

JAN 19 2007

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSIONS.

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

1 SECTION 1. Article XIV of the Constitution of the State of
2 Hawaii provides in pertinent part: "Ethics commissioners shall
3 be selected in a manner which assures their independence and
4 impartiality." Each member of the state ethics commission is
5 appointed by the governor from a list of two persons nominated
6 by the judicial council. The Hawaii supreme court appoints
7 members of the judicial council, which does not include
8 legislators. In contrast, members of the Honolulu ethics
9 commission are appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the
10 Honolulu city council, both of which are subject to oversight by
11 the county ethics commission.

12 The legislature finds that the selection process of the
13 state ethics commissioners should serve as a model for the
14 selection of county ethics commissioners, in the interest of
15 ensuring sufficient independence and impartiality of the
16 commissioners.



1 The purpose of this Act is to provide standards for the
2 selection of county ethics commissioners to ensure their
3 impartiality and independence.

4 SECTION 2. Chapter 46, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
5 by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and to read
6 as follows:

7 "PART . COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSIONS

8 §46- **Process for selection of county ethics**
9 **commissioners.** The process of selecting members of county
10 ethics commissions in each county shall be in a manner that
11 assures impartiality and independence, including ensuring
12 minimal involvement in the process by persons over which the
13 commission has oversight. Each county shall have a selection
14 process in place that meets these criteria for any appointment
15 made after the effective date of this part.

16 §46- **Character of county ethics commissioners.** A county
17 ethics commissioner shall be selected on the basis of integrity,
18 impartiality, and independence, as reflected by, among other
19 things, the background and experiences of the person and the
20 absence of potential conflicts of interest."



1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2008.

2 INTRODUCED BY: *[Handwritten Signature]*



Report Title:

County Ethics Commissions; Selection of Members

Description:

Provides standards for the selection of county ethics commission members to ensure their impartiality and independence.

