

From: [barbara george](#)
To: [Standards of Conduct](#)
Subject: Essential changes to state laws and rules in order to reform how Hawaii Legislature conducts public business
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Aloha Members of the Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct;

Mahalo for your willingness to serve on this important Commission and your efforts to make recommendations that will improve the legislature's Code of Ethics, bring sunshine to lobbying and campaign finance practices, and improve citizen confidence in all branches of Hawaii's government, especially the Legislature. The stench of entrenched cronyism, pay-for-play, back-room dealings in conference and regular committee meetings that are secret from the public, and legislators more interested in maintaining their seat than in advancing the public interest, etc. is overpowering and shows Hawaii to be anti-democratic and corrupt to the rest of the U.S. and the world. I urge you to include the following in your recommendations and report:

- * **Allow voters to decide whether or not to establish term limits for State legislators.**
- * **Establish a fully public-funded election process that provides qualified candidates with sufficient means to run credible campaigns.**
- * **Require the Legislature to comply with Article III – Section 12 of the Hawaii State Constitution:** “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.”
- * **Require recorded votes by committee members on every decision impacting bills referred to their committee. Remove a committee Chair's unilateral power to determine the fate of bills, and ensure that all decisions are validated and made public by a recorded vote of all committee members. Recorded votes should be required on every decision impacting any bill referred to that committee.**
- * **Require all elected officials holding a State or County office to disclose ALL outside income, including the specific source, the amount, and the service provided in exchange for that income.**
- * **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.**

*** Ban the acceptance or solicitation of campaign contributions during the legislative session.**

*** Ban all campaign contributions from corporations and registered lobbyists.**

*** Reduce the maximum campaign contribution to \$500.**

Mahalo for your consideration and for your ongoing time and efforts in promoting a truly democratic process across Hawaii Nei.

Barbara George
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