



HAWAII STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

State of Hawaii · Bishop Square, 1001 Bishop Street, ASB Tower 970 · Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Committee: Committee on Labor and Public Employment
Bill Number: H.B. 391
Hearing Date/Time: February 12, 2019, 9:20 a.m.
Re: Testimony of the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission **SUPPORTING**
THE INTENT of H.B. 391, Relating to Ethics

Dear Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Eli, and Committee Members:

The Hawai'i State Ethics Commission ("Commission") supports the intent of H.B. 391, which generally seeks to enact a state-law equivalent of the federal Hatch Act.

The Commission supports efforts to ensure that state officials work to promote the best interests of the people of Hawai'i. As such, the Commission supports legislation to protect state officials – and the public – from coercion by high-level state employees; likewise, the Commission supports legislation to ensure that state programs are administered in a non-partisan fashion.

If the Legislature intends to include all state officials "who regularly engage in adjudicatory, regulatory, law enforcement, or investigatory duties," the Committee may wish to include the Ethics Commission in the list of "covered employees" on page 3.¹

Thank you for your continuing support of the Commission's work and for considering the Commission's testimony on H.B. 391.

Very truly yours,

Daniel Gluck
Executive Director and General Counsel

¹ The Commission notes, however, that Hawai'i Revised Statutes § 84-35.5 provides: "The members of the ethics commission and its staff shall not take an active part in political management or in political campaigns during the term of office or employment."