
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO SUPPORT AMENDMENTS TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES RULES AND ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MANUAL TO IMPOSE A DUTY OF A MEMBER TO DISCOURAGE PERMANENT AND SESSION EMPLOYEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM TESTIFYING BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE.

1 WHEREAS, elected officials and appointed officers are
2 responsible for ensuring that their employees are held to the
3 highest standards of conduct; and
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5 WHEREAS, the increasing need for transparency and
6 accountability of the Legislature and its employees directly
7 correlates with the responsibilities and duties of the members
8 of the House of Representatives and its appointed officers; and
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10 WHEREAS, during the current economic crisis, the appearance
11 of impropriety and misuse of work time by legislative employees
12 may raise questions from fellow legislators and staff, as well
13 as the general public, about the misappropriation of funds for
14 salaries of employees of the House of Representatives;
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16 WHEREAS, it appears to be a conflict of interest and
17 contrary to the duties listed in section 20.9 of the House
18 Administrative and Financial Manual for employees of the House
19 of Representatives to testify before the Legislature as
20 individual citizens or members of public interest groups; and
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22 WHEREAS, the Rules of the House of Representatives and the
23 House Administrative and Financial Manual do not impose a duty
24 upon members of the House of Representatives to discourage their
25 permanent and session employees from engaging in practices that
26 may be viewed as a conflict of interest; now, therefore,
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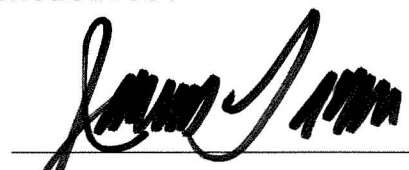



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 2 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 3 of 2009, that the members of the House of Representatives are
 4 urged to support amendments to the House of Representatives
 5 Rules and the Administrative and Financial Manual, to impose a
 6 duty upon the members to discourage any of their permanent and
 7 session employees from testifying before the Legislature during
 8 working hours, as defined by section 22.1 of the Administrative
 9 and Financial Manual, unless the employee files a request for
 10 vacation or unpaid leave of absence, which qualifies under
 11 chapter 23 of the House of Representatives Administrative and
 12 Financial Manual, with the Speaker of the House of
 13 Representatives and the request is approved prior to time the
 14 employee testifies; and

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 16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the amendments to the House of
 17 Representatives Rules and the Administrative and Financial
 18 Manual include a requirement that any approved request for
 19 vacation or leave of absence for the purpose of allowing an
 20 employee of the House of Representatives to testify be
 21 distributed in advance to members of the committee before which
 22 the employee will testify; and

23
 24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 25 Resolution be transmitted to the Speaker, the Majority Leader,
 26 the Minority Leader, the Chief Clerk, the Sergeant-at-Arms, and
 27 each member of the House of Representatives.

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OFFERED BY: 


 Karen Kusano
