

Honolulu, Hawaii

January 17, 2008

RE: H.R. No. 176
H.D. 1

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2008
State of Hawaii

Mr. Speaker:

The Interim House Task Force on Standards of Conduct (Task Force) established pursuant to House Resolution No. 176, House Draft 1, and having been directed to report to the Speaker of the House by H.R. No. 176, entitled:

"ESTABLISHING AN INTERIM HOUSE TASK FORCE TO EVALUATE THE PROPRIETY, MERITS, AND, IF FOUND, POSSIBLE PROCEDURES FOR A STANDARDS OF CONDUCT COMMITTEE TO HANDLE POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS AND OTHER BREACHES OF THE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT BY MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The following report is a result of the work of the Task Force conducted during the 2007 interim.

The purpose of the Task Force established under H.R. No. 176, H.D. 1, is to evaluate the propriety, merits, and possible procedures for a standards of conduct committee to handle potential conflicts of interests and other breaches of the standards of conduct by any member of the House of Representatives.

During the 2007 interim, the Task Force conducted a series of public meetings at which a number of individuals with backgrounds in legislative ethics, including the executive director of the State Ethics Commission, spoke to the Task Force on the topic of ethics in general and the plausibility of establishing a standards of conduct committee within the House of Representatives.



As a result of these public meetings, members of the Task Force concluded that the establishment of a standards of conduct committee was both possible and necessary to strengthen confidence in state government. Therefore, your Interim Task Force on Standards of Conduct recommends the adoption of amendments to the Rules of the House of Representatives that:

- (1) Clarifies the issues of conflicts of interest and honoraria; and
- (2) Establishes a Select Committee on Standards of Conduct.

Your Interim Task Force on Standards of Conduct also recommends the adoption of amendments to the Rules of the House of Representatives that:

- (1) Ensures more timely public notification by requiring that meeting notices be publicly posted or announced on the House floor at least forty-eight hours prior to the meeting no later than 4:30 p.m. on the last work day of the week; and
- (2) Eliminates the Subcommittee on Taxation; Subcommittee on Purchase of Health and Human Services and Grants in Aid; and Subcommittee on Capitol Improvements provided for in the Committee on Finance.

Your Interim Task Force on Standards of Conduct further recommends that procedures for the Select Committee on Standards of Conduct to handle conflicts of interest and other breaches of the standard of conduct by any House member be adopted.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Interim Task Force on Standards
of Conduct,


KIRK CALDWELL, Chair

