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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO STANDARDS OF CONDUCT.

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

1           SECTION 1. Current law provides for an initial mandatory  
2 ethics training course for legislators, elected members of the  
3 board of education, trustees of the office of Hawaiian affairs,  
4 the governor, the lieutenant governor, and executive department  
5 heads and deputies. However, there is no provision for  
6 mandatory continuing ethics training.

7           The legislature finds that continuous ethics training on an  
8 annual basis is necessary to ensure the integrity of conduct of  
9 elected officials and certain appointed officers. According to  
10 the National Conference of State Legislatures, the following  
11 states offer online interactive ethics training or post ethics  
12 manuals or related materials online: California, Colorado,  
13 Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, New  
14 Jersey, New York, and Texas.

15           The purpose of this Act is to require mandatory continuing  
16 ethics education for elected officials and certain appointed  
17 officers of the State.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 84, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended  
2 by adding a new section to part V to be appropriately designated  
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§84- Mandatory continuing ethics training course. (a)  
5 All state officers and employees enumerated in section 84-41 who  
6 have completed an initial mandatory ethics training course under  
7 section 84-42 shall complete a continuing ethics training course  
8 at least once every two years after the individual's initial  
9 election or initial appointment, as applicable, if the  
10 individual remains with the State as an officer or employee.

11 (b) The continuing ethics training course shall be  
12 administered by the state ethics commission and shall be offered  
13 online and on demand, beginning June 1, 2012.

14 (c) The continuing ethics training course shall include an  
15 updated review of the information covered in the initial ethics  
16 training course under section 84-43, and information concerning:

17 (1) Advisory opinions issued within the two-year period  
18 immediately preceding the course; and

19 (2) Any other information that addresses current ethics  
20 issues as determined by the executive director of the  
21 state ethics commission.



1 The continuing ethics training course shall allow for the  
2 inclusion of typed-in email questions from each attendee,  
3 addressed to the executive director of the state ethics  
4 commission; provided that the questions shall not be deemed to  
5 constitute a request for an advisory opinion. The executive  
6 director shall reply appropriately.

7 (d) The executive director of the state ethics commission  
8 shall make a record of each person who completes the mandatory  
9 continuing ethics training course, which record shall constitute  
10 a public record.

11 (e) Completion of the mandatory continuing ethics training  
12 course under this section:

13 (1) Shall not be deemed to diminish personal  
14 responsibility for adherence to this chapter; and

15 (2) Shall not be used or admitted into evidence in any  
16 proceeding against the person completing any  
17 continuing ethics training course.

18 (f) As used in this section:

19 "Email" means electronic mail that is a store-and-forward  
20 method of writing, sending, receiving, and sending messages over  
21 a computer network.



1        "On demand" means the capability of being instantly  
2 accessed over the Internet.

3        "Online" means the delivery of a learning, training, or  
4 education program over the Internet by the use of a computer."

5        SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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**Report Title:**

Online Ethics Training; Mandatory Continuing Education

**Description:**

Requires continuing online ethics training for elected officials, elected members of the board of education, trustees of the office of Hawaiian affairs, the governor, lieutenant governor, and executive department heads and deputies.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

