

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 533

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 25 2015

RE: S.B. No. 143
S.D. 1

Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
President of the Senate
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2015
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Judiciary and Labor, to which was referred
S.B. No. 143 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE HAWAII
CONSTITUTION TO CHANGE THE THRESHOLD VALUE IN CONTROVERSY
REQUIREMENT FOR JURY TRIALS IN CIVIL CASES AT COMMON LAW FROM
\$5,000 TO \$10,000,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to propose a
constitutional amendment to article I, section 13, of the Hawaii
State Constitution to increase the threshold value in controversy
requirement for jury trials in civil cases at common law from
\$5,000 to \$10,000.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from two individuals. Your Committee received testimony in
opposition to this measure from State Farm Mutual Automobile
Insurance Company.

Your Committee finds that this measure may assist in
lessening the burden on Circuit Courts with matters not involving
large sums of money. Your Committee further finds that increasing
the threshold value may lessen costs to the parties involved
because a jury trial in Circuit Court can be more expensive than a
bench trial in District Court.

Your Committee has amended this measure by deleting the
ratification language pursuant to article XVII, section 3, of the

2015-1162 SSCR SMA.doc



Hawaii State Constitution and inserting an effective date of January 7, 2059, to encourage further discussion.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary and Labor that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 143, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 143, S.D. 1, and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary and
Labor,


GILBERT S.C. KEITH-AGAFAN, Chair



