
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LEGAL SERVICES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the board of
2 education is faced with increasingly complex legal issues and
3 matters that require expedited attention and legal response.
4 Having the flexibility to hire independent legal counsel will
5 expedite the disposition of legal issues and cases related to
6 the board's purview and the public schools and public libraries.

7 The purpose of this Act is to authorize the board of
8 education to employ or retain its own attorneys.

9 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
10 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
11 and to read as follows:

12 "§302A- Board attorneys. (a) The board may appoint or
13 retain by contract one or more attorneys who are independent of
14 the attorney general, to provide legal services for the board,
15 including:

16 (1) Representation for the board in civil actions to which
17 the board is a party, either directly or through the
18 acts or omissions of its members or employees;



- 1 (2) Advice and assistance to ensure the lawful and
- 2 efficient administration and operation of the board;
- 3 and
- 4 (3) Other legal services specified by the board.

5 The board may establish the compensation of the attorneys
 6 appointed pursuant to this section. Attorneys appointed or
 7 retained by contract shall be exempt from chapters 76 and 89.

8 (b) Nothing in this section precludes the board from
 9 requesting and securing legal services from the attorney general
 10 and the department of the attorney general for the board or its
 11 members, upon mutual agreement."

12 SECTION 3. Section 28-8.3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
 13 amended as follows:

14 1. By amending subsection (a) to read:

15 "(a) No department of the State other than the attorney
 16 general may employ or retain any attorney, by contract or
 17 otherwise, for the purpose of representing the State or the
 18 department in any litigation, rendering legal counsel to the
 19 department, or drafting legal documents for the department;
 20 provided that the foregoing provision shall not apply to the
 21 employment or retention of attorneys:



- 1 (1) By the public utilities commission, the labor and
2 industrial relations appeals board, and the Hawaii
3 labor relations board;
- 4 (2) By any court or judicial or legislative office of the
5 State;
- 6 (3) By the legislative reference bureau;
- 7 (4) By any compilation commission that may be constituted
8 from time to time;
- 9 (5) By the real estate commission for any action involving
10 the real estate recovery fund;
- 11 (6) By the contractors license board for any action
12 involving the contractors recovery fund;
- 13 (7) By the trustees for any action involving the travel
14 agency recovery fund;
- 15 (8) By the office of Hawaiian affairs;
- 16 (9) By the department of commerce and consumer affairs for
17 the enforcement of violations of chapters 480 and 485;
- 18 (10) As grand jury counsel;
- 19 (11) By the Hawaiian home lands trust individual claims
20 review panel;
- 21 (12) By the Hawaii health systems corporation, or its
22 regional system boards, or any of their facilities;



- 1 (13) By the auditor;
- 2 (14) By the office of ombudsman;
- 3 (15) By the insurance division;
- 4 (16) By the University of Hawaii;
- 5 (17) By the Kahoolawe island reserve commission;
- 6 (18) By the division of consumer advocacy;
- 7 (19) By the office of elections;
- 8 (20) By the campaign spending commission;
- 9 (21) By the Hawaii tourism authority, as provided in
- 10 section 201B-2.5; [~~or~~]
- 11 (22) By the board of education; or
- 12 [~~(22)~~] (23) By a department, in the event the attorney
- 13 general, for reasons deemed by the attorney general
- 14 good and sufficient, declines, to employ or retain an
- 15 attorney for a department; provided that the governor
- 16 thereupon waives the provision of this section."
- 17 2. By amending subsection (c) to read:
- 18 "(c) Every attorney employed by any department on a full-
- 19 time basis, except an attorney employed by the public utilities
- 20 commission, the labor and industrial relations appeals board,
- 21 the Hawaii labor relations board, the office of Hawaiian
- 22 affairs, the Hawaii health systems corporation or its regional




1 system boards, the department of commerce and consumer affairs
 2 in prosecution of consumer complaints, insurance division, the
 3 division of consumer advocacy, the University of Hawaii, the
 4 board of education, the Hawaii tourism authority as provided in
 5 section 201B-2.5, the Hawaiian home lands trust individual
 6 claims review panel, or as grand jury counsel, shall be a deputy
 7 attorney general."

8 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
 9 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

10 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
 11 provided that the amendments made to section 28-8.3, Hawaii
 12 Revised Statutes, by section 3 of this Act shall not be repealed
 13 when that section is reenacted on June 30, 2010 by Act 306,
 14 Session Laws of Hawaii 2006.

15

INTRODUCED BY: 

JAN 21 2008



Report Title:

Legal Counsel; Legal Services; Board of Education; Attorneys

Description:

Allows the board of education to employ or retain its own attorneys.

