
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CIVIL PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 634F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§634F- Immunity for acts in furtherance of
5 constitutional rights. A person shall be immune from civil
6 liability for any act committed in furtherance of the person's
7 constitutional right to petition under the United States
8 Constitution or the state constitution, including seeking
9 relief, influencing action, informing, communicating, and
10 otherwise participating in the process of government, regardless
11 of intent or purpose, except where the act is not aimed at
12 procuring any governmental or electoral action, result, or
13 outcome."

14 SECTION 2. Section 634F-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended by amending the definition of "SLAPP" to read as
16 follows:

17 "SLAPP" means a strategic lawsuit against public
18 participation [~~and refers to a lawsuit~~] that [~~lacks~~]:



1 (1) Lacks substantial justification or is interposed for
 2 delay or harassment; and [that is solely based on the
 3 party's public participation before a governmental
 4 body.]

5 (2) Is brought against any person for an act committed in
 6 furtherance of the person's constitutional right to
 7 petition under the United States Constitution or the
 8 state constitution, including seeking relief,
 9 influencing action, informing, communicating, and
 10 otherwise participating in the process of government
 11 to procure any governmental or electoral action,
 12 result, or outcome."

13 SECTION 3. Section 634F-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
 14 amended to read as follows:

15 "[+]§634F-2[+] **Required procedures; motion.**

16 Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, including rules of
 17 court, upon the filing of any motion to dispose of a claim in a
 18 judicial proceeding on the grounds that the claim is based on,
 19 relates to, [~~er involves public participation and is a SLAPP~~
 20 ~~lawsuit~~] or is in response to any act of the moving party in
 21 furtherance of the moving party's rights under section 634F- :

- 1 (1) The motion shall be treated as a motion for summary
2 judgment [~~on the pleadings, matters outside the~~
3 ~~pleadings shall be excluded by the court~~], and the
4 court shall expedite the hearing of the motion;
- 5 (2) The moving party shall have a right:
- 6 (A) To an immediate appeal from a court order denying
7 the motion; and
- 8 (B) To file an application for a writ of mandamus if
9 the court fails to rule on the motion in an
10 expedited fashion;
- 11 (3) Discovery shall be suspended, pending decision on the
12 motion and appeals;
- 13 (4) The responding party shall:
- 14 (A) Without leave of court, have seven days to amend
15 its pleadings to be pled with specificity, and
16 shall include such supporting particulars as are
17 peculiarly within the supporting pleader's
18 knowledge; and
- 19 (B) Have the burden of proof, [~~and~~] including the
20 burden of producing the evidence as well as the
21 burden of persuasion on the motion;



- 1 (5) The court shall make its determination based upon the
2 allegations contained in the pleadings[+] and
3 affidavits stating the facts upon which the liability
4 or defense is based;
- 5 (6) The court shall grant the motion and dismiss the
6 judicial claim, unless the responding party has
7 demonstrated that more likely than not, [~~the~~
8 ~~respondent's allegations do not constitute a SLAPP~~
9 ~~lawsuit as defined in section 634F-1;~~] the acts of the
10 moving party are not excluded from civil liability
11 pursuant to section 634F- ;
- 12 (7) Any governmental body to which the moving party's acts
13 were directed or the attorney general in the case of a
14 state governmental body, or the county attorney or
15 corporation counsel in the case of a county
16 governmental body may intervene to defend or otherwise
17 support the moving party in the lawsuit;
- 18 (8) The court shall award a moving party who prevails on
19 the motion, without regard to any limits under state
20 law:
- 21 (A) Actual damages or \$5,000, whichever is greater;



1 (B) Costs of suit, including reasonable attorneys'
 2 and expert witness fees, incurred in connection
 3 with the motion; and

4 (C) Such additional sanctions upon the responding
 5 party, its attorneys, or law firms as the court
 6 determines shall be sufficient to deter
 7 repetition of the conduct and comparable conduct
 8 by others similarly situated; and

9 (9) Any person damaged or injured by reason of a claim
 10 filed in violation of their rights under this chapter
 11 may seek relief in the form of a claim for actual or
 12 compensatory damages, as well as punitive damages,
 13 attorneys' fees, and costs, from the person
 14 responsible."

15 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
 16 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

17 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

18

INTRODUCED BY: Nannina Drouin

Della A. Belatti
K. Hill
Chen

[Signature]
Marilyn B. Lee
Denny Coffman
[Signature]
[Signature]

Report Title:

Anti-SLAPP; Citizen Participation in Government

Description:

Provides immunity from civil liability for actions by a person in furtherance of the constitutional right to petition to procure governmental or electoral action. Amends SLAPP definition to add immunized act language. Amends procedure for motion to dispose of a claim based on actions in furtherance of constitutional rights.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

