



HAWAII STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

State of Hawaii • Bishop Square, 1001 Bishop Street, ASB Tower 970 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

January 31, 2013

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
Honorable Members
House Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 438
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: **Testimony on HB No. 206, Relating to Mandatory Ethics Training**

Hearing: Thursday, January 31, 2013, 2:05 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Testifying: Susan D. Yoza, Associate Director
and Assistant General Counsel
Hawaii State Ethics Commission

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair; The Honorable Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair;
and Honorable Members of the House Committee on Judiciary:

Thank you for considering the Hawaii State Ethics Commission's testimony on HB No. 206, Relating to Mandatory Ethics Training. The Commission strongly supports this bill.

The State Ethics Code requires certain high-ranking state elected and appointed officials to attend a mandatory ethics training class administered by the Commission. The state officials who are currently required to take this class include all state legislators, members of the Board of Education and the trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, and all executive department directors and deputy directors.

HB No. 206 requires mandatory ethics training for additional high-ranking state employees. Under the bill, mandatory ethics training would be required for all state employees who file public financial disclosure statements with the State Ethics Commission. This would include the President, Vice Presidents, Chancellors, and Provosts of the University of Hawaii; the Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent

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of Education; the State Librarian and Deputy State Librarian; the Administrative Director and Deputy Director of the Courts; the Administrative Director of the State; and the Administrator and Assistant Administrator of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.¹

The Commission believes that requiring these additional employees to attend an ethics training class will instill a greater awareness and understanding of the ethics laws at the highest levels of state government.

HB No. 206 also provides greater flexibility to the Commission in scheduling and conducting the mandatory ethics training class. Currently, the law requires that the class be held in January of each year and be at least two hours in length. The bill provides that the class may also be held at other times as determined by the Commission and deletes the two hour requirement. This will enable the Commission to avoid scheduling conflicts with other events in January, such as the opening of the legislative session and pre-session informational budget briefings by state agencies.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of HB No. 206, Relating to Mandatory Ethics Training. We would like to thank this Committee for its consideration of our testimony in support of this measure.

¹ Another bill that the Commission strongly supports is **HB No. 207, Relating to Public Financial Disclosure Statements**, which would require members of the following additional state boards to file public financial disclosure statements: the Board of Regents, the Board of Agriculture, the Board of Land and Natural Resources, the Hawaiian Homes Commission, the Hawaii Labor Relations Board, the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board, and the Public Utilities Commission. If HB No. 207 is passed, the members of the state boards affected by the bill would also be required to receive mandatory ethics training under HB No. 206.



House Judiciary Committee
Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Sharon Har

Thursday 1/31/13 at 02:05PM in Room 325
HB206 – Relating to Mandatory Ethics Training

TESTIMONY OF SUPPORT
Carmille Lim, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

Common Cause Hawaii supports HB206, which would require all legislators and employees* whose financial disclosure statements are public, to complete mandatory ethics training. This bill would also allow the Ethics Commission to conduct training at times other than in January; it will also repeal the minimum duration requirement for training.

We believe that by requiring employees to complete ethics training, we are taking precautionary measures to protect them -- by empowering them to learn about what the Ethics Commission's Codes of Conduct and expectations are, and by extension, how we as citizens expect employees to conduct themselves.

Further, by allowing the Ethics Commission to conduct training at times other than in January, legislators can focus their energy on legislative session. Lastly, the current ethics training mandate requires a minimum of two hours in duration. By repealing the existing minimum two hours duration for training, the Ethics Commission is given the flexibility to conduct a more efficient and shorter training, if they so choose.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB206.

**Employees as defined in §84-3: "Employee" means any nominated, appointed, or elected officer or employee of the State, including members of boards, commissions, and committees, and employees under contract to the State or of the constitutional convention, but excluding legislators, delegates to the constitutional convention, justices and judges.*

har2-Vincent

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 8:43 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: barbarapolk@hawaiiintel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB206 on Jan 31, 2013 14:05PM

HB206

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for JUD on Jan 31, 2013 14:05PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara B. Polk	Americans for Democratic Action/Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: Americans for Democratic Action/Hawaii strongly supports this bill. Most people will comply with ethical standards if they are clear about what they are. This training will strengthen ethical behavior by government officials.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2013 11:43 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: ndavlantes@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB206 on Jan 31, 2013 14:05PM*

HB206

Submitted on: 1/28/2013

Testimony for JUD on Jan 31, 2013 14:05PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Davlantes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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