

JAN 18 2008

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LEGISLATIVE HEARINGS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that public participation
2 in the legislative process improves the quality of proposed
3 legislation. An opportunity for meaningful public review prior
4 to a hearing or vote on any proposed legislation helps to
5 increase public trust in government, and ensures that the
6 legislature operates with the transparency, dignity, and order
7 befitting the State. It follows that there should be no hearing
8 or vote on any appropriation and revenue-related bill until at
9 least seventy-two hours after the bill's introduction, in order
10 to give the public ample opportunity to review and comment on
11 proposed legislation.

12 This Act shall be known and referred to as the
13 "Seventy-Two-Hour Budget Review Act."

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 21, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
15 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated to read
16 as follows:



1 "§21- Hearings or votes on appropriation and revenue-
2 related bills; procedures. (a) A legislative body shall not
3 hold a hearing or vote on an appropriation or revenue-related
4 bill until at least seventy-two hours after the bill has been
5 introduced and made publicly available.

6 (b) No amendment offered to an appropriation or
7 revenue-related bill shall be taken into consideration by any
8 legislative body unless it was made publicly available at least
9 twenty-four hours prior to any vote taken.

10 (c) No striking amendment shall not be taken into
11 consideration by any legislative body unless it was made
12 publicly available at least forty-eight hours prior to any vote
13 taken.

14 (d) The time periods described in this section:

15 (1) Shall exclude any day that is a Saturday, Sunday, or
16 official state holiday, unless the legislative body
17 considering the measure is in session on such a day;

18 (2) Shall apply each time a new version of an
19 appropriation or revenue-related bill is considered,
20 which shall include consideration of any conference
21 recommendations; and



1 (3) May be waived upon a two-thirds vote of the
2 legislative body considering the bill. For measures
3 that are adopted making use of the waiver authorized
4 under this subsection, the text and the committee
5 report of the bill shall be amended where appropriate
6 to add the text: "this committee has waived the
7 people's right for a detailed review of this measure
8 as required under the Seventy-Two-Hour Budget Review
9 Act.

10 (e) As used in this section:

11 "Legislative body" means the legislature, its respective
12 houses, and any committees established thereunder.

13 "Publicly available" means the proposed legislation has
14 been posted on the legislature's website and published in a bill
15 report, committee report, or conference report.

16 "Revenue-related bill" or "revenue-related measure" means
17 any bill aimed at raising revenue for any operating, capital, or
18 transportation expense.

19 "Striking amendment" means any amendment that would delete
20 all text after the title of a bill and insert new text."



S.B. NO. 2327

1 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

2 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

3

INTRODUCED BY:


By Request



Report Title:

Legislative Hearings; Procedure

Description:

Requires 72-hour waiting period between introduction and any vote on appropriation or revenue bill, at least 24 hours between amendment proposal and any vote to adopt, and 48 hours between striking amendment proposal and any vote to adopt.

