
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SPOUSAL SUPPORT.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 571-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by amending subsections (a) and (b) to read as follows:

3 "(a) Whenever any person has been ordered to pay an
4 allowance for the support of a child or for the support and
5 maintenance of a spouse or former spouse, and fails or refuses
6 to obey or perform the order and has been adjudged guilty of
7 contempt of court for such failure or refusal, the court may
8 make an order that shall operate as an assignment by the person
9 for the benefit of the child or spouse, of ~~[such]~~ amounts at
10 ~~[such]~~ times as may be specified in the order, from any income
11 due or to become due in the future to ~~[such]~~ the person from the
12 person's employer or successor employers, until further order of
13 the court. For orders solely for the support or maintenance of
14 a spouse or former spouse, the spouse or former spouse may elect
15 to enforce the order pursuant to chapters 651, 652, or 653, in
16 which case no assignment shall be made to the clerk of the
17 court.



1 The assignment of the amounts shall be to the clerk of the
2 court where the order is entered if for the support or
3 maintenance of a spouse or former spouse, unless the spouse or
4 former spouse elects to enforce the order pursuant to chapters
5 651, 652, or 653, or to the child support enforcement agency if
6 for the support of a child or if child support and spouse
7 support are contained in the same order. The order of
8 assignment to the child support enforcement agency shall be in
9 the standard format prescribed by Title IV-D of the Social
10 Security Act, as amended by the child support enforcement
11 agency. The order of assignment shall be effective immediately
12 after service upon an employer of a true copy of the order,
13 which service may be effected by regular mail, by personal
14 delivery, or by transmission through electronic means.

15 Thereafter, the employer shall for each pay period withhold
16 from any income due to the person from the employer, and not
17 required to be withheld by any other provision of federal or
18 state law, and transmit to the clerk of the court or child
19 support enforcement agency as set forth in the order, as much as
20 may remain payable to the person for ~~[such]~~ the pay period up to
21 the amount specified in the order of assignment as being payable



1 during the same period. The person ordered to pay shall inform
2 the court immediately of any change that would affect the order
3 of assignment or the disbursement thereof.

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

10 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) to
11 the contrary, whenever a court has ordered any person
12 (hereinafter "obligor") to make periodic payments toward the
13 support of a child, upon petition of the person to whom ~~such~~
14 the payments are ordered to be made or that person's assignee,
15 and the court finds the obligor to be delinquent in payments in
16 an amount equal to or greater than the sum of payments that
17 would become due over a one-month period under the order,
18 judgment, or decree providing for child support, the court shall
19 order an assignment of future income, or a portion thereof, of
20 the obligor in an amount adequate to insure that past due
21 payments and payments that will become due in the future under



1 the terms of the support order will be paid. [~~Such an~~] That
2 order shall operate as an assignment by the obligor to the child
3 support enforcement agency and shall be binding upon any person
4 who is or shall become obligated to the obligor for payment of
5 income and who has been served with a copy of the assignment
6 order.

7 For each payment made pursuant to an assignment order, the
8 person making [~~such~~] the payment may deduct and retain as an
9 administrative fee the additional amount of \$2 from the income
10 owed to the obligor. Any assignment made pursuant to an
11 assignment order shall have priority as against any garnishment,
12 attachment, execution, or other assignment order, or any other
13 order unless otherwise ordered by the court and the same shall
14 not be subject to any of the exemptions or restrictions
15 contained in part III of chapter 651, and chapters 652 and
16 653[-]; provided that orders solely for the support or
17 maintenance of a spouse or former spouse may be enforced
18 directly pursuant to chapters 651, 652, and 653, if elected by
19 the spouse or former spouse, and payments shall not be assigned
20 to the clerk of the court.



1 For purposes of this subsection, delinquencies in payments
2 shall be computed on the basis of the moneys owed and unpaid on
3 the date that the obligor under the support order has been given
4 notice pursuant to law of the application for the order of
5 assignment. The fact that the obligor may have subsequently
6 paid [~~such~~] the delinquencies shall not relieve the court of its
7 duty under this subsection to order the assignment."

8 SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
9 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

10 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Spousal Support Orders; Enforcement; Wage Garnishment

Description:

Allows obligees under a order solely for spousal support to elect to enforce the order pursuant to chapters 651, 652, and 653, Hawaii Revised Statutes, rather than through the clerk of the court. (SD1)

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