25, to the
12 department of commerce and consumer affairs, within twenty days
13 of being served with the request for hearing.

14 (d) The hearings officer appointed by the director of
15 commerce and consumer affairs pursuant to section 26-9(f) shall
16 have jurisdiction to review any request for hearing filed under
17 subsection (a). The hearings officer shall have the power to
18 issue subpoenas, administer oaths, hear testimony, find facts,
19 make conclusions of law, and issue written decisions that shall
20 be final and conclusive, unless a party adversely affected by
21 the decision files an appeal in the circuit court under section
22 91-14.



1 (e) Rules of practice and procedure of the department of
2 commerce and consumer affairs shall govern all proceedings
3 brought under this section. The burden of proof, including the
4 burden of producing the evidence and the burden of persuasion,
5 shall be upon the party initiating the proceeding. Proof of a
6 matter shall be by a preponderance of the evidence.

7 (f) Hearings to review and make determinations upon any
8 requests for hearings filed under subsection (a) shall commence
9 within sixty days following the receipt of the request for
10 hearing. The hearings officer shall issue written findings of
11 fact, conclusions of law, and an order as expeditiously as
12 practicable after the hearing has been concluded.

13 (g) Each party to the hearing shall bear the party's own
14 costs, including attorney's fees, unless otherwise ordered by
15 the hearings officer.

16 (h) Any party to a proceeding under this section who is
17 aggrieved by a final decision of a hearings officer may apply
18 for judicial review of that decision pursuant to section 91-14;
19 provided that any party seeking judicial review pursuant to
20 section 91-14 shall be responsible for the costs of preparing
21 the record on appeal, including the cost of preparing the
22 transcript of the hearing.



1 (i) The department of commerce and consumer affairs may
2 adopt rules and forms, pursuant to chapter 91, to effectuate the
3 purpose of this section and to implement its provisions."

4 SECTION 2. The director of commerce and consumer affairs
5 shall prepare and submit to the legislature, at least twenty
6 days prior to the convening of the 2007 and 2008 regular
7 sessions, a report containing the director's evaluation of the
8 operation and effect of section 1 of this Act. The report shall
9 include a summary of the requests for hearing brought under the
10 section, the disposition of such requests for hearing, an
11 appraisal of the effectiveness of the section, and
12 recommendations for changes, modifications, or repeal of the
13 section or parts thereof with accompanying reasons and data.

14 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

15 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on June 29, 2006,
16 and shall be repealed on June 30, 2009.



Report Title:

Condominiums

Description:

Extends the pilot program for condominium management dispute resolution by establishing comparable provisions in the new condominium law. Effective date June 29, 2006. (SB2545 HD2)

