

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **684**-20

Honolulu, Hawaii

**FEB 19**, 2020

RE: H.B. No. 1673  
H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirtieth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2020  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred H.B. No. 1673 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE STATE ETHICS CODE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to amend Hawaii's ethics laws regarding fair treatment by:

- (1) Restoring statutory protection for legislators when carrying out a legislative function; and
- (2) Clarifying that each house of the Legislature shall adopt rules regarding the disclosure of the nature and extent of any interest or transaction that a legislator believes may be affected by the legislator's official action.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawaii State Ethics Commission, Common Cause Hawaii, and six individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from one individual.

Your Committee finds that this measure restores language that existed before the enactment of Act 208, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, which, pursuant to article III, section 7 of the Hawaii

HB1673 HD1 HSCR JUD HMS 2020-0827



State Constitution, protects legislators when carrying out legislative functions.

Your Committee further finds that this measure clarifies the rulemaking responsibilities of the Hawaii State Ethics Commission and the Legislature by tasking the Hawaii State Ethics Commission with adopting general rules relating to Hawaii's fair treatment laws and the Legislature with determining its own rules for how members disclose potential conflicts of interest.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making a technical, nonsubstantive amendment for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1673, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1673, H.D. 1, and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Judiciary,



CHRIS LEE, Chair



