

Judiciary Committee

I am writing to support the passage of Hb2784, regarding the increase in the small claims monetary limit.

I am a graduate student in computer science here in Hawaii. As many students, I have a pretty low income. However, a year ago I spent about \$7000 to convert the sailboat that I live on to electric propulsion. Since then, one of the pair of electric motors has failed, and the other motor is in dire straights. When I bought the motors, the Indiana manufacturer's website boasted a 2 year warranty, but less than a year after installation, the site is gone, and the manufacturer refuses to respond to my communications. However, the manufacturer continues to sell his motors on ebay. Currently, if I take this matter to small claims court, I could only recoup a maximum of \$3500 of the ~\$5200 purchase price for the electric motors. That purchase price does not even include the incidental expenses of installation costs, or supporting equipment. My claim would fall within the legal no-man's land where most lawyers wouldn't touch my case since the amount in question won't garner them a large commission, and I cannot afford to pay the high lawyer fees.

Please support the passage of Hb2784. It would mean a lot to me.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Robert R. Puckett