

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



GOV. MSG. NO. 1333

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

June 26, 2025

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate,  
and Members of the Senate  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Nadine Nakamura  
Speaker, and Members of the  
House of Representatives  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on June 26, 2025, the following bill was signed into law:

H.B. NO. 399, H.D. 1,  
S.D. 2, C.D. 1

RELATING TO DISTRICT COURT JUDGES.  
**ACT 231**

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Green M.D." in a cursive style.

Josh Green, M.D.  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DISTRICT COURT JUDGES.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 604-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 **"§604-1 Judicial circuits; district judges; sessions.**

4 [†] (a) [†] There shall be established in each of the judicial  
5 circuits of the State a district court with the powers and under  
6 the conditions herein set forth, which shall be styled as  
7 follows:

8 (1) For the First Judicial Circuit: The District Court of  
9 the First Circuit[−];

10 (2) For the Second Judicial Circuit: The District Court  
11 of the Second Circuit[−];

12 (3) For the Third Judicial Circuit: The District Court of  
13 the Third Circuit[−]; and

14 (4) For the Fifth Judicial Circuit: The District Court of  
15 the Fifth Circuit.

16 [†] (b) [†] There shall be appointed one or more district  
17 judges for each judicial circuit. The district court of the



1 first circuit shall consist of [~~fourteen~~] fifteen judges, who  
2 shall be styled as first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth,  
3 seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth, eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth,  
4 [~~and~~] fourteenth, and fifteenth judge, respectively. One of the  
5 district judges shall hear landlord-tenant and small claims  
6 matters[~~7~~]; provided that when in the discretion of the chief  
7 justice of the supreme court the urgency or volume of cases so  
8 requires, the chief justice may authorize the judge to  
9 substitute for or act in addition to or otherwise in place of  
10 any other district judge of the district court of the first  
11 circuit. The district court of the second circuit shall consist  
12 of three judges, who shall be styled as first, second, and third  
13 judge, respectively. The district court of the third circuit  
14 shall consist of three judges, who shall be styled as first,  
15 second, and third judge, respectively. The district court of  
16 the fifth circuit shall consist of two judges who shall be  
17 styled as first and second judge, respectively. The chief  
18 justice may designate a judge in each circuit as the  
19 administrative judge for the circuit.

20 [+] (c) [+] The district courts shall hold sessions at [~~such~~  
21 ~~places~~] any place in their respective circuits and as often as



1 the respective district judges deem essential to the promotion  
2 of justice."


3 SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
4 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

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



H.B. NO. 399  
H.D. 1  
S.D. 2  
C.D. 1

APPROVED this 26th day of June, 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Green", with a horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

HB No. 399, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: April 30, 2025  
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025.



Nadine K. Nakamura  
Speaker  
House of Representatives



Brian L. Takeshita  
Chief Clerk  
House of Representatives

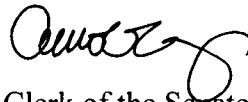
**THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I**

Date: April 30, 2025  
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate  
of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai‘i, Regular Session of 2025.



President of the Senate



Clerk of the Senate