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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION.

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

1           SECTION 1. Section 269-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3           "§269-3 Employment of assistants. (a) The chairperson of  
4 the public utilities commission may appoint and employ  
5 professional staff and other assistants for the public utilities  
6 commission as the chairperson finds necessary for the  
7 performance of the commission's functions and define their  
8 powers and duties. Notwithstanding section 26-35(a)(4) to the  
9 contrary and subject to applicable personnel laws, the  
10 employment, appointment, applicable salary schedules, promotion,  
11 transfer, demotion, discharge, and job descriptions of all  
12 officers and employees of or under the jurisdiction of the  
13 commission shall be determined by the chairperson and may be  
14 delegated to the executive officer appointed and employed  
15 pursuant to subsection (b); provided that determinations  
16 concerning personnel matters made by the chairperson or the  
17 executive officer, as delegated by the chairperson, may be



1 reviewed by the director of commerce and consumer affairs for  
2 completeness and for compliance and conformance with applicable  
3 administrative processes and procedures of the department of  
4 commerce and consumer affairs. The chairperson may appoint and,  
5 at pleasure, dismiss a chief administrator and attorneys as may  
6 be necessary, and who shall be exempt from chapter 76. The  
7 chairperson may also appoint other staff, including a fiscal  
8 officer and a personnel officer, with or without regard to  
9 chapter 76.

10 (b) The chairperson of the commission shall appoint an  
11 administrative assistant, a research assistant, and legal  
12 counsel to assist each of the other members of the public  
13 utilities commission with commission duties. Staff assigned  
14 under this subsection shall report to the commissioner to whom  
15 they are assigned and, notwithstanding any law to the contrary,  
16 the chairperson shall not dismiss or re-assign any assigned  
17 staff member without prior written approval of the affected  
18 commissioner.

19 ~~(b)~~ (c) The chairperson of the commission shall appoint,  
20 employ, and dismiss, at pleasure, an executive officer who shall  
21 be responsible for managing the operations of the commission.



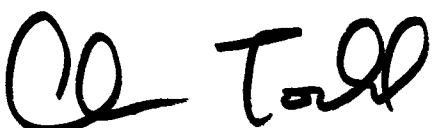
1 The responsibilities of the executive officer shall include  
 2 management and recruitment of personnel, budget planning and  
 3 implementation, strategic planning and implementation,  
 4 procurement and contract administration, and implementation of  
 5 administrative programs and projects. The executive officer  
 6 shall be exempt from chapter 76.

7 ~~(e)~~ (d) Notwithstanding section 91-13, the commission  
 8 may consult with its assistants appointed under authority of  
 9 this section in any contested case or agency hearing concerning  
 10 any issue of facts. Neither the commission nor any of its  
 11 assistants shall in such proceeding consult with any other  
 12 person or party except upon notice and an opportunity for all  
 13 parties to participate, save to the extent required for the  
 14 disposition of ex parte matters authorized by law."

15 SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
 16 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

17 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:                       
  
 JAN 27 2021



# H.B. NO. 1300

**Report Title:**

PUC; Appointment of Staff

**Description:**

Requires the chairperson of the public utilities commission to appoint an administrative assistant, a research assistant, and legal counsel to assist each member of the public utilities commission with commission duties. Prohibits the chairperson from dismissing or re-assigning appointed staff members without the prior written approval of the affected commissioner.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

