

JAN 17 2024

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO NEIGHBORHOOD BOARDS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that county neighborhood
2 and advisory boards provide local communities with opportunities
3 to participate in government. Likewise, community outreach
4 boards serve as an intermediary between residents and government
5 leaders to understand local concerns, gather and disseminate
6 information, and create solutions in a collaborative
7 environment. As community outreach boards serve as a grassroots
8 tool, ensuring open access to board activities is essential to
9 thriving communities statewide.

10 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 11 (1) Define "community outreach board"; and
12 (2) Include community outreach boards in existing
13 provisions of the sunshine law that relate to
14 neighborhood boards.

15 SECTION 2. Section 92-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
16 amended by adding a new definition to be appropriately inserted
17 and to read as follows:



1 "Community outreach board" means a board established to
2 serve in a community advisory capacity under a county commission
3 or a county department."

4 SECTION 3. Section 92-81, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended as follows:

6 1. By amending its title and subsections (a) and (b) to
7 read:

8 "[~~f~~]§92-81[~~t~~] Neighborhood board; community outreach
9 board; notice and agenda; public input; quorum. (a) [~~Any~~
10 ~~contrary provision in this chapter notwithstanding,~~]
11 Notwithstanding any provision in this chapter to the contrary,
12 the provisions of this part shall apply to neighborhood boards
13 and community outreach boards overseen by a neighborhood
14 commission of the city and county of Honolulu, and [~~sueh~~] other
15 neighborhood boards and community outreach boards as may be
16 created in other counties and overseen by a county-based
17 commission[~~-~~] or county-based department.

18 (b) The agenda required to be included in written public
19 notice of a [~~neighborhood~~] board meeting may include an
20 opportunity for the board to receive public input on issues not



1 specifically noticed for consideration at the forthcoming
2 meeting."

3 2. By amending subsection (d) to read:

4 "(d) A quorum for a meeting of a neighborhood board or
5 community outreach board shall be required for:

6 (1) Conducting official board business;

7 (2) Discussions prior to and related to voting; and

8 (3) Voting required to validate an act of the board as
9 part of official board business.

10 A neighborhood board or community outreach board may receive
11 information or testimony on a matter of official board business
12 without a quorum; provided that the board shall not make a
13 decision on the issue. The board members, at the next meeting
14 of the neighborhood board, shall report the matters presented as
15 information or testimony."

16 SECTION 4. Section 92-82, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
17 amended to read as follows:

18 "§92-82 Permitted interactions of neighborhood board and
19 community outreach board members. (a) Neighborhood board and
20 community outreach board members may attend or organize meetings
21 or presentations [~~located on Oahu~~] on matters relating to



1 official board business; provided that the meeting or
2 presentation is open to the public, does not charge a fee or
3 require registration, and is not specifically and exclusively
4 organized for or directed toward members of the board; and
5 provided further that no member makes a commitment to vote on
6 any of the issues discussed.

7 (b) Neighborhood board and community outreach board
8 members who attend meetings or presentations allowed by
9 subsection (a) may ask questions relating to official board
10 business of persons other than fellow board members."

11 SECTION 5. Section 92-83, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
12 amended to read as follows:

13 "[+]§92-83[+] Neighborhood board meeting; community
14 outreach board meeting; unanticipated events; public interest.

15 An unanticipated event that occurs after public notice of a
16 neighborhood board or community outreach board meeting has been
17 issued, but before the scheduled meeting, may be the subject of
18 discussion at the scheduled meeting if timely action on the
19 matter is necessary for public health, welfare, and safety. At
20 a duly noticed meeting, a board may take action on an
21 unanticipated event in the public interest that is not on the



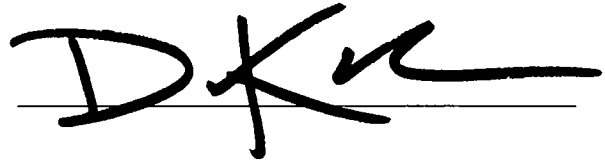
1 agenda in the same manner as if the board had held an emergency
2 meeting to take action on the issue, pursuant to section 92-8."

3 SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
4 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

6

INTRODUCED BY:



S.B. NO. 2058

Report Title:

Neighborhood Boards; Community Outreach Boards; Sunshine Law; Public Meetings; Permitted Interactions

Description:

Defines community outreach board to mean a board established to serve in a community advisory capacity under a county commission or a county department. Includes community outreach boards under existing provisions of the Sunshine Law regarding neighborhood boards. Authorizes neighborhood board or community outreach board members to organize meetings or presentations related to official board business statewide.

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

