



HAWAI'I STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

State of Hawai'i · Bishop Square, 1001 Bishop Street, ASB Tower 970 · Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Committee: Committee on Judiciary
Bill Number: S.B. 1056
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 20, 2020, 9:15 a.m.
Re: Testimony of the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission
**SUPPORTING THE INTENT OF AND SUGGESTING
AMENDMENTS TO S.B. 1056, Relating to Lobbyists**

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Committee Members:

The Hawai'i State Ethics Commission ("Commission") supports the intent of S.B. 1056, which seeks to promote transparency in government by requiring additional lobbying reports. The Commission is willing and able to administer additional reporting periods, and the Commission supports the inclusion of more frequent expenditure reports.

Rather than requiring two reports in each election year, however, the Committee may consider adding one report each year (for example, requiring a report for the period May 1-July 31 every year, due by August 31).

Additionally, if this measure moves forward, the Commission respectfully requests that the Legislature clarify the language within the bill. Currently, for example, the bill provides that "[t]he January 31 report shall cover the period from [May 1] ~~November 1~~ through December 31 of the previous year." However, the bill seems to contemplate that the August and November filings would only occur during election years; as a result, in non-general-election years, there would be no report filed for the period May 1 to October 31 under the current language of this measure. Therefore, the Commission would respectfully recommend that the bill be amended as follows:

1. To make clear that the "pre-primary report" and the "pre-general election report" be filed only in general election years. Furthermore, while "general election years" appears to mean even-numbered years, the Legislature may wish to make this explicit in statute.
2. To make clear that, in non-general-election years, reports are due only on January 31, March 31, and May 31 (or, alternatively, that reports are due on those three dates and also on August 31 for the period May 1 to July 31).
3. To clarify when expenditure reports would be filed for special sessions of the Legislature.

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Thank you for your continuing support of the Commission's work and for considering the Commission's testimony on S.B. 1056.

Very truly yours,

Daniel Gluck
Executive Director and General Counsel