
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LOBBYISTS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's lobbyist
2 registration law is both under- and over-inclusive, such that
3 amending the definitions of "expenditure", "lobbying", and
4 "lobbyist" is necessary to provide additional transparency to
5 the public while relieving some individuals, particularly
6 certain representatives of charitable, nonprofit organizations,
7 from having to register as lobbyists. Similarly, the
8 legislature finds that several provisions of the lobbyists law
9 should be amended to avoid unnecessary paperwork and confusion.
10 Among other things, the legislature finds that the employer of a
11 lobbyist should have the authority to terminate that lobbyist's
12 registration if the lobbyist does not do so.

13 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to provide
14 additional clarity and consistency in the administration and
15 enforcement of Hawaii's lobbying laws.

16 SECTION 2. Section 97-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
17 amended to read as follows:



1 "§97-1 Definitions. When used in this chapter:

2 ~~[(1)]~~ "Administrative action" means the proposal, drafting,
3 consideration, amendment, enactment, or defeat by any
4 administrative agency of any rule~~[, regulation,]~~ or other action
5 governed by section 91-3.

6 ~~[(2)]~~ "Administrative agency" means a commission, board,
7 agency, or other body, or official in the state government that
8 is not a part of the legislative or judicial branch.

9 ~~[(3)]~~ "Contribution" includes a gift, subscription,
10 forgiveness of a loan, advance, or deposit of money, or anything
11 of value and includes a contract, promise, or agreement, whether
12 or not enforceable, to make a contribution.

13 ~~[(4)]~~ "Expenditure" includes a payment, distribution,
14 forgiveness of a loan, advance, deposit, or gift of money, or
15 anything of value and includes a contract, promise, or
16 agreement, whether or not enforceable, to make an expenditure.
17 "Expenditure" also includes compensation or other consideration
18 paid to a lobbyist for the performance of lobbying services.

19 "Expenditure" excludes ~~[the expenses of preparing written~~
20 ~~testimony and exhibits for a hearing before the legislature or~~
21 ~~an administrative agency.]~~ any amounts expended:



1 (1) For intrastate travel costs, including incidental
2 meals and lodging; provided that this exception does
3 not apply to any amounts expended for the travel costs
4 of state legislators, board and commission members, or
5 any other employees of the State; or

6 (2) By a nonprofit organization to prepare and submit an
7 application for a grant pursuant to chapter 42F, and
8 for each of the nonprofit organization's employees to
9 lobby a maximum of ten hours in a month for that
10 application.

11 ~~[(5)]~~ "Legislative action" means the sponsorship, drafting,
12 introduction, consideration, modification, enactment, or defeat
13 of any bill, resolution, amendment, report, nomination,
14 appointment, or any other matter pending or proposed in the
15 legislature.

16 "Lobbying" means communicating directly or through an
17 agent, or soliciting others to communicate, with any official in
18 the legislative or executive branch, for the purpose of
19 attempting to influence legislative or administrative action or
20 a ballot issue. "Lobbying" shall not include the preparation



1 and submission of a grant application pursuant to chapter 42F by
2 a representative of a nonprofit organization.

3 [~~6~~] "Lobbyist" means any individual who [~~fer~~]:

4 (1) Receives or expects to receive, either by employment
5 or contract, \$1,000 or more in monetary or in-kind
6 compensation in any calendar year for engaging in
7 lobbying, either personally or through the lobbyist's
8 agents; or

9 (2) For pay or other consideration [engages], on behalf of
10 another person:

11 (A) Engages in lobbying in excess of five hours in
12 any month of any reporting period described in
13 section 97-3 [~~or spends more than \$750~~];

14 (B) Engages in lobbying in excess of ten hours during
15 any calendar year;

16 (C) Engages in lobbying on _____ or more bills,
17 resolutions, or both, during any legislative
18 session; or

19 (D) Makes expenditures of \$1,000 or more of the
20 person's or any other person's money lobbying



1 during any reporting period described in section
2 97-3[-];
3 provided that an employee of a nonprofit organization who spends
4 fewer than ten hours in any month lobbying on a grant
5 application submitted pursuant to chapter 42F is not a lobbyist
6 if the employee does not engage in lobbying on matters that are
7 unrelated to the grant application.

