

ACT 52

H.B. NO. 11

A Bill for an Act Relating to District Courts.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. Section 633-27, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) All district courts, except as otherwise provided, shall exercise jurisdiction conferred by this chapter, and while sitting in the exercise of that jurisdiction, shall be known and referred to as the small claims division of the district court; provided that the jurisdiction of the court when sitting as a small claims division of the district court shall be confined to:

- (1) Cases for the recovery of money only where the amount claimed does not exceed [\$1,000] \$2,500 exclusive of interest and costs, except as provided by section 633-30;
- (2) Cases involving disagreement between landlord and tenant about the security deposit in a residential landlord-tenant relationship; and
- (3) Cases for the return of leased or rented personal property worth [\$600] \$1,500 or less where the amount claimed owed for such lease or rental does not exceed [\$1,000] \$2,500 exclusive of interest and costs.

This chapter shall not abridge or affect the jurisdiction of the district courts under paragraphs (1) and (3) to determine cases under the ordinary procedures of the court, it being optional with the parties to such cases to elect the procedure of the small claims division of the district court or the ordinary procedures, as provided by rule of court. In cases arising under paragraph (2) the jurisdiction of the small claims division of the district court shall be exclusive.”

SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed. New material is underscored.

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

(Approved May 18, 1983.)