A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ARBITRATION.

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

- 1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the use of judicial
- 2 arbitration is an alternative and reasonable means of settling
- 3 legal disputes in an expeditious and cost-effective manner. The
- 4 legislature supports and encourages the use of arbitration,
- 5 especially in light of the present economic downturn.
- 6 The legislature also finds that the restriction of
- 7 attorney's fees under this Act already applies to cases in civil
- 8 litigation.
- 9 The purpose of this Act is to extend the policy of
- 10 restricting attorney's fees in civil litigation to judicial
- 11 arbitration cases.
- 12 SECTION 2. Section 658A-21, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
- 13 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:
- "(b) An arbitrator may award reasonable attorney's fees
- 15 and other reasonable expenses of arbitration if such an award is
- 16 authorized by law in a civil action involving the same claim or
- 17 by the agreement of the parties to the arbitration
- proceeding[-]; provided that if the limitations on attorneys'
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- 1 fees under section 607-14 is applicable to the civil action, the
- 2 amount of the attorneys' fees awarded shall conform to these
- 3 limitations."
- 4 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
- 5 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon Ats approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 2 2 2010

Report Title:

Arbitration; Attorneys' Fees

Description:

Requires the amount of attorneys' fees awarded in arbitration cases to conform to comparable restrictions for civil litigation cases.

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