



**United States Bankruptcy Court
District of Hawaii**

NOTICE OF: Bankruptcy Alternative Dispute Resolution Program

DATE: March 20, 2001

The United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Hawaii recognizes that formal litigation of disputes in bankruptcy cases and adversary proceedings frequently imposes significant economic burdens on parties and often delays resolution of those disputes. In addition, proposed amendments to the local rules will require parties to consider use of an alternative dispute resolution process and to address its feasibility in scheduling conference statements.

The court therefore has established a Bankruptcy Dispute Resolution (“BDR”) program to provide litigants with an opportunity to resolve their disputes in a process that best serves their needs and fits their circumstances. The BDR program offers the means to settle the dispute more quickly and less expensively to the parties’ mutual satisfaction and without the stress of litigation.

Pursuant to the General Order on Bankruptcy Dispute Resolution, dated March 20, 2001, guidelines for the BDR procedures have been established by the court and are available at the clerk’s office and the bankruptcy court’s website: www.hib.uscourts.gov.

The BDR program relies on volunteer mediators and there is no fee for the mediator’s initial review and the first 4 hours of BDR conference time. If the dispute is not resolved by the conclusion of this period, the mediator will charge the parties at the mediator’s regular hourly rate. The parties also may elect to conclude the BDR process at any time and return to litigation before the court.

Please consult the BDR Guidelines for further information, including how to request referral of a matter to BDR. The BDR Administrator, Michael Dowling, may be contacted by e-mail at bdr@hib.uscourts.gov or by telephone at 522-8100 ext. 109.