

JAN 21 2011

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CIVIL ACTIONS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to abolish joint and
2 several liability for government entities in all cases under
3 chapter 663, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to clarify that government
4 entities would be liable only for the percentage share of the
5 damages actually attributable to the government entities.

6 SECTION 2. Section 663-10.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
7 amended to read as follows:

8 "**§663-10.5 Government entity as a tortfeasor; abolition of**
9 **joint and several liability.** Any other law to the contrary
10 notwithstanding, including but not limited to sections 663-10.9,
11 663-11 to 663-13, 663-16, 663-17, and 663-31, in any case where
12 a government entity is determined to be a tortfeasor along with
13 one or more other tortfeasors, the government entity shall be
14 liable for no more than that percentage share of the damages
15 attributable to the government entity[; ~~provided that joint and~~
16 ~~several liability shall be retained for tort claims relating to~~
17 ~~the maintenance and design of highways pursuant to section 663-~~
18 ~~10.9].~~



1 For purposes of this section, "government entity" means any
2 unit of government in this State, including the State and any
3 county or combination of counties, department, agency,
4 institution, board, commission, district, council, bureau,
5 office, governing authority, or other instrumentality of state
6 or county government, or corporation or other establishment
7 owned, operated, or managed by or on behalf of this State or any
8 county.

9 For purposes of this section, the liability of a government
10 entity shall include its vicarious liability for the acts or
11 omissions of its officers and employees."

12 SECTION 3. Section 663-10.9, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
13 amended to read as follows:

14 **"§663-10.9 Abolition of joint and several liability;**
15 **exceptions.** Joint and several liability for joint tortfeasors
16 as defined in section 663-11 is abolished except in the
17 following circumstances:

18 (1) For the recovery of economic damages against joint
19 tortfeasors in actions involving injury or death to
20 persons;

21 (2) For the recovery of economic and noneconomic damages
22 against joint tortfeasors in actions involving:



- 1 (A) Intentional torts;
- 2 (B) Torts relating to environmental pollution;
- 3 (C) Toxic and asbestos-related torts;
- 4 (D) Torts relating to aircraft accidents;
- 5 (E) Strict and products liability torts; or
- 6 (F) Torts relating to motor vehicle accidents [except
- 7 as provided in paragraph (4);] and;

8 (3) For the recovery of noneconomic damages in actions,
9 other than those enumerated in paragraph (2),
10 involving injury or death to persons against those
11 tortfeasors whose individual degree of negligence is
12 found to be twenty-five per cent or more under section
13 663-31. Where a tortfeasor's degree of negligence is
14 less than twenty-five per cent, then the amount
15 recoverable against that tortfeasor for noneconomic
16 damages shall be in direct proportion to the degree of
17 negligence assigned[; and

18 ~~(4) For recovery of noneconomic damages in motor vehicle~~
19 ~~accidents involving tort actions relating to the~~
20 ~~maintenance and design of highways including actions~~
21 ~~involving guardrails, utility poles, street and~~
22 ~~directional signs, and any other highway-related~~



1 ~~device upon a showing that the affected joint~~
2 ~~tortfeasor was given reasonable prior notice of a~~
3 ~~prior occurrence under similar circumstances to the~~
4 ~~occurrence upon which the tort claim is based. In~~
5 ~~actions in which the affected joint tortfeasor has not~~
6 ~~been shown to have had such reasonable prior notice,~~
7 ~~the recovery of noneconomic damages shall be as~~
8 ~~provided in paragraph (3)].~~

9 ~~[-(5) Provided, however, that joint]~~ Joint and several
10 liability for economic and noneconomic damages for claims
11 against design professionals, as defined in chapter ~~[672,]~~ 672B,
12 and certified public accountants, as defined in chapter 466, is
13 abolished in actions not involving physical injury or death to
14 persons."

15 SECTION 4. If any provision of this Act, or the
16 application thereof to any person or circumstance is held
17 invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or
18 applications of the Act, which can be given effect without the
19 invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions
20 of this Act are severable.



Report Title:

Government Tort Liability

Description:

Clarifies that government entities are only liable in certain cases for the percentage share of the damages that they actually caused.

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

