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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that every year laws are  
2 enacted that require new studies and audits of various state  
3 government departments or agencies. Conducting many of these  
4 studies and audits requires an appropriation and also consumes  
5 valuable time and resources of the department, agency, office,  
6 or branch of government tasked with preparing the study or  
7 audit. The legislature also finds that the resultant report is  
8 often not widely reviewed by the legislature or public and can  
9 sometimes go completely unnoticed despite the fact that these  
10 reports can contain valuable information. The legislature  
11 further finds that mandating a public hearing or informational  
12 briefing that would facilitate discussion and analysis of the  
13 report findings and recommendations would better serve the  
14 public interest.

15           The purpose of this Act is to require a public hearing or  
16 informational briefing on certain audit reports and studies  
17 conducted pursuant to legislation enacted with an appropriation



1 or adopted by concurrent resolution within one year of the  
2 receipt by the chair of the applicable subject matter committee  
3 of the report or study in order to properly review and consider  
4 the information provided therein.

5 SECTION 2. Chapter 21, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended  
6 by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and to read  
7 as follows:

8 "PART . HEARINGS OR BRIEFINGS ON REPORTS

9 §21- Procedures for consideration of reports. (a)

10 Except as provided in subsection (c), for any study or audit  
11 conducted pursuant to legislation enacted with an appropriation  
12 to fund the study or audit or adopted by concurrent resolution,  
13 including those studies or audits required by any budget  
14 measure, and that is conducted by:

- 15 (1) An executive department or agency, including the
- 16 Hawaii health systems corporation;
- 17 (2) The auditor;
- 18 (3) The judiciary;
- 19 (4) The legislative reference bureau; or
- 20 (5) The office of Hawaiian affairs,



1 the state agency completing the study or audit shall submit the  
2 report to the chair of the applicable subject matter committee  
3 of each chamber of the legislature and if no chair is currently  
4 appointed to that committee, then to the presiding officer of  
5 that chamber. The report shall also be submitted in compliance  
6 with the requirements of section 93-16.

7 (b) The respective chairs of the committees to whom a  
8 report is submitted under subsection (a) shall conduct a public  
9 hearing or informational briefing on the report within one year  
10 of the chair receiving the report. Upon request of the chair, a  
11 one-year extension of time or waiver of the requirement to  
12 conduct a public hearing or informational briefing may be  
13 granted by the president of the senate or the speaker of the  
14 house of representatives, as appropriate; provided that the  
15 reasons for granting the one-year extension of time or waiver  
16 shall be posted on the legislature's website and publicly  
17 noticed at the state capitol.

18 (c) This section shall not apply to any financial or  
19 regularly occurring study or audit conducted pursuant to  
20 legislation enacted with an appropriation to fund the study or  
21 audit or adopted by concurrent resolution."



1 SECTION 3. Chapter 21, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended  
2 by designating sections 21-1 to 21-19 as part I, entitled  
3 "Investigating Committees".

4 SECTION 4. Sections 21-1, 21-2, 21-6, 21-13, 21-15, and  
5 21-19, Hawaii Revised Statutes, are amended by substituting the  
6 word "part" wherever the word "chapter" appears, as the context  
7 requires.

8 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



**Report Title:**

Government Accountability; Legislative Hearings; Studies and Reports; Waiver

**Description:**

Requires the chair of the appropriate subject matter committee to hold either a public hearing or informational briefing for any report of a study or an audit enacted with a legislative appropriation or adopted by concurrent resolution and conducted by an executive department or agency, including the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation; the Legislative Reference Bureau; the Auditor; the Judiciary; or the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, within one year of receipt of the report or study, except if an extension is granted by the senate president or speaker of the house of representatives or if the requirement is waived by the senate president or speaker of the house of representatives. Exempts financial and other regularly occurring studies and audits. (SD2)

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

