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To: [Standards of Conduct](#)
Subject: Testimony for 6/15 2 pm : Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct
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I am a life-long resident of Oahu. I received most of my education through our public schools and the University of Hawaii.

I have followed and advocated for or against legislation by the State House and Senate for many years. My experience of State and Local government in Hawaii, added to my naive optimism, did not prepare me for the depressing news of public corruption by Senators Kalani and Cullen revealed this year.

Reading the news and analysis of how this corruption was implemented, I realized that there was no system in place at the Legislature to prevent or reveal such corruption.

I strongly support the many calls for effective reform. Today (6/11/22) the Honolulu StarAdvertiser's Editorial lists a few important reforms which have been suggested before but have not been enacted and scheduled for implementation. I have re-worded their suggestions, which I fully support, below.

These include:

1. The Legislature should enact to prohibit elected officials from seeking and receiving political donations during the legislative session.
2. Eliminate the power of committee chairs to unilaterally kill bills by refusing to hold hearings or advancing them. They should at least come to a public committee vote.
3. Require conference committees to conduct all deliberation (except of course those prohibited by law such as personnel or legal matters) and votes in public.
4. Require lobbyists to disclose their interest in specific bills, with substantial fines for failure to do so*; and to undergo ethics training
5. Require lawmakers to disclose who is behind bills introduced "By Request".

I hope the Commission will carry forward these proposals with urgency and publicity to encourage their adoption. The citizens of Hawaii deserve a legislative process which facilitates honesty and good faith.

* Underlined text added by myself

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