

MAR 14 2012

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE ETHICS COMMISSION TO ESTABLISH A  
TASK FORCE TO REVIEW LOBBYIST DISCLOSURE LAWS AND LOBBYIST  
DISCLOSURE REPORTS AND RECOMMEND LEGISLATION TO ENSURE  
TRANSPARENCY AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF LOBBYIST  
EXPENDITURES.

1 WHEREAS, a properly functioning democracy is important to  
2 the health of our community; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, our democratic government depends upon public  
5 trust in decision making processes, which relies upon the  
6 decision making process being free from undue influence by  
7 parties favoring interests narrower than the general interests  
8 of the public; and

9  
10 WHEREAS, all interests, public and private, may  
11 legitimately participate in the making of public policy; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, public disclosure and transparency of lobbying  
14 activities of all types are critical to provide accountability,  
15 enhance public trust, and reduce the existence and perception of  
16 undue influence in government policy making; and

17  
18 WHEREAS, despite increasing public concerns and interest in  
19 lobbying activities, lobbyist disclosure laws have not been  
20 significantly updated since their initial adoption in 1975; and

21  
22 WHEREAS, lobbyists and lobbying organizations may have  
23 relationships with elected officials that are not required to be  
24 disclosed under lobbyist disclosure laws, particularly contracts  
25 for services that provide a significant source of income to the  
26 elected officials; now, therefore,

27  
28 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth  
29 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012, the  
30 House of Representatives concurring, that the Hawaii State



1 Ethics Commission is requested to establish a task force to  
2 review lobbyist disclosure laws and lobbyist disclosure reports  
3 and recommend legislation to ensure transparency and public  
4 disclosure of lobbyist expenditures; and  
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be comprised of  
7 the following members:  
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- 9 (1) The Executive Director of the Hawaii State Ethics  
10 Commission or the Executive Director's designee;  
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12 (2) Two members who are registered lobbyists, selected by  
13 the Hawaii State Ethics Commission;  
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15 (3) One member who represents a public interest group,  
16 selected by the President of the Senate;  
17  
18 (4) One member who represents a public interest group,  
19 selected by the Speaker of the House of  
20 Representatives;  
21  
22 (5) One member who represents the news media, selected by  
23 the President of the Senate; and  
24  
25 (6) One member who represents the news media, selected by  
26 the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and  
27

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to:  
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- 30 (1) Review lobbyist reporting requirements, including:  
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32 (A) Who is required to file;  
33  
34 (B) Frequency of report filings;  
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36 (C) Information included in disclosure reports;  
37  
38 (D) Reporting of lobbyist contractual relationships  
39 with and campaign contributions to elected  
40 officials; and  
41  
42 (E) Reporting of gifts, meals, and events paid for by  
43 lobbyists or lobbying organizations; and  
44



- 1           (2) Review Hawaii State Ethics Commission procedures,  
2           including filing procedures for lobbyists and lobbying  
3           organizations and procedures for making disclosure  
4           reports accessible to the public via the Internet;  
5
- 6           (3) Examine information reported on lobbyist disclosure  
7           reports in recent years to determine areas in which  
8           transparency or public disclosure of lobbyist  
9           expenditures may be enhanced; and  
10
- 11          (4) Review best practices for lobbying disclosures in  
12          other states and at the federal level, and assess the  
13          feasibility of implementing those best practices in  
14          Hawaii; and  
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16           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
17 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including  
18 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than  
19 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
20 2013; and  
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22           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force cease to exist  
23 upon adjournment sine die of the Regular Session of 2013; and  
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25           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force, upon the  
26 request of this body, participate in a joint informational  
27 briefing to discuss its report; and  
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29           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
30 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Hawaii State Ethics  
31 Commission.  
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OFFERED BY:

  


