

**From:** [Ruta Jordans](#)  
**To:** [Standards of Conduct](#)  
**Subject:** Ethics, lobbying, and campaign finance reform  
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## Aloha Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct (CISC)!

Gary Hooser's article in The Garden Island newspaper just alerted me to your commission. I have copied Gary's suggestions below, not because Gary said them, but because they echo my thoughts about the Hawaii legislature. Before moving here I lived in Wisconsin, New Hampshire and Maine. I have now lived on Kauai for five years. My first experience with the Hawaii legislature was the year I moved here, in supporting a bill only to find it disappear. It was referred to a committee and suddenly no longer existed. In my previous legislative experience it would have been voted on at least once, and the votes would have been registered. No one person should have the ability to kill a bill. Only a committee should have that power.

Speaking of power, would you please take money out of the election equation and out of lobbying as well? Money given to candidates or legislators should not be a deciding factor. Please carefully consider Gary's suggestions below and get rid of corruption in the Hawaii legislature!

Mahalo,

Ruta Jordans

- Allow voters to decide whether or not to establish term limits for state legislators. \*Legislators in 15 other states, including California, are term-limited.
- Establish a publicly fully funded election program providing qualified candidates sufficient means to run credible campaigns. Maine and Arizona both have established successful programs that can serve as models.
- Require the legislature to comply with the State Constitution Article III – Section 12 which says: “Every meeting of a committee in either house or of a committee comprised of a member or members of both houses

held for the purpose of making a decision on matters referred to the committee shall be open to the public." \*In other words ban backroom secret meetings that now occur in both the conference committee process and in regular committee meetings.

- Require recorded votes by committee members for every decision impacting bills referred to their committee. Remove the unilateral power of the Chair replacing it with rules making it clear that the Chair may make decision recommendations, but all decisions are validated and made public by a recorded vote of committee members. \*The current practice of allowing the Chair to kill bills, behind closed doors, without a vote, violates the core principles of our democracy and is inherently corrupt.

- Require all elected officials in State or County office to disclose all outside income. This disclosure shall include the specific source of the income, the amount of income received, and the service provided in return for that income. \*This should include client/consultant income from LLCs owned in whole or part by the elected official, and include income from legal clients of those elected officials who are also private attorneys.

- Restrict the use of campaign funds for use only in the campaign cycle they are donated in, and only for activities directly related to that campaign. \*This means no hoarding of funds, and stopping the practice of using campaign funds as a general slush fund for non-campaign-related purposes.

Other important but less systemic in nature initiatives:

- Ban the acceptance or solicitation of campaign contributions during the legislative session. \*28 other states place restrictions on giving and receiving campaign contributions during the legislative session.

- Ban all campaign contributions from corporations and registered lobbyists.\*22 other states completely prohibit corporations from contributing to political campaigns.

- Reduce the maximum campaign contribution to \$500.