

JAN 25 2006

S.B. NO. 2543

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO COMDOMINIUMS.

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 of the department of
9 commerce and consumer affairs, as follows:

10 (1) The party requesting the hearing shall be a board of
11 directors of a duly registered association of
12 apartment owners or an apartment owner that is a
13 member of a duly registered association pursuant to
14 section 514B-103;

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



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

4 (4) The subject matter of the hearing before the hearing
5 officer shall include any matter that was the subject
6 of the mediation pursuant to section 514B-161.

7 (b) The office of administrative hearings of the
8 department of commerce and consumer affairs shall accept no more
9 than thirty requests for hearing per fiscal year under this
10 section.

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

18 (d) The hearings officers appointed by the director of
19 commerce and consumer affairs pursuant to section 26-9(f) shall
20 have jurisdiction to review any request for hearing filed under
21 subsection (a). The hearings officers shall have the power to
22 issue subpoenas, administer oaths, hear testimony, find facts,



1 make conclusions of law, and issue written decisions that shall
2 be final and conclusive, unless a party adversely affected by
3 the decision files an appeal in the circuit court under section
4 91-14.

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

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

17 (g) Each party to the hearing shall bear the party's own
18 costs, including attorney's fees, unless otherwise ordered by
19 the hearing officer.

20 (h) Any party to a proceedings under this section who is
21 aggrieved by a final decision of a hearings officer may apply
22 for judicial review of that decision pursuant to section 91-14;



1 provided that any party seeking judicial review pursuant to
 2 section 91-14 shall be responsible for the costs of preparing
 3 the record on appeal, including the cost of preparing the
 4 transcript of the hearing.

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

8 SECTION 2. New statutory material is underscored.

9 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.

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INTRODUCED BY: Will Engw

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SB. NO. 2543

Report Title:

Condominiums

Description:

Makes condominium management dispute resolution administrative hearing program permanent.

