
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION TO CONDUCT A STUDY TO
ASCERTAIN WHAT MEASURES MAY BE ENACTED TO ADDRESS POSSIBLE
CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES.

1 WHEREAS, the Legislature takes an oath to uphold the
2 Constitution of the State of Hawaii; and
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4 WHEREAS, the State Constitution speaks of the openness and
5 transparency of the democratic process; and
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7 WHEREAS, high ethical standards among the members of the
8 Legislature are essential to assure the trust, respect, and
9 confidence of the people of Hawaii; and
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11 WHEREAS, in order to preserve the public's confidence in
12 state government, the Legislature should conduct its business in
13 a manner that preserves the integrity of the legislative
14 process; and
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16 WHEREAS, the public's commitment to a part-time citizen
17 Legislature requires that legislators be drawn from all parts of
18 society and implies that legislators are expected and permitted
19 to earn outside income; and
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21 WHEREAS, Article III, section 7 of the Hawaii State
22 Constitution states that no member of the Legislature shall be
23 held to answer before any other tribunal for any statement made
24 or action taken in the exercise of the legislator's legislative
25 function; and
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27 WHEREAS, members of the Legislature are not covered by the
28 conflict of interests law set forth in Hawaii Revised Statutes,
29 chapter 84, the State Ethics Code, which requires recusal when a
30 conflict of interest arises; and



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2 WHEREAS, under both the Hawaii State Constitution and the
3 Hawaii State Ethics Code, the regulation of the conflicts of
4 interests of members of the Legislature is left to the
5 Legislature itself; and
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7 WHEREAS, the lack of clear conflicts of interests standards
8 that are applicable to members of the Legislature raises
9 concerns among the members of the public and undermines the
10 public's confidence in state government; now, therefore,
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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
13 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
14 Session of 2007, that this body requests the State Ethics
15 Commission to conduct a study to ascertain what measures may be
16 enacted to address possible conflicts of interests of the
17 members of the house of representatives; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study, and any proposed
20 legislation, if any, be transmitted to the House of
21 Representatives no later than twenty days prior to the
22 commencing of the Regular Session of 2008; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
25 Resolution be transmitted to the Executive Director of the
26 Hawaii State Ethics Commission.
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OFFERED BY:








