



1 Chapter 662 shall not apply to claims brought pursuant to this  
2 chapter.

3 (c) Qualified immunity is not a defense to liability  
4 pursuant to this section.

5 (d) In any action brought pursuant to this section, a  
6 court shall award reasonable attorney fees and costs to the  
7 plaintiff, including expert witness fees and other litigation  
8 expenses, if they are a prevailing party. In actions for  
9 injunctive relief, a court shall deem a plaintiff to have  
10 prevailed if the plaintiff's suit was a substantial factor or  
11 significant catalyst in obtaining the results sought by the  
12 litigation. When a judgment is entered in favor of a defendant,  
13 the court may award reasonable costs and attorney fees to the  
14 defendant for defending claims the court finds frivolous.

15 (e) A civil action pursuant to this section shall be  
16 commenced within six years after the cause of action accrues.

17 (f) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the law  
18 enforcement officer shall be personally liable and shall not be  
19 indemnified by a public entity for at least five per cent or  
20 \$100,000 of the judgment or settlement, whichever is less,  
21 unless the law enforcement officer acted upon a good faith and



1 reasonable belief that the action was lawful. If the judgment  
2 or any portion of the judgment is uncollectible from the law  
3 enforcement officer, the law enforcement officer's employer  
4 shall satisfy the full amount of the judgment or settlement;  
5 provided that the employer shall have a right of contribution  
6 against the law enforcement officer for any amount not subject  
7 to indemnification. A public entity shall not indemnify the  
8 officer if the officer was convicted of a crime related to  
9 conduct from which the claim arises. Nothing in this section  
10 shall be construed to require indemnification for law  
11 enforcement officers.

12       **§ -3 Reporting of judgments and settlements.** (a) Any  
13 political subdivision of the State that employs a law  
14 enforcement officer who incurs liability under this chapter,  
15 whether in the form of judgment or settlement entered against  
16 the law enforcement officer for claims arising pursuant to this  
17 chapter, shall publicly disclose:

18       (1) The name of any law enforcement officer or officers  
19           whose actions or conduct led to the judgment or  
20           settlement;



1 (2) The amount of the judgment or settlement and the  
2 portion of the judgment or settlement, if any,  
3 indemnified by the political subdivision of the State;

4 (3) Any internal disciplinary actions taken against the  
5 law enforcement officer or officers whose action or  
6 conduct led to the judgment or settlement; and

7 (4) Any criminal charges brought against the law  
8 enforcement officer or officers for the actions or  
9 conduct that led to the judgment or settlement.

10 (b) The political subdivision of the State shall not  
11 disclose the address, social security number, or other unique,  
12 non-public personal identifying information of any individual  
13 who brings a claim under this chapter."

14 SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

15

INTRODUCED BY: 



# S.B. NO. 783

**Report Title:**

Law Enforcement Officers; Constitutional Rights; Deprivation;  
Private Cause of Action; Disclosure

**Description:**

Establishes a private cause of action for persons injured by the deprivation of rights under the United States Constitution or the Hawaii Constitution by law enforcement officers. Requires that employers of law enforcement officers indemnify officers for judgments or settlements arising from that cause of action over a certain amount. Requires political subdivisions of the State who employ law enforcement officers to publicly disclose a list of officers against whom a judgment or settlement is entered as well as the amount of the judgment or settlement and any disciplinary actions or criminal charges brought against the officer.

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