
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HAWAII RULES OF EVIDENCE.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 626-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by amending rule 404, subsection (a) to read as follows:

3 "(a) Character evidence generally. Evidence of a person's
4 character or a trait of a person's character is not admissible
5 for the purpose of proving action in conformity therewith on a
6 particular occasion, except:

7 (1) Character of accused. Evidence of a pertinent trait
8 of character of an accused offered by an accused, or
9 by the prosecution to rebut the same[+], or if
10 evidence of the alleged victim's trait of character
11 for aggressiveness is offered by an accused and
12 admitted under paragraph (2), evidence of the same
13 trait of character of the accused offered by the
14 prosecution;

15 (2) Character of victim. Evidence of a pertinent trait of
16 character of the victim of the crime offered by an
17 accused, or by the prosecution to rebut the same, or
18 evidence of a character trait of peacefulness of the



1 victim offered by the prosecution in a homicide case
2 to rebut evidence that the victim was the first
3 aggressor;

4 (3) Character of witness. Evidence of the character of a
5 witness, as provided in rules 607, 608, 609, and
6 609.1."

7 SECTION 2. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
8 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
9 begun, before its effective date.

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 Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed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.

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Report Title:

Evidence; Character of Accused

Description:

Provides that if evidence of an alleged victim's character for aggressiveness is offered by an accused and admitted under paragraph (2), evidence of the same trait of character of the accused offered by the prosecution may be admissible.

