



HAWAI'I STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

State of Hawai'i · Bishop Square, 1001 Bishop Street, ASB Tower 970 · Honolulu, Hawai'i

Committee: Senate Committee on Judiciary
Bill Number: HB 141, HD1
Hearing Date/Time: March 14, 2023, 9:30 am
Re: Testimony of the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission in **SUPPORT** of
H.B. 141, Requiring Disclosure of Financial Relationships with
Lobbyists and Lobbying Organizations with **PROPOSED**
AMENDMENT

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members:

The Hawai'i State Ethics Commission ("Commission") **supports** HB 141 HD1, which requires legislators to disclose financial relationships with lobbyists or lobbying organizations.

The purpose of this bill is to provide transparency around potential conflicts of interest. Under this bill, if a legislator receives \$5,000 or more in value from a lobbyist or lobbying organization – even if that money is not received directly – that information would be publicly disclosed. Such a disclosure would assist in identifying potential conflicts of interest, as well as ensure greater public confidence in the integrity of legislators.

Many countries and other states have similar requirements. For example, in the United States, the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 requires lobbyists to register with the government and report their activities and expenditures, while the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007 requires members of Congress and their staff to disclose their financial relationships with lobbyists and lobbying organizations. In California, the Political Reform Act requires legislators to disclose their financial interests and any gifts or contributions they receive from lobbyists or lobbying organizations.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 141 HD1.

Very truly yours,

/S/ Robert D. Harris

Robert D. Harris
Executive Director and General Counsel

HB-141-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 8:29:03 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/14/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Foley	Testifying for Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Mr. Chairman and members of the Judiciary Committee,

As Chair of the Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct, I support HB 141, HD 1, that requires legislators to disclose relationships with lobbyists in their financial disclosures "to increase transparency and potentially uncover conflicts or self-dealing." See Commission's December 1, 2022 Final Report to the House of Representatives at page 28.

Mahalo, Judge Daniel Foley (ret.)



Committee on Judiciary
Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Mike Gabbard

Tuesday March 14, 2023, 10:30 a.m. and Conference Room 016
HB141 — Relating to Financial Disclosures

TESTIMONY

Judith Wong, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports BILL NUMBER HB141

This bill requires legislators to disclose the names of certain lobbyists with whom the legislator has a relationship. The public has a right to know who is in a position to influence legislators' decisions and this bill, along with others in this package, provides for transparency necessary for public knowledge and trust.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



All Hawaii News * P.O. Box 612 * Hilo, HI 96721 * www.allhawaiinews.com

March 13, 2023

Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Nancy Cook Lauer, publisher, All Hawaii News

www.allhawaiinews.com * publisher@allhawaiinews.com * 808.781.7945

In SUPPORT of HB 141 HD 1, Relating to Financial Disclosures

To the Honorable Sen. Karl Rhoads, Chair, and Sen. Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair and the Committee:

All Hawaii News, a state government and political news aggregate and commentary blog covering Hawaii since 2008, supports HB 141 HD1 adding important disclosures of business relations with lobbyists to legislators' annual financial disclosure reports. This bill is part of the Ethics Commission package and is also recommended by the Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct, also known as the Foley Commission.

Louis Brandeis, an associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, made his famous statement that "sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants" in 1913. But the sentiment holds true today -- perhaps even more so as the state of Hawaii emerges from a dark period of public corruption.

It is the case of a few bad apples making people wary of the entire bushel, even if every other apple in the bucket is perfectly fine.

Adding additional disclosures that include identification of business relationships with lobbying groups can only improve transparency and trust in government. In addition to greater transparency for the public, the act of recording this information will help emphasize to the public official the importance of keeping private affairs and public affairs separate for the benefit of the citizenry.

Mahalo nui for considering HB 141 HD1.

HB-141-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 9:54:01 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/14/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support. Oftentimes the public does not know about these connections, connections which can have an important bearing on the legislator's position on issues and voting on bills.

This is a very important bill which levels the playing field. Please pass.

HB-141-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 4:28:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/14/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this Bill.

HB-141-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 9:51:23 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/14/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Plese support HB141 HD1.

HB-141-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 7:14:18 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/14/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Peterson(Nani)	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support!