

ACT 64

S.B. NO. 2697

A Bill for an Act Relating to the Jurisdiction of the Courts.

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

SECTION 1. Section 571-14, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

“§571-14 Jurisdiction; adults. [The] (a) Except as provided in sections 603-21.5 and 604-8, the court shall have exclusive original jurisdiction:

- (1) To try any offense committed against a child by the child’s parent or guardian or by any other person having the child’s legal or physical custody, and any violation of section 707-726, 707-727, 709-902, 709-903, 709-903.5, 709-904, 709-905, 709-906, or 302A-1135, whether or not included in other provisions of this paragraph or paragraph (2).
- (2) To try any adult charged with:
 - (A) Deserting, abandoning, or failing to provide support for any person in violation of law;
 - (B) An offense, other than a felony, against the person of the defendant’s husband or wife;
 - (C) Any violation of an order issued pursuant to chapter 586; or
 - (D) Any violation of an order issued by a family court judge.

In any case within paragraph (1) or (2), the court, in its discretion, may waive its jurisdiction over the offense charged.

- (3) In all proceedings under chapter 580, and in all proceedings under chapter 584.
- (4) In proceedings under chapter 575, the Uniform Desertion and Non-support Act, and under chapter 576B, the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act.
- (5) For commitment of an adult alleged to be mentally defective or mentally ill.
- (6) In all proceedings for support between parent and child or between husband and wife.
- (7) In all proceedings for waiver of jurisdiction over an adult who was a child at the time of an alleged criminal act as provided in section 571-22.
- (8) In all proceedings under chapter 586, Domestic Abuse Protective Orders.
- (9) In all proceedings to appoint a guardian of the person of an adult.
- (10) For the protection of dependent adults under chapter 346, part X.

In any case within paragraph (3), (4), or (6), the attorney general, through the child support enforcement agency, may exercise concurrent jurisdiction as provided in chapter 576E.

(b) The court shall have concurrent jurisdiction with the district court over violations of sections 707-712, 707-717, 708-822, 708-823, 711-1106, and 711-1106.5 when multiple offenses are charged through complaint or indictment and at least one offense is a violation of an order issued pursuant to chapter 586 or a violation of section 709-906.”

SECTION 2. Section 603-21.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

“§603-21.5 General. (a) The several circuit courts shall have jurisdiction, except as otherwise expressly provided by statute, of:

- (1) Criminal offenses cognizable under the laws of the State, committed within their respective circuits or transferred to them for trial by change of venue from some other circuit court;
- (2) Actions for penalties and forfeitures incurred under the laws of the State;
- (3) Civil actions and proceedings, in addition to those listed in sections 603-21.6, 603-21.7, and 603-21.8.

(b) The several circuit courts shall have concurrent jurisdiction with the family court over:

- (1) Any felony under section 571-14, violation of an order issued pursuant to chapter 586, or a violation of section 709-906 when multiple offenses are charged through complaint or indictment and at least one other offense is a criminal offense under subsection (a)(1); and
- (2) Any felony under section 571-14 when multiple offenses are charged through complaint or indictment and at least one other offense is a violation of an order issued pursuant to chapter 586, a violation of section 709-906, or a misdemeanor under the jurisdiction of section 604-8.”

SECTION 3. Section 604-8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

“§604-8 Criminal, misdemeanors, generally. (a) District courts shall have jurisdiction of, and their criminal jurisdiction is limited to, criminal offenses punishable by fine, or by imprisonment not exceeding one year whether with or without fine. They shall not have jurisdiction over any offense for which the accused cannot be held to answer unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury.

In any case cognizable by a district court as aforesaid in which the accused has the right to a trial by jury in the first instance, the district court, upon demand by the accused, for such trial by jury, shall not exercise jurisdiction over such case except violations under section 291-4, but shall examine and discharge or commit for trial the accused as provided by law, but if in any such case the accused does not demand a trial by jury on the date of arraignment or within ten days thereafter, the district court may exercise jurisdiction over the same, subject to the right of appeal as provided by law. Trial by jury for violations under section 291-4 may be heard in the district court.

(b) The district court shall have concurrent jurisdiction with the family court of any violation of an order issued pursuant to chapter 586 or any violation of section 709-906 when multiple offenses are charged through complaint or indictment and at least one other offense is a criminal offense within the jurisdiction of the district courts.”

SECTION 4. This Act does not affect rights and duties that matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were begun, before its effective date.

SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved April 29, 1998.)