8 [-(7)] "~~Lobbying~~" ~~means communicating directly or through an~~
9 ~~agent, or soliciting others to communicate, with any~~
10 ~~official in the legislative or executive branch, for~~
11 ~~the purpose of attempting to influence legislative or~~
12 ~~administrative action or a ballot issue.~~

13 [-(8)] "Person" means a corporation, individual, union,
14 association, firm, sole proprietorship, partnership, committee,
15 club, or any other organization or a representative of a group
16 of persons acting in concert."

17 SECTION 3. Section 97-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
18 amended by amending subsections (d) and (e) to read as follows:

19 "(d) A lobbyist shall file a notice of termination within
20 ten days after the lobbyist ceases the activity ~~[which]~~ that
21 required the lobbyist's registration. If the lobbyist fails to



1 file a notice of termination, the person who employed or
2 contracted for the services of the lobbyist may file the notice.
3 The lobbyist and the ~~[employer]~~ person who employed or
4 contracted for the services of the lobbyist shall remain
5 subject, however, to the requirements of this chapter [97] for
6 the period during which the registration was effective.

7 (e) This chapter shall not apply to:

8 (1) Any individual who represents oneself and not any
9 other person before the legislature or administrative
10 agency; provided that ~~[such]~~ the individual ~~[must~~
11 ~~nonetheless]~~ shall file a statement of expenditures if
12 the individual meets any of the provisions of section
13 97-3(a);

14 (2) Any federal, state, or county official or employee
15 acting in the official's or employee's official
16 capacity, unless the federal, state or county
17 official, or employee contracts for the services of a
18 lobbyist;

19 (3) Any elected public official acting in the public
20 official's official capacity, unless the public
21 official contracts for the services of a lobbyist;



- 1 (4) Any newspaper or other regularly published periodical
2 or radio or television station ~~[+]~~, including any
3 individual who owns, publishes, or is employed by a
4 newspaper or periodical or radio or television
5 station~~[+]~~, while publishing in the regular course of
6 business news items, editorials, or other comments, or
7 paid advertisements, which directly or indirectly urge
8 the passage or defeat of legislative or administrative
9 action;
- 10 (5) Any attorney who advises the attorney's clients on the
11 construction or effect of proposed legislative or
12 administrative action; provided that such attorney
13 ~~[must nonetheless]~~ shall register if the attorney
14 meets ~~[any of the provisions of section 97-1(6);]~~ the
15 definition of "lobbyist" as defined in section 97-1;
16 and
- 17 (6) Any person who possesses special skills and knowledge
18 relevant to certain areas of legislation, whose skills
19 and knowledge may be helpful to the legislative and
20 executive branches of state government, and who makes
21 an occasional appearance at the request of the



1 legislature or an administrative agency, or the
2 lobbyist even though receiving reimbursement or other
3 payment from the legislature or administrative agency
4 or the lobbyist for the appearance."

5 SECTION 4. Section 97-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
6 amended by amending subsections (a), (b), and (c) to read as
7 follows:

8 "(a) The following persons shall file a statement of
9 expenditures with the state ethics commission on March 31,
10 May 31, and January 31 of each year and within thirty days after
11 adjournment sine die of any special session of the legislature:

- 12 (1) Each lobbyist;
- 13 (2) Each person who [~~spends \$750~~] makes expenditures of
14 \$1,000 or more of the person's or any other person's
15 money in any [~~six-month period~~] reporting period
16 described in this section for the purpose of
17 [~~attempting to influence legislative or administrative~~
18 ~~action or a ballot issue by communicating or urging~~
19 ~~others to communicate with public officials; provided~~
20 ~~that any amounts expended for travel costs, including~~



1 ~~incidental meals and lodging, shall not be included in~~
2 ~~the tallying of the \$750,] lobbying; and~~

3 (3) Each person who employs or contracts for the services
4 of one or more lobbyists, whether independently or
5 jointly with other persons. If the person is an
6 industry, trade, or professional association, only the
7 association is the employer of the lobbyist.

8 (b) The March 31 report shall cover the period from
9 January 1 through the last day of February. The May 31 report
10 shall cover the period from March 1 through April 30. The
11 January 31 report shall cover the period from May 1 through
12 December 31 of the previous year. The report to be filed within
13 thirty days after adjournment sine die of a special session of
14 the legislature shall [~~cover~~]:

15 (1) Cover the period from May 1 through adjournment sine
16 die of that special session [~~and shall apply~~];

17 (2) Be filed only by persons listed in subsection (a) who
18 engage in lobbying activities, or who make
19 expenditures for the purpose of attempting to
20 influence legislative action considered during a
21 special session; and



1 (3) Apply to and include only those expenditures and
2 contributions that relate to legislative action
3 considered during that special session[-];
4 provided that those expenditures and contributions included in
5 the report need not be included by the person filing the report
6 in any subsequent statement of expenditures.

