A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that to enhance public trust in government, steps should be taken to deter allegations concerning potential conflicts of interest in the legislative process. Specifically, the legislature finds that lobbyists who lobby the legislature should be regulated more stringently to reduce situations where actual or perceived conflicts of interest may be raised. This Act eliminates actual or perceived conflicts of interests.

The purpose of this Act is to prohibit registered lobbyists who lobby the legislature, principals of these lobbyists, agents and clients of these lobbyists, and any political action committee on which the these lobbyists sit from making a contribution to the governor, lieutenant governor, and members of the legislature while the legislature is in session.

SECTION 2. Section 97-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:
"[§97-5] Restricted activities[.]; campaign contributions.

(a) No lobbyist shall accept or agree to accept any payment in any way contingent upon the defeat, enactment, or outcome of any proposed legislative or administrative action.

(b) No lobbyist, principal of a lobbyist, client of a lobbyist, agent of a lobbyist, or political action committee on which a lobbyist sits, that lobbies the legislature, shall make a contribution to:

(1) The governor;

(2) The lieutenant governor; or

(3) A member of the legislature, when the legislature is convened in regular or special session.

(c) This section does not affect the requirements of section 84-11.

(d) For purposes of this section:

"Contribution" does not include any gifts of flowers, food, or other items customarily given during the course of a session.

"Political action committee" shall have the same meaning as "committee" as defined in section 11-191.

"Principal of a lobbyist" means any person or entity that employs, retains, engages, or uses a lobbyist, regardless of whether the lobbyist is compensated."
SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

INTRODUCED BY:
Report Title: Lobbyist; Contribution Ban

Description: Prohibits a lobbyist who lobbies the legislature, principal of a lobbyist, client or agent of lobbyist, and a political action committee on which the lobbyist sits from making a contribution to a member of the legislature, the governor, and lieutenant governor while the legislature is in session.