

MAR 14 2012

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE ETHICS COMMISSION TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO REVIEW LOBBYIST DISCLOSURE LAWS AND LOBBYIST DISCLOSURE REPORTS AND RECOMMEND LEGISLATION TO ENSURE TRANSPARENCY AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF LOBBYIST EXPENDITURES.

1           WHEREAS, a properly functioning democracy is important to  
2 the health of our community; and  
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4           WHEREAS, our democratic government depends upon public  
5 trust in decision making processes, which relies upon the  
6 decision making process being free from undue influence by  
7 parties favoring interests narrower than the general interests  
8 of the public; and  
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10           WHEREAS, all interests, public and private, may  
11 legitimately participate in the making of public policy; and  
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13           WHEREAS, public disclosure and transparency of lobbying  
14 activities of all types are critical to provide accountability,  
15 enhance public trust, and reduce the existence and perception of  
16 undue influence in government policy making; and  
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18           WHEREAS, despite increasing public concerns and interest in  
19 lobbying activities, lobbyist disclosure laws have not been  
20 significantly updated since their initial adoption in 1975; and  
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22           WHEREAS, lobbyists and lobbying organizations may have  
23 relationships with elected officials that are not required to be  
24 disclosed under lobbyist disclosure laws, particularly contracts  
25 for services that provide a significant source of income to the  
26 elected officials; now, therefore,  
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28           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth  
29 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012,  
30 that the Hawaii State Ethics Commission is requested to  
31 establish a task force to review lobbyist disclosure laws and  
32 lobbyist disclosure reports and recommend legislation to ensure  
33 transparency and public disclosure of lobbyist expenditures; and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be comprised of  
3 the following members:

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5 (1) The Executive Director of the Hawaii State Ethics  
6 Commission or the Executive Director's designee;  
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8 (2) Two members who are registered lobbyists, selected by  
9 the Hawaii State Ethics Commission;  
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11 (3) One member who represents a public interest group,  
12 selected by the President of the Senate;  
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14 (4) One member who represents a public interest group,  
15 selected by the Speaker of the House of  
16 Representatives;  
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18 (5) One member who represents the news media, selected by  
19 the President of the Senate; and  
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21 (6) One member who represents the news media, selected by  
22 the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and  
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to:

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26 (1) Review lobbyist reporting requirements, including:  
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28 (A) Who is required to file;  
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30 (B) Frequency of report filings;  
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32 (C) Information included in disclosure reports;  
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34 (D) Reporting of lobbyist contractual relationships  
35 with and campaign contributions to elected  
36 officials; and  
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38 (E) Reporting of gifts, meals, and events paid for by  
39 lobbyists or lobbying organizations; and  
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41 (2) Review Hawaii State Ethics Commission procedures,  
42 including filing procedures for lobbyists and lobbying  
43 organizations and procedures for making disclosure  
44 reports accessible to the public via the Internet;



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(3) Examine information reported on lobbyist disclosure reports in recent years to determine areas in which transparency or public disclosure of lobbyist expenditures may be enhanced; and

(4) Review best practices for lobbying disclosures in other states and at the federal level, and assess the feasibility of implementing those best practices in Hawaii; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2013; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force cease to exist upon adjournment sine die of the Regular Session of 2013; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force, upon the request of this body, participate in a joint informational briefing to discuss its report; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Hawaii State Ethics Commission.

OFFERED BY:

  


