

# SB 2017

## **RELATING TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**

*Description:*

Allows private individuals and entities to provide funding for capital improvement projects. Requires naming any public structure after a private individual or entity that contributed a specified percentage of the funding for the structure, if the private contributor so desires.

**TO: Chair Espero, Vice-Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs**  
**RE: SB 2017**

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**Offered in OPPOSITION to SB 2017:**

SB 2017 would permit private individuals or entities to essentially “buy” our government.

This measure neither limits nor identifies the range of “individuals” or “entities” that could contribute private funds – would it include extra-national corporations? This measure does not restrict the number of times an individual or entity might exercise an ability to “contribute” to CIP projects – could an individual or entity buy more than one CIP at any given time, would it be limited to one CIP a year? Would such a gift and accompanying “naming” rights be limited in any way?

If our state employees and members of the Legislature are not permitted to accept gifts over \$25, why would this Committee entertain a measure that would allow the state to accept such a “gift”?

What manner of appearance of impropriety, or attempts at future leverage, could be anticipated subsequent to a wealthy individual or corporation buying “naming” rights? Would it be unreasonable to infer that such a “contribution” is “intended to influence or reward official action” in ways not yet considered? I think not.

This measure, coupled with numerous bills introduced this session that attempt to exempt, waive and otherwise eviscerate well-established county permitting procedures, SMA review, and Ch. 343 environmental safeguards, is the equivalent to saying “Hawaii is for sale to the highest bidder.”

It would be most egregious to re-write the State’s Procurement Code in this manner.

This measure should be deferred.

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