
HOUSE RESOLUTION

AMENDING THE RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO REQUIRE
EACH MEMBER TO DISCLOSE THE NAME AND PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OF
ANY STAFF MEMBER WHOSE SALARY IS PAID BY A THIRD PARTY.

1 WHEREAS, an informed electorate is key to citizen
2 participation in a successful democracy; and
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4 WHEREAS, informed elected representatives are necessary for
5 the operation of a successful democratic government; and
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7 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Constitution sets forth numerous
8 procedural requirements regarding the conduct of legislative
9 business that are intended to keep both citizens and their
10 elected representatives informed so that they may participate
11 effectively in legislative proceedings; and
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13 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives likewise has adopted
14 rules of procedure that are intended to provide members with
15 notice of facts relevant to action being taken; and
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17 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives has adopted rules of
18 conduct for members to ensure, among other things, that
19 conflicts of interest, and the appearance of conflicts, are
20 minimized and that no member's office is improperly used to
21 advance private interests; and
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23 WHEREAS, House Rule 60.2 provides that "[m]embers should
24 not lend the prestige of public office to advance the private
25 interests of themselves or others; nor should members convey or
26 permit others to convey the impression that they are in a
27 special position to unduly influence pending public business
28 before them."; and
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30 WHEREAS, House Rule 60.4(6) provides that members should
31 "[c]onsider at all times whether their conduct would create in



1 reasonable minds the perception that their ability to carry out
2 legislative responsibilities with integrity and independence is
3 either questionable or impaired."; and
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5 WHEREAS, House Rule 60.4(8) provides that members should
6 "[r]efrain from using, or permitting the use of, the privileges
7 and prestige of their public office to derive undue personal,
8 professional, or financial benefits for themselves, members of
9 their family, or others with whom they maintain personal,
10 business, or professional relationships."; and
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12 WHEREAS, for thirty years or more, interns from private
13 business, labor organizations, and even government agencies have
14 been placed as staff in members' offices to answer phones,
15 perform research, and even write legislation while they remain
16 on the payroll of the entity for which they work; and
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18 WHEREAS, these interns are not required to register as
19 lobbyists or corporate representatives and have access to
20 knowledge of members' otherwise private conversations, working
21 papers, and strategies not shared by other citizens; and
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23 WHEREAS, because there is no system in place to ensure that
24 interns are not working on matters in which their employers have
25 an interest, state agencies and the University of Hawaii have
26 prohibited the practice of loaning interns, at least in part,
27 due to the appearance of impropriety it creates; and
28

29 WHEREAS, the State Ethics Commission has announced that it
30 will undertake an examination of the use of interns to ensure
31 compliance with both the state ethics code and the lobbyist
32 registration law; and
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34 WHEREAS, this Resolution proposes an amendment to the House
35 Rules; and
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37 WHEREAS, House Rule 57 provides, in pertinent part, that
38 changes in the House rules shall be taken up as a special order;
39 and
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1 WHEREAS, House Rule 30 provides, in pertinent part, that
2 "[s]pecial orders shall take precedence over all business after
3 the fourth order in the order of business."; and
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5 WHEREAS, House Rule 2 regarding the duties of the Speaker
6 does not authorize the Speaker to refer a resolution proposing a
7 change in the House Rules to a committee; now, therefore,
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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
10 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
11 of 2006, that House Rule 60 is hereby amended by adding a new
12 paragraph to read as follows (proposed changes underlined):
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14 "60.5 On or before the first day of each regular
15 or special session, members shall file with
16 the Clerk a listing of the name, employer,
17 and duties of any session intern or other
18 session staff in the member's office whose
19 salary is paid by a third party. The duty
20 to file a listing shall be ongoing and shall
21 be updated with additions or deletions not
22 later than forty-eight hours after
23 commencement or termination of service by an
24 intern or other staff. The listing shall be
25 open to inspection by the public during
26 business hours."; and
27

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall be
29 debated and decided on the floor of the House of Representatives
30 without reference to committee; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
33 Resolution be transmitted to all members of the House of
34 Representatives.
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OFFERED BY: 

APR 26 2006

