
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE LEGISLATURE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State's sunshine
2 law, Hawaii's open meetings law, governs the manner in which
3 state and county boards and commissions, including the county
4 councils, must conduct their business. Conversely for the
5 legislature, their rules of each respective chamber of the
6 legislature take precedence over the application of the sunshine
7 law.

8 The legislature further finds that sunshine laws promote
9 ethical standards, prevent fraud and corruption, and engender
10 greater public trust. When the sunshine law was originally
11 enacted, the legislature declared, and codified in statute, that
12 "it is the policy of this State that the formation and conduct
13 of public policy - the discussions, deliberations, decisions,
14 and action of governmental agencies - shall be conducted as
15 openly as possible." The sunshine law helps ensure public trust
16 in the State's democratic process by making deliberations on
17 public policy decisions transparent.



1 The legislature also finds that the business conducted at
2 the legislature affects all people across the State.
3 Accordingly, legislative business should be conducted in as
4 transparent manner as possible to ensure that members of the
5 public can actively participate and provide valuable input in
6 the legislative process.

7 Thus, the purpose of this Act is to apply to the
8 legislature the same standards of transparency that are required
9 of all boards, commissions, and county councils.

10 SECTION 2. Section 92-10, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
11 repealed.

12 ~~["§92-10 Legislative branch; applicability.~~
13 ~~Notwithstanding any provisions contained in this chapter to the~~
14 ~~contrary, open meeting requirements, and provisions regarding~~
15 ~~enforcement, penalties and sanctions, as they are to relate to~~
16 ~~the state legislature or to any of its members shall be such as~~
17 ~~shall be from time to time prescribed by the respective rules~~
18 ~~and procedures of the senate and the house of representatives,~~
19 ~~which rules and procedures shall take precedence over this part.~~
20 ~~Similarly, provisions relating to notice, agenda and minutes of~~
21 ~~meetings, and such other requirements as may be necessary, shall~~



1 ~~also be governed by the respective rules and procedures of the~~
2 ~~senate and the house of representatives."]~~

3 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
4 and stricken.

5 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

6

INTRODUCED BY: _____

NAB

JAN 19 2024



H.B. NO. 2021

Report Title:

Legislature; Sunshine Law; Open Meetings; Applicability

Description:

Removes the Legislature's exemption from the State's sunshine law.

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