
HOUSE RESOLUTION

AMENDING THE RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII, 2007-
2008.

1 WHEREAS, the rules of the House of Representatives may be
2 amended pursuant to House Rule 57 with one day's notice of the
3 change by a majority vote of the members of the House; and
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5 WHEREAS, in 2006, a series of resolutions to amend the
6 House rules were referred to the House standing committee on
7 Legislative Management for public hearing instead of floor
8 action after one day's notice; and
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10 WHEREAS, despite the expediency of what is stated in House
11 Rule 57, there is merit in the referral and public hearing
12 process as well, given these proposed amendments to the House
13 Rules; and
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15 WHEREAS, public hearings on bills being deliberated by
16 various House standing committees are the public's opportunity
17 to comment on the legislation that will affect their lives and
18 behavior; and
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20 WHEREAS, many of the House standing committees hold public
21 hearings during regular work hours or on weekends and evenings,
22 each situation requiring advance notice in order for an
23 interested constituent to appear before the committee to
24 testify; and
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26 WHEREAS, there have been situations where notices for
27 public hearings are posted during the late hours of Friday for a
28 hearing on Monday, or where the requirement for two days notice
29 is waived, reducing the chance of an interested constituent
30 being able to alter their schedule to attend a public hearing;
31 and



1 WHEREAS, the Senate adopted rules this year in order to
2 facilitate the attendance of interested constituents by
3 providing greater public notice of their hearings; and
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5 WHEREAS, House Rule 12 describes the scope of the various
6 House standing committees, including the Committee on Finance;
7 and
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9 WHEREAS, according to subparagraph 16 of House Rule 12, the
10 Committee on Finance "may provide for such subcommittees in the
11 performance of its duties including" a subcommittee on taxation,
12 a subcommittee on Grants in Aid, and a subcommittee on capital
13 improvements; and
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15 WHEREAS, the House standing committee on Finance does
16 provide for a subcommittee on Grants in Aid and a subcommittee
17 on capital improvements, however, each committee is composed of
18 one member, and neither area is put before a Finance committee
19 vote before crossing to the Senate; and
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21 WHEREAS, grants in aid and capital improvements are a part
22 of the budget that deserve to be undertaken in a transparent
23 manner; and
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25 WHEREAS, House Rule 14 sets forth the criteria and
26 organization of special committees, which the House uses on a
27 regular basis to deliberate and research certain issues, most
28 often during the interim; and
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30 WHEREAS, the House is considering establishment of either
31 an ethics or standards of conduct committee to deal with certain
32 issues, and this committee may be defined as a special
33 committee; and
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35 WHEREAS, many of the issues referred to special committees,
36 as well as the proposed ethics or standards of conduct
37 committees, are not of a partisan nature; and
38

39 WHEREAS, equal representation on these types of committees
40 reduces the possibility of politicizing an otherwise nonpartisan
41 issue, making a fair and just resolution more likely; and



1
2 WHEREAS, the House and Senate leadership traditionally, and
3 as a matter of practice, have agreed to joint written procedures
4 that specify administrative and logistical procedures for
5 Conference Committees, including meeting times, decision-making
6 deadlines, meeting notices and so forth; and
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8 WHEREAS, leadership in both the House and Senate have
9 agreed in the past to include provisions in their Conference
10 procedures that provide and give a single conference committee
11 chair the power to outvote a majority of the committee; and
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13 WHEREAS, inclusion of such a provision in Conference
14 procedures would give individual Conference chairs the ability
15 to unilaterally veto a Conference result notwithstanding support
16 by the majority of the managers of the Conference committees and
17 would otherwise provide any such chair with disproportionate
18 power of the Conference result, an undemocratic result; now,
19 therefore,
20

21 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
22 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
23 Session of 2007, that the House of Representatives hereby amends
24 the Rules of the House of Representatives of the Twenty-Fourth
25 Legislature to amend House Rule 11.5, subparagraph (1), to read
26 as follows:
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28 "(1) Meetings, including decision-making sessions, of
29 standing committees shall be public. Notice
30 shall be publicly posted or announced on the
31 House floor at least forty-eight hours prior to
32 the meeting, no later than 4:00 p.m. on the last
33 work day of the week. In calculating the forty-
34 eight hours required for valid public notice
35 prior to a meeting, weekends and holidays shall
36 not be taken into account. Notice of meetings
37 may be shortened at the discretion of the Speaker
38 upon request on the House floor by a chair or
39 vice-chair and upon good cause shown."
40

41 ; and



1
2
3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives
4 hereby amends the Rules of the House of Representatives of the
5 Twenty-Fourth Legislature to amend House Rule 12, subparagraph
6 (16), to read as follows:

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8 "(16) Committee on Finance, whose scope shall be those
9 programs relating to overall State financing
10 policies, including taxation and other revenues,
11 cash and debt management, and statewide
12 implementation of planning, programming,
13 budgeting, and evaluation. The committee may
14 provide for such subcommittees in the performance
15 of its duties including:

16
17 (a) Subcommittee on Taxation;

18
19 (b) Subcommittee on Purchases of Health and Human
20 Services and Grants in Aid, provided that the
21 subcommittee on Grants in Aid shall be composed
22 of at least five members, with proportional
23 representation of the minority party; and

24
25 (c) Subcommittee on Capital Improvements, provided
26 that the subcommittee on Capital Improvements
27 shall be composed of at least five members, with
28 proportional representation of the minority
29 party."

30 ; and

31
32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives
33 hereby amends the Rules of the House of Representatives of the
34 Twenty-Fourth Legislature to amend House Rule 14.2, to read as
35 follows:

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37 "14.2. Special committees shall consist of not less than
38 three members each, unless otherwise ordered by
39 the House, to serve until discharged or until
40 finally reporting on such matters referred to
41 them, provided that special committees dealing



1 with ethical issues or investigations of members
 2 shall be composed of an equal number of majority
 3 and minority members."

4 ; and

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 6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives
 7 hereby amends the Rules of the House of Representatives of the
 8 Twenty-Fourth Legislature to add a new Rule 16.6, to read as
 9 follows:

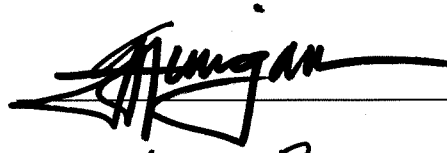
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 11 "16.6 To report a measure out of Conference Committee
 12 in an amended form (CD), a majority of the quorum
 13 of House Committee managers must vote in favor of
 14 the proposed amendments."

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 16
 17
 18
 OFFERED BY:

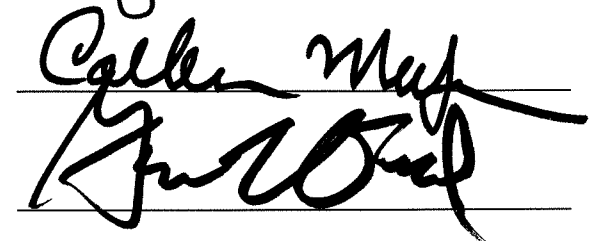
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