



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 142
Hearing Date/Time: February 2, 2023, 2:00 p.m.
Re: Testimony of the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission in **SUPPORT** of
H.B. 142, Restricting Lobbyists from Giving Prohibited Gifts

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

The Hawai'i State Ethics Commission ("Commission") **supports** H.B. 142, which imposes the same gifting regulations on lobbyists that are already in place for state employees, legislators, and board and commission members.

This measure makes no changes to Hawaii's existing gift law, Haw. Rev. Stat. § 84-11, except to impose a gifting restriction on lobbyists. If passed, this measure would preclude lobbyists from giving a prohibited gift. Existing prohibitions and exceptions to the gift law would remain the same.

The intent of this measure is to lessen the number of situations where a legislator or employee must refuse a prohibited gift. The Commission would use this measure as an opportunity to better educate the lobbying community about the gift law and seek a more uniform application. To the extent new exceptions are administratively created over time, this measure wisely incorporates those changes.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 142.

Very truly yours,

/S/ Robert D. Harris

Robert D. Harris
Executive Director and General Counsel

HB-142

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 11:42:15 AM

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 142 prohibiting lobbyist gifts for reasons stated in the Commission's December 1, 2022 Final Report to the House of Representative, specifically found at page 33 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
HB142 — Relating to Gifts from Lobbyists

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 HB142

This bill prohibits gift from lobbyists to public decision-makers. The public reasonably expects its legislators to act in the public interest and not in the interest of any particular interest group. It is in the public interest to know that legislators and other public decision-makers are not influenced by gifts from lobbyists.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

HB-142

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:27:49 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:

This bill was also part of the Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct. It will prohibit lobbyist from making prohibited gifts to legislators and employees. It puts some teeth in the law. Its passage will help improve the public's perception of the legislature after the English and Cullen scandals. Please pass.