
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE STATE ETHICS CODE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to improve the
2 administration of the state ethics code by clarifying provisions
3 regarding:

- 4 (1) Gift disclosure statements;
5 (2) Retention of financial disclosure statements; and
6 (3) Ethics training.

7 SECTION 2. Section 84-11.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 amended to read as follows:

9 "~~§~~84-11.5~~§~~ Reporting of gifts. (a) Every legislator
10 and employee shall file a gifts disclosure statement with the
11 state ethics commission ~~[on]~~ no later than June 30 of each year
12 if all the following conditions are met:

- 13 (1) The legislator or employee, or spouse or dependent
14 child of a legislator or employee, received directly
15 or indirectly from one source any gift or gifts valued
16 singly or in the aggregate in excess of \$200, whether



1 the gift is in the form of money, service, goods, or
2 in any other form;

3 (2) The source of the gift or gifts have interests that
4 may be affected by official action or lack of action
5 by the legislator or employee; and

6 (3) The gift is not exempted by subsection (d) from
7 reporting requirements under this subsection.

8 (b) The report shall cover the period from June 1 of the
9 preceding calendar year through [~~June 1~~] May 31 of the year of
10 the report.

11 (c) The gifts disclosure statement shall contain the
12 following information:

13 (1) A description of the gift;

14 (2) A good faith estimate of the value of the gift;

15 (3) The date the gift was received; and

16 (4) The name of the person, business entity, or
17 organization from whom, or on behalf of whom, the gift
18 was received.

19 (d) Excluded from the reporting requirements of this
20 section are the following:

21 (1) Gifts received by will or intestate succession;



- 1 (2) Gifts received by way of distribution of any inter
2 vivos or testamentary trust established by a spouse or
3 ancestor;
- 4 (3) Gifts from a spouse, fiance, fiancée, any relative
5 within four degrees of consanguinity or the spouse,
6 fiance, or fiancée of such a relative. A gift from
7 any such person is a reportable gift if the person is
8 acting as an agent or intermediary for any person not
9 covered by this paragraph;
- 10 (4) Political campaign contributions that comply with
11 state law;
- 12 (5) Anything available to or distributed to the public
13 generally without regard to the official status of the
14 recipient;
- 15 (6) Gifts that, within thirty days after receipt, are
16 returned to the giver or delivered to a public body or
17 to a bona fide educational or charitable organization
18 without the donation being claimed as a charitable
19 contribution for tax purposes; and
- 20 (7) Exchanges of approximately equal value on holidays,
21 birthday, or special occasions.



1 (e) Failure of a legislator or employee to file a gifts
2 disclosure statement as required by this section shall be a
3 violation of this chapter.

4 (f) This section shall not affect the applicability of
5 section 84-11.

6 (g) For purposes of this section, "legislator or employee"
7 includes any individual who was a legislator or employee for any
8 portion of the period from June 1 of the preceding calendar year
9 through May 31 of the year of the report."

10 SECTION 3. Section 84-17.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
11 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

12 "(a) All financial disclosure statements filed by a
13 legislator, employee, or delegate to a constitutional convention
14 shall be maintained by the state ethics commission [~~during the~~
15 ~~term of office of the legislator, employee, or delegate and~~] for
16 a period of six years [~~thereafter-~~] from the date of the
17 financial disclosure statement's filing. Upon the expiration of
18 the six-year period, the financial disclosure statement and all
19 copies thereof shall be destroyed."

20 SECTION 4. Section 84-43, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
21 amended to read as follows:



1 " ~~[+]~~ §84-43 ~~[+]~~ **Ethics training course.** (a) The state
2 ethics commission shall establish, design, supervise, and
3 conduct ethics training ~~[designed specifically]~~ for the officers
4 and employees to whom this part applies.

5 (b) The ethics training course shall include:

- 6 (1) Explanations and discussions of the ethics laws,
7 administrative rules, and relevant internal policies;
- 8 (2) Specific technical and legal requirements;
- 9 (3) The underlying purposes and principles of ethics laws;
- 10 (4) Examples of practical application of the laws and
11 principles; and
- 12 (5) A question-and-answer participatory segment regarding
13 common problems and situations.

14 The state ethics commission shall develop the methods and
15 prepare any materials necessary to implement the course.

16 (c) The state ethics commission shall:

- 17 (1) Administer the ethics training course;
- 18 (2) Designate those of its legal staff who are to conduct
19 the ethics training course; and



1 (3) Notify each officer or employee enumerated in section
2 84-41 that their attendance in this course is
3 mandatory.

4 ~~[(d) The ethics training course shall be held in January~~
5 ~~of each year for those who have not attended the course~~
6 ~~previously. The course shall last at least two hours in length.~~

7 ~~(e)]~~ (d) The state ethics commission may repeat the course
8 as necessary to accommodate all persons who are required to
9 attend.

10 ~~[(f)]~~ (e) Each state agency shall provide to the state
11 ethics commission the names of those required to take the course
12 in a timely manner and assist the commission by providing
13 adequate meeting facilities for the ethics training course."

14 SECTION 5. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
15 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
16 begun before its effective date.

17 SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
18 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

19 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

State Ethics Commission Package; State Ethics Code; Gift Disclosure Statements; Financial Disclosure Statements

Description:

Clarifies State Ethics Code provisions regarding gift disclosure statements, retention of financial disclosure statements, and ethics training. (SD1)

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

