

ACT 165

S.B. NO. 31

A Bill for an Act Relating to Legislative Advisory Committees.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. In lieu of a scientific advisory committee and an economic advisory council, the legislature finds that it would be more economical and efficient to have a single broad-based advisory committee consisting of experts in different fields, who, when requested by the legislature, can convene ad hoc groups of persons having technical knowledge in a particular area, reduce the disputed facts into clear objectives, and present the legislature with clarified policy questions for resolution.

SECTION 2. Chapter 23, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

“PART . LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

§23- Purpose. The legislature finds that the assistance of experts in a variety of fields ranging from science, finance, economics, business, technology, and other technical areas is vital to sound legislative decision-making. Assessment of facts and data, including a clear formulation of ideas and objectives are often needed by legislators. The purpose of this part is to provide the legislature with the necessary resource experts to aid legislators in making judicious decisions.

§23- Definition. As used in this part, “committee” means the legislative advisory committee.

§23- Establishment. There is established in the office of the legislative auditor for administrative purposes only, a legislative advisory committee to provide technical advice to the legislature.

§23- Composition; appointment. (a) The committee shall be composed of fifteen members representing a broad spectrum of the scientific, financial, economic, business, and academic communities who are skilled in factual inquiry and dispute resolution.

(b) The ombudsman, the legislative auditor, and the director of the legislative reference bureau shall submit a list of thirty names to the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives who shall, in consultation with the party leaderships of their respective houses, jointly appoint the members of the committee.

(c) The co-chairpersons of the committee shall be the respective chairpersons of the standing committees in the senate and the house of representatives responsible for legislative management.

§23- Term of appointment. The members of the committee shall be appointed for three-year terms, and shall serve until a successor is appointed. Vacancies shall be filled for the remainder of any unexpired term in the same manner as original appointments.

§23- Powers and duties. The committee shall:

- (1) Operate within guidelines for requests for information established by the standing committee in the senate and the standing committee in the house of representatives responsible for legislative management;
- (2) Respond to legislative requests for information within guidelines established by the standing committees in the senate and the house of representatives responsible for legislative management;
- (3) Convene ad hoc panels of experts who, with the assistance of interested parties, can make findings and recommendations to the legislature in whatever technical field requested after reducing the number of disputed facts, and helping interest groups clearly express their objectives and assumptions; and
- (4) Present the clarified policy questions to the legislature for resolution.

§23- Expenses. The members of the committee and ad hoc committees shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for all necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.”

SECTION 3. Parts II and III of chapter 23, Hawaii Revised Statutes, are repealed.

SECTION 4. In accordance with Section 9 of Article VII of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii and sections 37-91 and 37-93, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the appropriation contained in this Act will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 1989-1990 to be exceeded by \$75,000, or 0.0032 per cent. The reasons for exceeding the general fund expenditure ceiling are that the appropriation made in this Act is necessary to serve the public interest and to meet the need provided for by this Act.

SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$75,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 1989-1990, for the establishment of the legislative advisory committee and to carry out the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 6. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of the legislative auditor for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect upon its approval; provided that Section 5 of this Act shall take effect on July 1, 1989.

(Approved June 7, 1989.)