

Statement Before The
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Tuesday, February 9, 2021

2:00 PM

Via Videoconference, Conference Room 325

in consideration of
HB 1075
RELATING TO EMOLUMENTS.

Chair NAKASHIMA, Vice Chair MATAYOSHI, and Members of the House Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee

Common Cause Hawaii supports HB 1075, which would prohibit the lieutenant governor, beginning November 1, 2022, while holding the office of the lieutenant governor, from maintaining any other employment, maintaining a controlling interest in a business, or receiving any emolument, beginning on the sixty-first calendar day after election or appointment to office.

State officials in the highest positions should be fully attentive to the demanding responsibilities of their offices. They should not be distracted by other professional duties or be choosing which job's priorities come first.

Any significant gift or monetary compensation from interests outside of their state position is entirely inappropriate and could cloud their judgment or lead them to consider their personal interests above those of their electorate.

Common Cause Hawaii, as a grassroots, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to good government reforms, such as ethics and accountability in our government, supports HB 1075 to improve ethics in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1075. If you have further questions of me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

HB-1075

Submitted on: 2/6/2021 4:02:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/9/2021 2:00:00 PM

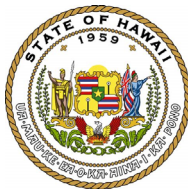
Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
lynne matusow	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Why do I infer that this bill is aimed squarely at Dr. John Green, Lt. Gov. of the State of Hawaii. Dr. Green is a part time emergency room doctor, based on the Big Island. I believe he serves one weekend a month. That island, as well as others, faces a huge shortage of physicians. We cannot afford to lose his services or that of others in the future who will fall under this bill. The bill is short sighted.

Would he still be able to perform these duties if he is not paid? If the governor is unable to perform his/her duties would the lieutenant governor (LG) be able to call in someone else to perform the needed care of patients so the LG would be able to devote full time to performing the duties of governor.

this bill is a great disservice to the people of hawaii.



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 & Hawaiian Affairs
Bill Number: H.B. 1075
Hearing Date/Time: February 9, 2021, 2:00 p.m.
Re: Testimony of the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission with
COMMENTS on H.B. 1075, Relating to Emoluments

Dear Chair Nakayama, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Committee Members:

The Hawai'i State Ethics Commission ("Commission") offers the following comments on H.B. 1075, which seeks to prohibit the lieutenant governor from holding outside employment and other financial interests.

In 2020, the legislature enacted Act 75, H.B. 361 HD1 SD2, to prohibit the governor from holding outside employment and receiving emoluments. Hawai'i Revised Statutes ("HRS") § 84-14.5. H.B. 1075 seeks to extend these same restrictions to the lieutenant governor.

The Commission notes that, while the governor is prohibited from holding outside employment pursuant to Hawai'i Const. Art. V, section 1 and the new statutory provision under HRS § 84-14.5, the lieutenant governor is not specifically prohibited from holding outside employment; instead, the lieutenant governor, like all other state employees, is subject to the provisions in the State Ethics Code. For example, under the Fair Treatment law, HRS § 84-13, the lieutenant governor is prohibited from receiving a stipend or honorarium for doing work in his/her official capacity. Furthermore, pursuant to the Financial Disclosure law, HRS 84-17, the lieutenant governor is required to file a public financial disclosure each year and report his/her financial interests.

The Commission does not take a position on this measure, but is prepared to administer this provision if enacted.

Thank you for your continuing support of the Commission's work and for considering the Commission's testimony on H.B.1075.

Very truly yours,

Bonita Chang
Staff Attorney