



HAWAI'I STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

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

Committee: House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Bill Number: HB 141
Hearing Date/Time: February 2, 2023, 2:00 p.m.
Re: Testimony of the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission in **SUPPORT** of H.B. 141, Requiring Disclosure of Financial Relationships with Lobbyists and Lobbying Organizations with **PROPOSED AMENDMENT**

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Committee Members:

The Hawai'i State Ethics Commission (“Commission”) **supports** H.B. 141, which requires legislators to disclose financial relationships with lobbyists or lobbying organizations.

The purpose of this bill is to provide transparency around potential conflicts of interest. Under this bill, if a legislator receives \$5,000 or more in value from a lobbyist or lobbying organization – even if that money is not received directly – that information would be publicly disclosed. Such a disclosure would assist in identifying potential conflicts of interest, as well as ensure greater public confidence in the integrity of legislators.

Proposed Amendment. It will take time to change the Commission’s online financial disclosure system and draft guidance documents to reflect new disclosure requirements. To this end, we propose amending the effective date to January 1, 2025.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 141.

Very truly yours,

/S/ Robert D. Harris

Robert D. Harris
Executive Director and General Counsel

HB-141

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 12:12:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/2/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Foley	Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairman Tarnas and members of the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

As Chair of the Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct (Commission), I support HB 141 that requires legislators to disclose relationships with lobbyists for reasons stated in the Commission's December 1, 2022 Final Report to the House of Representatives, specifically found at page 28 of the Report.

Mahalo, Judge Daniel Foley (ret.)



Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Gregg Takayama

Thursday, February 2, 2023, 2:00 p.m. and Conference Room 325
HB141 — Relating to Financial Disclosures

TESTIMONY

Judith Wong, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports BILL NUMBER HB141

This bill requires legislators to disclose the names of certain lobbyists with whom the legislator has a relationship. The public has a right to know who is in a position to influence legislators' decisions and this bill, along with others in this package, provides for transparency necessary for public knowledge and trust.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



All Hawaii News * P.O. Box 612 * Hilo, HI 96721 * www.allhawaiinews.com

Feb. 1, 2023

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

From: Nancy Cook Lauer, publisher, All Hawaii News

www.allhawaiinews.com * publisher@allhawaiinews.com * 808.781.7945

In SUPPORT of HB 141, Relating to Financial Disclosures

To the Honorable Rep. David Tarnas and the Committee:

All Hawaii News, a state government and political news aggregate and commentary blog covering Hawaii since 2008, supports HB 141 adding important disclosures of business relations with lobbyists to legislators' annual financial disclosure reports. This bill is part of the Ethics Commission package and is also recommended by the Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct, also known as the Foley Commission.

Louis Brandeis, an associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, made his famous statement that "sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants" in 1913. But the sentiment holds true today -- perhaps even more so as the state of Hawaii emerges from a dark period of public corruption.

It is the case of a few bad apples making people wary of the entire bushel, even if every other apple in the bucket is perfectly fine.

Adding additional disclosures that include identification of business relationships with lobbying groups can only improve transparency and trust in government. In addition to greater transparency for the public, the act of recording this information will help emphasize to the public official the importance of keeping private affairs and public affairs separate for the benefit of the citizenry.

Mahalo nui for considering HB 141.

HB-141

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 9:22:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/2/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB141.

HB-141

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:31:11 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/2/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support. Oftentimes the public does not know about these connections, connections which can have an important bearing on the legislator's position on issues and voting on bills. Very important bill which levels the playing field. Please pass.