

JAN 25 2023

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE COUNTIES TO DEVOTE SUFFICIENT FUNDING TO THEIR
RESPECTIVE COUNTY ETHICS BOARDS OR COMMISSIONS.

1 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives adopted House
2 Resolution No. 9, Regular Session of 2022, to establish the
3 Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct (Commission); and
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5 WHEREAS, the Commission was tasked to ensure state laws and
6 rules relating to standards of conduct of public officers and
7 employees contain clear standards, enforcement, and penalties
8 and provide recommendations to increase awareness of, compliance
9 with, and deterrent effects of the Code of Ethics, lobbying
10 laws, campaign finance laws, and other relevant laws and rules;
11 and
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13 WHEREAS, the strength and stability of our democratic
14 government rely upon the public's trust in government
15 institutions, including the expectation that officers act
16 ethically with prudence, integrity, and sound judgment; and
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18 WHEREAS, an essential goal of the Commission was to provide
19 recommendations that would help restore public trust in state
20 government and increase the level of transparency in its
21 operations and accountability of individuals; and
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23 WHEREAS, the Commission convened regularly throughout 2022
24 to diligently review, discuss, and consider the issues
25 presented, submitted an interim report to the House of
26 Representatives outlining areas of immediate and long-term
27 focus, then continued its work with input from the public and
28 certain individuals and agencies to issue a final report with
29 various recommendations and accompanying proposed legislation;
30 and
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S.C.R. NO. 20

1 WHEREAS, many of the county ethics boards or commissions
 2 lack the necessary resources to adequately meet their
 3 constitutionally mandated obligations; and
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5 WHEREAS, limited or no staffing prevents these county
 6 ethics boards or commissions from sufficiently investigating
 7 complaints, providing advice to current county employees, or
 8 offering trainings on how to follow the pertinent code of
 9 ethics; now, therefore,
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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
 12 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the
 13 House of Representatives concurring, that the counties are urged
 14 to devote sufficient funding to their respective county ethics
 15 boards or commissions; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 18 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Executive Director
 19 and General Counsel of the Hawaii State Ethics Commission, Chair
 20 of the Hawaii State Ethics Commission, City and County of
 21 Honolulu Mayor, County of Maui Mayor, County of Kauai Mayor,
 22 County of Hawaii Mayor, Chair of the Honolulu City Council,
 23 Executive Director and Legal Counsel of the City and County of
 24 Honolulu Ethics Commission, Chair of the Maui County Council,
 25 Chair of the County of Maui Board of Ethics, Chair of the Kauai
 26 County Council, Chair of the County of Kauai Board of Ethics,
 27 Chair of the County of Hawaii Board of Ethics, and Chair of the
 28 County of Hawaii County Council.
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OFFERED BY: 
 By Request

