

INTERMEDIATE COURT OF APPEALS OF THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I

Echineque v. State of Hawai‘i

Echineque · No. CAOT-XX-XXXXXXX · Decided February 4, 2026

SUMMARY

The Hawai‘i Intermediate Court of Appeals dismissed Arwin R. Echineque’s filing for lack of appellate jurisdiction. The court held that it lacked original jurisdiction over any proposed civil claim and that the filing could not be construed as an appeal from a specific order or judgment in the identified underlying civil or criminal cases.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Intermediate Court of Appeals of the State of Hawai‘i
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Katherine G. Leonard, Presiding Judge; Keith K. Hiraoka, Associate Judge; Sonja M.P. McCullen, Associate Judge
JURISDICTION	Intermediate Court of Appeals of the State of Hawai‘i
DECIDED	February 4, 2026
DOCKET	CAOT-XX-XXXXXXX
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petitioner filed a complaint in the Intermediate Court of Appeals seeking damages for alleged injuries and identifying underlying civil and criminal cases. The court dismissed the appeal for lack of appellate jurisdiction.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential
PARTIES	Arwin R. Echineque v. State of Hawai‘i

TOPICS

- appellate jurisdiction
- subject matter jurisdiction
- appellate procedure
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- appellate procedure
- civil procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the Intermediate Court of Appeals had original jurisdiction to hear Echineque's newly asserted civil claim for damages.
2. Whether Echineque's filing could be construed as an appeal from a particular order or judgment in either of the identified underlying cases.

HOLDINGS

1. The Intermediate Court of Appeals lacks original jurisdiction to hear a civil claim initiated in that court.
2. A filing that does not identify or appeal from a particular order or judgment cannot be construed, even liberally, as an appeal from the underlying cases.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“To the extent Echineque seeks an appeal from a decision in Civil No. 12-1-3182 or Criminal No. 06-1-1633, the "complaint" cannot be construed, even liberally, as appealing from any particular order or judgment entered in either case.” (2)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Echineque alleged that he suffered weight-lifting injuries while imprisoned for a 2007 conviction for Assault in the Second Degree and Terroristic Threatening in the Second Degree. He sought one million dollars in damages and referenced an underlying civil case and criminal case.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Echineque's December 29, 2016 filing identified Civil No. 12-1-3182 and Criminal No. 06-1-1633 as underlying cases and sought one million dollars in damages. The Intermediate Court of Appeals concluded that it lacked original jurisdiction over any newly initiated civil claim and that the filing could not be construed as an appeal from a particular order or judgment in either underlying case.

DISPOSITION

dismissed