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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CANDIDATE COMMITTEE EXPENDITURES.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the house of  
2 representatives adopted House Resolution No. 9 (2022) to  
3 establish the commission to improve standards of conduct. The  
4 resolution requests the commission ensure state laws and rules  
5 relating to standards of conduct of public officers and  
6 employees contain clear standards, enforcement, and penalties  
7 and provide recommendations to increase awareness of, compliance  
8 with, and deterrent effects of the code of ethics, lobbying  
9 laws, campaign finance laws, and other relevant laws and rules.

10           Pursuant to House Resolution No. 9, the commission to  
11 improve standards of conduct convened regularly throughout 2022  
12 to diligently review, discuss, and consider the issues  
13 presented, submitted an interim report to the house of  
14 representatives outlining areas of immediate and long-term  
15 focus, then continued its work with input from the public and  
16 invited individuals and agencies to issue a final report with  
17 various recommendations and accompanying proposed legislation.



1           The legislature also finds that the strength and stability  
2 of our democratic government rely upon the public's trust in  
3 government institutions, including the expectation that officers  
4 act ethically with prudence, integrity, and sound judgement.  
5 Therefore, an essential goal of the commission was to provide  
6 recommendations that would help restore public trust in state  
7 government and increase the level of transparency in its  
8 operations and accountability of individuals.

9           Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to implement  
10 recommendations of the commission to improve standards of  
11 conduct relating to the use of campaign funds to purchase up to  
12 two tickets for an event or fundraiser held by another candidate  
13 or committee.

14           SECTION 2. Section 11-381, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
15 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

16           "(a) Campaign funds may be used by a candidate, treasurer,  
17 or candidate committee:

18           (1) For any purpose directly related:

19           (A) In the case of the candidate, to the candidate's  
20                           own campaign; or



1 (B) In the case of a candidate committee or treasurer  
2 of a candidate committee, to the campaign of the  
3 candidate, question, or issue with which they are  
4 directly associated;

5 (2) To purchase or lease consumer goods, vehicles,  
6 equipment, and services that provide a mixed benefit  
7 to the candidate. The candidate, however, shall  
8 reimburse the candidate's candidate committee for the  
9 candidate's personal use of these items unless the  
10 personal use is de minimis;

11 (3) To make donations to any community service,  
12 educational, youth, recreational, charitable,  
13 scientific, or literary organization; provided that in  
14 any election period, the total amount of all donations  
15 shall be no more than twice the maximum amount that  
16 one person may contribute to that candidate pursuant  
17 to section 11-357; provided further that no donations  
18 shall be made from the date the candidate files  
19 nomination papers to the date of the general election  
20 unless the candidate is:



1 (A) Declared to be duly and legally elected to the  
2 office for which the person is a candidate  
3 pursuant to section 12-41;

4 (B) Deemed and declared to be duly and legally  
5 elected to the office for which the person is a  
6 candidate pursuant to section 12-42; or

7 (C) Unsuccessful in the primary or special primary  
8 election;

9 (4) To make donations to any public school or public  
10 library; provided that in any election period, the  
11 total amount of all contributions shall be no more  
12 than twice the maximum amount that one person may  
13 contribute to that candidate pursuant to section 11-  
14 357; provided further that any donation under this  
15 paragraph shall not be aggregated with or imputed  
16 toward any limitation on donations pursuant to  
17 paragraph (3);

18 (5) To award scholarships to full-time students attending  
19 an institution of higher education or a vocational  
20 education school in a program leading to a degree,  
21 certificate, or other recognized educational



1 credential; provided that in any election period, the  
2 total amount of all scholarships awarded shall be no  
3 more than twice the maximum amount that one person may  
4 contribute to that candidate pursuant to section 11-  
5 357; provided further that no awards shall be made  
6 from the filing deadline for nomination papers to the  
7 date of the general election unless the candidate is:  
8 (A) Declared to be duly and legally elected to the  
9 office for which the person is a candidate  
10 pursuant to section 12-41;  
11 (B) Deemed and declared to be duly and legally  
12 elected to the office for which the person is a  
13 candidate pursuant to section 12-42; or  
14 (C) Unsuccessful in the primary or special primary  
15 election;  
16 ~~[(6) To purchase not more than two tickets for each event~~  
17 ~~held by another candidate or committee, regardless of~~  
18 ~~whether the event constitutes a fundraiser as defined~~  
19 ~~in section 11-342;~~



1       ~~(7)~~ (6) To make contributions to the candidate's party so  
2           long as the contributions are not earmarked for  
3           another candidate; or

4       ~~(8)~~ (7) To pay for ordinary and necessary expenses  
5           incurred in connection with the candidate's duties as  
6           a holder of an office, including expenses incurred for  
7           memberships in civic or community groups."

8       SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
9 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

10       SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

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INTRODUCED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

*Stan*

JAN 20 2023



# H.B. NO. 721

**Report Title:**

Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct; Candidate Committee Expenditures; Two Tickets

**Description:**

Eliminates the use of campaign funds to purchase up to two tickets for an event or fundraiser held by another candidate or committee.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

