

From: [Cory](#)
To: [Standards of Conduct](#)
Subject: Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct
Date: Sunday, July 24, 2022 10:04:25 PM
Attachments: [temp 2022 7-27.docx](#)

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testimony for Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct

<https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/specialcommittee.aspx?comm=cisc&year=2022>
StandardsofConduct@capitol.hawaii.gov

2 PM Wednesday, July 27, 2022 <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88593306237>

from Cory Harden, Hilo

Thank you for your efforts to make government work for the people, not just special interests.

After the rammed-through \$2.4 billion rail bailout, and the bribery revelations re. two State legislators and the Honolulu prosecutor, reform is imperative.

In addition to your worthy initiatives already on the table, please support these:

Total citizen funding for elections.

This has been called “the reform that makes all other reforms possible”. It frees candidates from time- and energy-consuming fund-raising that leaves them beholden to powerful moneyed interests. It enables a greater cross-section of people, who know what life is like without a lot of money or connections, to get into decision-making positions. The cost should be weighed against the cost of decisions swayed by special interests.

Procedures for the State Legislature similar to County Councils, to allow time for transparency and input.

- Sunshine Law requirements—as in the great majority of other states
- Meetings spaced throughout the year (the Constitution allows for special Legislature sessions)
- Advance public notice--six calendar days for each meeting and each measure to be considered
- Online real-time viewing, and call-in and video testimony, for all committee and floor sessions
- Minutes and other meeting records readily available to the public
- Term limits for legislators (and judges, while you’re at it)

Procedures that prevent a single committee chair from killing a State bill.

All committee members, not just the chair, should be the ones to decide, by vote, whether to hear a bill or not. And bills should be allowed a full floor vote if a simple majority of legislators agree, instead of two-thirds as now required.

Disclosure of who requested introduction of a bill—no anonymous requesters as now allowed.

Limits on the number of bills each legislator can introduce.

This prevents the impossible workload that provides an excuse for rushing bills through with inadequate input and review, especially at the State Legislature.

Clear standards for determining if amendments are germane to a bill's purpose.

This is to ensure that the Supreme Court decision in League of Women Voters of Honolulu and Common Cause v. State of Hawai'i is followed.