
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO INCOME WITHHOLDING FOR CHILD SUPPORT.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 571-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended as follows:
3 1. By amending subsection (a) to read:
4 "(a) Whenever any person has been ordered to pay an
5 allowance for the support of a child or for the support and
6 maintenance of a spouse or former spouse, and fails or refuses
7 to obey or perform the order and has been adjudged guilty of
8 contempt of court for such failure or refusal, the court may
9 make an order that shall operate as an assignment by the person
10 for the benefit of the child or spouse, of [~~such~~] amounts and at
11 [~~such~~] times as may be specified in the order, from any income
12 due or to become due in the future to such person from the
13 person's employer or successor employers, until further order of
14 the court.

15 The assignment of the amounts shall be to the clerk of the
16 court where the order is entered if for the support or
17 maintenance of a spouse or former spouse, or to the child
18 support enforcement agency if for the support of a child or if



1 child support and spouse support are contained in the same
2 order. The order of assignment to the child support enforcement
3 agency shall be in the standard format prescribed by Title IV-D
4 of the Social Security Act, as amended by the child support
5 enforcement agency. The order of assignment shall be effective
6 immediately after service upon an employer of a true copy of the
7 order, which service may be effected by regular mail, by
8 personal delivery, or by transmission through electronic means.

9 Thereafter, the employer shall for each pay period withhold
10 from any income due to the person from the employer, and not
11 required to be withheld by any other [~~provision of~~] federal or
12 state law, and transmit to the clerk of the court or child
13 support enforcement agency as set forth in the order, as much as
14 may remain payable to the person for such pay period up to the
15 amount specified in the order of assignment as being payable
16 during the same period. The person ordered to pay shall inform
17 the court immediately of any change that would affect the order
18 of assignment or the disbursement thereof. Any employer
19 violating this subsection may be subject to a fine not to exceed
20 \$1,000 as determined by the court.



1 Compliance by an employer with the order of assignment
2 shall operate as a discharge of the employer's liability to the
3 employee for that portion of the employee's income withheld and
4 transmitted to the clerk of court or child support enforcement
5 agency, as the case may be, regardless of whether [or not] the
6 employer has withheld the correct amount."

7 2. By amending subsection (d) to read:

8 "(d) It shall be unlawful for any employer to refuse to
9 hire a prospective employee, to discharge an employee, or to
10 take any other disciplinary action against an employee, based in
11 whole or part upon an assignment authorized by this section.
12 Any employer [~~violating this section shall be guilty of a~~
13 ~~misdemeanor under section 710-1077(1)(g).~~] who fails to comply
14 with this subsection may be in violation of contempt of court
15 and subject to a fine not to exceed \$1,000 as determined by the
16 court."

17 SECTION 2. Section 571-52.2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
18 amended by amending subsection (g) to read as follows:

19 "(g) It shall be unlawful for any employer to fail to
20 comply with the requirements of this section. In addition, an
21 employer who fails to comply with an order of assignment of



1 future income, as provided for under this section, shall be
 2 liable to the obligee or the obligee's assignee for whom support
 3 was required to be paid, for the full amount of all sums ordered
 4 to be withheld and transmitted and not otherwise done so[-] and
 5 may be subject to a fine not to exceed \$1,000 as determined by
 6 the court."

7 SECTION 3. Section 576E-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
 8 amended as follows:

9 1. By amending subsection (c) to read:

10 "(c) Compliance by an employer with the income withholding
 11 order issued pursuant to subsection (a) or with the income
 12 withholding order or the notice to withhold child support issued
 13 pursuant to section 576D-14 shall operate as a discharge of the
 14 employer's liability to the responsible parent for that portion
 15 of the responsible parent's earnings withheld and transmitted to
 16 the agency, regardless of whether [~~or not~~] the employer has
 17 withheld the correct amount. For each payment made pursuant to
 18 an income withholding order or a notice to withhold child
 19 support, the employer may deduct and retain as an administrative
 20 fee an additional amount of \$2 from the income owed to the
 21 responsible parent. The total amount withheld from the



1 obligor's income, including the administrative fee, may not be
2 in excess of the maximum amounts permitted under section 303(b)
3 of the Consumer Credit Protection Act (15 U.S.C. §1673(b)). Any
4 income withholding order or notice to withhold child support
5 shall have priority as against any garnishment, attachment,
6 execution, or other income withholding order, or any other
7 order, and shall not be subject to the exemptions or
8 restrictions contained in part III of chapter 651 and in
9 chapters 652 and 653. An employer who fails to comply with an
10 income withholding order under this section or with an income
11 withholding order or notice to withhold child support issued
12 pursuant to section 576D-14 shall be liable to the obligee or
13 the agency for the full amount of all sums ordered to be
14 withheld and transmitted. In addition, any employer violating
15 this subsection may be subject to a fine not to exceed \$1,000 as
16 determined by the court. An employer receiving an income
17 withholding order or a notice to withhold child support shall
18 transmit amounts withheld to the agency within five working days
19 after the responsible parent is paid. The employer shall begin
20 withholding no later than the first pay period commencing within



1 seven business days following the date a copy of the order or
2 the notice to withhold child support is mailed to the employer.

3 As used in this subsection, the term "business day" means a
4 day on which the employer's office is open for regular business.
5 The employer shall withhold funds as directed in the order or
6 the notice to withhold child support, except that when an
7 employer receives an income withholding order issued by another
8 state, the employer shall apply the income withholding law of
9 the state of the obligor's principal place of employment in
10 determining:

- 11 (1) The employer's fee for processing an income
12 withholding order;
- 13 (2) The maximum amount permitted to be withheld from the
14 obligor's income under section 303(b) of the Consumer
15 Credit Protection Act (15 U.S.C. §1673(b));
- 16 (3) The time periods within which the employer must
17 implement the income withholding order and forward the
18 child support payment;
- 19 (4) The priorities for withholding and allocating income
20 withheld for multiple child support obligees; and



1 (5) Any withholding terms or conditions not specified in
2 the order.

3 An employer who complies with an income withholding order
4 or a notice to withhold child support that is regular on its
5 face shall not be subject to civil liability to any person or
6 agency for conduct in compliance with the order.

7 An employer who is required to withhold amounts from the
8 income of more than one employee may remit to the agency a sum
9 total of all such amounts in one check with a listing of the
10 amounts applicable to each employee.

11 Within two working days after receipt of the amounts
12 withheld by the employer, the agency shall disburse the amounts
13 to the obligee for the benefit of the child, except that the
14 agency may delay the distribution of collections toward
15 arrearages until resolution of any timely requested hearing with
16 respect to such arrearages."

17 2. By amending subsection (e) to read:

18 "(e) It shall be unlawful for any employer to refuse to
19 hire a prospective employee, to discharge an employee, or to
20 take any other disciplinary action against an employee, based in
21 whole or in part upon an order or notice to withhold child



1 support authorized by this section. Any employer [~~violating~~
2 ~~this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor under section 710-~~
3 ~~1077(1)(g)-]~~ who fails to comply with this subsection may be in
4 violation of contempt of court and subject to a fine not to
5 exceed \$1,000 as determined by the court."

6 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
7 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on January 7, 2059.

9



Report Title:

Child Support; Income Withholding; Employer; Fines

Description:

Amends the income withholding requirements to impose a fine against any employer who discharges from employment, refuses to employ, or takes disciplinary action against any noncustodial parent subject to income withholding; or fails to withhold support from income or pay the amounts to the child support enforcement agency. Takes effect on 1/7/2059. (SD1)

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