
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSIONS.

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

1 SECTION 1. Article XIV of the Hawaii State Constitution
2 provides in pertinent part: "Ethics commissioners shall be
3 selected in a manner which assures their independence and
4 impartiality." Each member of the state ethics commission is
5 appointed by the governor from a list of two persons nominated
6 by the judicial council. The Hawaii supreme court appoints
7 members of the judicial council, which does not include
8 legislators. In contrast, members of each of the county ethics
9 commissions are appointed by the mayor of the county and
10 confirmed by the county council, both of which are subject to
11 oversight by the particular county ethics commission.

12 The purpose of this Act is to provide standards for the
13 selection of county ethics commissioners to ensure their
14 impartiality and independence.

15 SECTION 2. Chapter 46, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
16 by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and to read
17 as follows:

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1 **"PART . COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSIONS**

2 **§46- Process for selection of county ethics**

3 **commissioners.** (a) Each county shall cause to be adopted a

4 charter amendment for the selection process for the county

5 ethics commission. The charter amendment for the selection

6 process shall provide that the judicial council shall nominate

7 at least three persons for each vacant seat on a county ethics

8 commission, and that the mayor of the county shall appoint new

9 members from among the nominees selected by the judicial

10 council. A nominee appointed by the mayor shall not be subject

11 to confirmation by the county council.

12 **§46- Character of county ethics commissioners.** In

13 nominating members for county ethics commissions, the judicial

14 council shall take into account the integrity, impartiality, and

15 independence of nominees as reflected by, among other things,

16 the background and experiences of the person and the absence of

17 potential conflicts of interest; provided that county ordinance

18 may provide for additional criteria."

19 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on January 7, 2059.



Report Title:

County Ethics Commissions; Selection of Members

Description:

Provides standards for the selection of county ethics commission members to ensure their impartiality and independence. Effective January 7, 2059. (HB468 HD1)

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