7 (c) The statement shall contain the following information:

8 (1) The name and address of each person with respect to
9 whom expenditures for the purpose of lobbying in the
10 total sum of \$25 or more per day was made by the
11 person filing the statement during the statement
12 period and the amount or value of [~~such~~] the
13 expenditure;

14 (2) The name and address of each person with respect to
15 whom expenditures for the purpose of lobbying in the
16 aggregate of \$150 or more was made by the person
17 filing the statement during the statement period and
18 the amount or value of [~~such~~] the expenditures;

19 (3) The total sum or value of all expenditures for the
20 purpose of lobbying made by the person filing the
21 statement during the statement [~~period in excess of~~



1 ~~\$750 during the statement~~ period; provided that the
2 sum or value of each expenditure is itemized in the
3 following categories, as applicable:

4 (A) Preparation and distribution of lobbying
5 materials;

6 (B) Media advertising;

7 (C) Compensation paid to lobbyists;

8 (D) Fees paid to consultants [~~or~~] for services;

9 (E) Entertainment and events;

10 (F) Receptions, meals, food, and beverages;

11 (G) Gifts;

12 (H) Loans; [~~and~~]

13 (I) Interstate transportation, including incidental
14 meals and lodging; and

15 [~~(I)~~] (J) Other disbursements;

16 (4) The name and address of each person making
17 contributions to the person filing the statement for
18 the purpose of lobbying in the total sum of \$25 or
19 more during the statement period and the amount or
20 value of [~~such~~] the contributions; and



1 (5) The subject area of the legislative and administrative
2 action [~~which~~] that was supported or opposed by the
3 person filing the statement during the statement
4 period."

5 SECTION 5. Section 97-4.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 "[~~§~~97-4.5[~~§~~] Lobbyist list. [~~As soon as is feasible~~
8 ~~after the commencement of each regular session of the~~
9 ~~legislature, the state ethics commission shall publish a list of~~
10 ~~registered lobbyists, the names of the persons whom they~~
11 ~~represent, and other pertinent information but shall not include~~
12 ~~in such list the addresses of the lobbyists. The list shall be~~
13 ~~supplemented from time to time as may be necessary.] All
14 lobbyist registration statements shall be posted on the state
15 ethics commission's website within a reasonable time after
16 filing, and may be removed from the website after four years."~~

17 SECTION 6. Section 97-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
18 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

19 "(a) Any person who:

20 (1) Wilfully fails to file any statement or report
21 required by this chapter;



- 1 (2) Wilfully files a statement or report containing false
2 information or material omission of any fact;
3 (3) Engages in activities prohibited by section 97-5; or
4 (4) Fails to provide information required by section 97-2
5 or 97-3;

6 shall be subject to an administrative fine imposed by the state
7 ethics commission that shall not exceed [~~\$500~~] \$1,000 for each
8 violation of this chapter. All fines collected under this
9 section shall be deposited into the general fund."

10 SECTION 7. The state ethics commission, in its discretion,
11 may make any changes that it deems necessary to internal
12 procedures or forms to aid in the implementation of this Act.

13 SECTION 8. If any provision of this Act, or the
14 application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held
15 invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or
16 applications of the Act that can be given effect without the
17 invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions
18 of this Act are severable.

19 SECTION 9. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
20 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
21 begun before its effective date.



1 SECTION 10. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 11. This Act shall take effect on January 7, 2059.

4



Report Title:

State Ethics Commission; Lobbyist Law; Lobbying; Enforcement

Description:

Clarifies the laws governing lobbyists by amending the definitions of "expenditure," "lobbyist," and "lobbying." Allows a former employer of a lobbyist to file a notice of termination of employment. Amends requirements for expenditure reports covering special sessions of the legislature. Requires the posting of lobbyist registration statements on the state ethics commission's website within a reasonable time after filing and the posting shall remain on the website for at least four years. Increases the maximum administrative fine from \$500 to \$1,000 for each violation of the lobbying law. Takes effect on 1/7/2059. (SD1)

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

