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## HOUSE 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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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 House of Representatives of the  
12 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
13 Session of 2023, that the counties are urged to devote  
14 sufficient funding to their respective county ethics boards or  
15 commissions; and  
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
18 Resolution be transmitted to the Executive Director and General  
19 Counsel of the Hawaii State Ethics Commission, Chair of the  
20 Hawaii State Ethics Commission, City and County of Honolulu  
21 Mayor, County of Maui Mayor, County of Kauai Mayor, County of  
22 Hawaii Mayor, Chair of the Honolulu City Council, Executive  
23 Director and Legal Counsel of the City and County of Honolulu  
24 Ethics Commission, Chair of the Maui County Council, Chair of  
25 the County of Maui Board of Ethics, Chair of the Kauai County  
26 Council, Chair of the County of Kauai Board of Ethics, Chair of  
27 the County of Hawaii Board of Ethics, and Chair of the County of  
28 Hawaii County Council.  
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OFFERED BY:



JAN 25 2023

