



HAWAII STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

State of Hawaii · Bishop Square, 1001 Bishop Street, ASB Tower 970 · Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
50th ANNIVERSARY 1968-2018

Committee: Committees on Labor and Government Operations
Bill Number: H.B. 2420 HD1
Hearing Date/Time: March 15, 2018, 3:30 p.m.
Re: Testimony of the Hawaii State Ethics Commission **SUPPORTING THE INTENT** of H.B. 2420 HD1, Relating to Ethics

Dear Chair Tokuda, Chair Kim, and Committee Members:

The Hawaii State Ethics Commission (“Commission”) supports the intent of H.B. 2420 HD1, which generally seeks to enact a state-law equivalent of the federal Hatch Act.

The Commission supports efforts to ensure that state officials work to promote the best interests of the people of Hawaii. As such, the Commission supports legislation to protect state officials – and the public – from coercion by high-level state employees; likewise, the Commission supports legislation to ensure that state programs are administered in a non-partisan fashion.

If the Legislature intends to include all state officials “who regularly engage in adjudicatory, regulatory, law enforcement, or investigatory duties,” the Committees may wish to include the Ethics Commission in the list of “covered employees” on page 3.¹

Thank you for your continuing support of the Commission’s work and for considering the Commission’s testimony on H.B. 2420 HD1.

Very truly yours,

Daniel Gluck
Executive Director and General Counsel

¹ The Commission notes, however, that Hawaii Revised Statutes § 84-35.5 provides: “The members of the ethics commission and its staff shall not take an active part in political management or in political campaigns during the term of office or employment.”



Senate Committee on Labor; Senate Committee on Government Operations
Chair Jill Tokuda, Chair Donna Mercado Kim

03/15/2018 3:30 PM Room 229
HB2420 HD1 – Relating to Ethics

TESTIMONY / SUPPORT
Corie Tanida, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

Dear Chair Tokuda, Chair Kim, and members of the committees:

Common Cause Hawaii supports HB2420 HD1 which would establish restrictions on the participation in political activities of certain state employees and officers.

We agree with the intent of this bill—to align state restrictions on the participation of political activities of state officials and employees with the federal Hatch Act. We believe it is important to address restrictions on employees in regulatory agencies where outside attempts to influence decisions are not uncommon.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony **supporting HB2420 HD1**.

HB-2420-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 2:16:14 PM

Testimony for LBR on 3/15/2018 3:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Brodie Lockard | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: