

# THE SECOND ACT OF KAMEHAMEHA III (1846)

## An Act to Organize the Judicial Courts of the Hawaiian Islands

Be it enacted by the King and the Chiefs of the Hawaiian Islands, in Legislative Council assembled:

### SECTION I.

There shall be established a system of courts for the administration of justice throughout the Hawaiian Kingdom.

### SECTION II.

The judicial power of the Kingdom shall be vested in:

1. A Supreme Court
2. Circuit Courts
3. District (Inferior) Courts

### SECTION III.

The Supreme Court shall consist of the King, the Premier (or Kuhina Nui), and such judges as the King shall appoint. It shall have appellate jurisdiction and original jurisdiction in cases involving ambassadors, public ministers, and where the Kingdom is a party.

### SECTION IV.

The Circuit Courts shall hear civil and criminal cases within their assigned judicial districts, subject to appeal to the Supreme Court.

### SECTION V.

District Courts shall handle minor civil and criminal cases and act as courts of first instance for local matters.

## SECTION VI.

Judges shall be appointed by the King and shall hold office during his pleasure. They shall swear an oath to faithfully administer the laws.

## SECTION VII.

No judge shall preside over any case in which he has a personal interest or where impartiality is in question.

## SECTION VIII.

The courts shall be open to all persons, and justice shall be administered without denial or delay.

Approved this 27th day of April, 1846.

Kamehameha III

(End of Second Act)