
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO BOARD MEMBERS.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
2 by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§92- Meetings conducted during certain states of
5 emergency; in-person requirement waived. (a) The provisions
6 set forth in this section shall apply only when the governor has
7 previously declared a state of emergency for a contagious
8 illness and, without regard to whether the state of emergency is
9 still in effect, a board reasonably believes that holding an in-
10 person meeting subject to the usual requirements of this part
11 would present an unreasonable health risk to board members and
12 the public because of the continuing prevalence of the
13 contagious illness for which the state of emergency was
14 declared.

15 (b) A board holding a meeting by interactive conference
16 technology pursuant to section 92-3.5 shall not be required to
17 allow members of the public to join board members at the meeting



1 locations where board members are physically present or to
2 identify those locations in the notice required by section 92-7,
3 notwithstanding the usual requirement in section 92-3.5(a) that
4 board members participate only from identified locations at
5 which the public may join them; provided that at the meeting
6 each board member shall identify where the member is located and
7 who, if anyone, is present at that location with the member; and
8 provided further that the notice required by section 92-7 shall:

9 (1) List at least one meeting location that is open to the
10 public; and

11 (2) Inform members of the public how to:

12 (A) Remotely view the meeting through internet
13 streaming or other means; and

14 (B) Provide oral testimony through an internet link,
15 telephone conference, or other means.

16 (c) Notwithstanding section 92-3, a board may require
17 members of the public attending a meeting in person to provide
18 their names and contact information for the purpose of contact
19 tracing if the board reasonably believes doing so is necessary
20 due to the contagious illness as described in subsection (a)."



1 SECTION 2. Section 92-2.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 **"§92-2.5 Permitted interactions of members.** (a) Two
4 members of a board may discuss between themselves matters
5 relating to official board business to enable them to perform
6 their duties faithfully, as long as no commitment to vote is
7 made or sought and the two members do not constitute a quorum of
8 their board.

9 (b) Two or more members of a board, but less than the
10 number of members [~~which~~] that would constitute a quorum for the
11 board, may be assigned to:

12 (1) Investigate a matter relating to the official business
13 of their board; provided that:

14 (A) The scope of the investigation and the scope of
15 each member's authority are defined at a meeting
16 of the board;

17 (B) All resulting findings and recommendations are
18 presented to the board at a meeting of the board;
19 and

20 (C) Deliberation and [~~decisionmaking~~] decision-making
21 on the matter investigated, if any, occurs only



1 at a duly noticed meeting of the board held
2 subsequent to the meeting at which the findings
3 and recommendations of the investigation were
4 presented to the board; or

5 (2) Present, discuss, or negotiate any position [~~which~~
6 that the board has adopted at a meeting of the board;
7 provided that the assignment is made and the scope of
8 each member's authority is defined at a meeting of the
9 board [~~prior to~~] before the presentation, discussion,
10 or negotiation.

11 (c) Discussions between two or more members of a board,
12 but less than the number of members [~~which~~] that would
13 constitute a quorum for the board, concerning the selection of
14 the board's officers may be conducted in private without
15 limitation or subsequent reporting.

16 (d) Board members present at a meeting that must be
17 canceled for lack of quorum or terminated pursuant to section
18 92-3.5(c) may nonetheless receive testimony and presentations on
19 items on the agenda and question the testifiers or presenters;
20 provided that:



- 1 (1) Deliberation or [~~decisionmaking~~] decision-making on
2 any item, for which testimony or presentations are
3 received, occurs only at a duly noticed meeting of the
4 board held subsequent to the meeting at which the
5 testimony and presentations were received;
- 6 (2) The members present shall create a record of the oral
7 testimony or presentations in the same manner as would
8 be required by section 92-9 for testimony or
9 presentations heard during a meeting of the board; and
- 10 (3) Before its deliberation or [~~decisionmaking~~]
11 decision-making at a subsequent meeting, the board
12 shall:
- 13 (A) Provide copies of the testimony and presentations
14 received at the canceled meeting to all members
15 of the board; and
- 16 (B) Receive a report by the members who were present
17 at the canceled or terminated meeting about the
18 testimony and presentations received.
- 19 (e) Two or more members of a board, but less than the
20 number of members [~~which~~] that would constitute a quorum for the
21 board, may attend an informational meeting or presentation on



1 matters relating to official board business, including a meeting
2 of another entity, legislative hearing, convention, seminar, or
3 community meeting; provided that the meeting or presentation is
4 not specifically and exclusively organized for or directed
5 toward members of the board. The board members in attendance
6 may participate in discussions, including discussions among
7 themselves; provided that the discussions occur during and as
8 part of the informational meeting or presentation; [and]
9 provided further that no commitment relating to a vote on the
10 matter is made or sought.

11 At the next duly noticed meeting of the board, the board
12 members shall report their attendance and the matters presented
13 and discussed that related to official board business at the
14 informational meeting or presentation.

15 (f) Discussions between the governor and one or more
16 members of a board may be conducted in private without
17 limitation or subsequent reporting; provided that the discussion
18 does not relate to a matter over which a board is exercising its
19 adjudicatory function.

20 (g) Discussions between two or more members of a board and
21 the head of a department to which the board is administratively



1 assigned may be conducted in private without limitation;
2 provided that the discussion is limited to matters specified in
3 section 26-35.

4 (h) Communications, interactions, discussions,
5 investigations, and presentations described in this section are
6 not meetings for purposes of this part.

7 (i) Two or more members of a board may attend a state of
8 the city, state of the county, state of the State, or state of
9 the judiciary address; provided that no discussion of board
10 business by board members shall occur except during and as part
11 of the event; provided further that no commitment to vote shall
12 be made or sought."

13 SECTION 3. Section 92-3.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
14 amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

15 "(c) A meeting held by interactive conference technology
16 shall be [~~terminated~~] recessed when audio communication cannot
17 be maintained with all locations where the meeting by
18 interactive conference technology is being held, even if a
19 quorum of the board is physically present in one location[~~;~~];
20 provided that the meeting may only reconvene when audio
21 communication is reestablished. If copies of visual aids



1 required by, or brought to the meeting by board members or
2 members of the public, are not available to all meeting
3 participants, at all locations where audio-only interactive
4 conference technology is being used, within fifteen minutes
5 after audio-only communication is used, those agenda items for
6 which visual aids are not available for all participants at all
7 meeting locations cannot be acted upon at the meeting."

8 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
9 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

10 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
11 provided that section 1 shall be repealed on June 30, 2021.



Report Title:

Sunshine Law; Interactive Conference Technology; State of
Emergency; Permitted Interactions; Addresses

Description:

Authorizes, until June 30, 2021, boards to exclude the public from the meeting locations where board members are physically present if the board meetings are held by interactive conference technology during a state of emergency due to a contagious illness. Permits two or more members of a board to attend state of the city, state of the county, state of the State, or state of the judiciary addresses. Requires meetings held by interactive conference technology to recess, rather than terminate, when audio communication cannot be maintained and may reconvene only when audio communication is reestablished. (HD1)

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