
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE PROHIBITION OF FUNDRAISERS OR FUNDRAISING
ACTIVITY WHILE THE LEGISLATURE IS IN SESSION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the public
2 perception that lawmaking is influenced by a legislator's
3 campaign fundraising should be addressed and eliminated. During
4 the legislative session, many individuals, businesses, and other
5 groups seek favorable action from legislators on measures
6 introduced and heard throughout the session. When legislators
7 solicit campaign donations from similar stakeholders while
8 legislation is pending, the public has reason to mistrust the
9 lawmaking process. As a result, the public becomes leery that
10 legislative votes are affected by fundraising activity. Even
11 with pure motives, public perception of the legislature is
12 lowered, along with public trust and confidence in elected
13 leaders.

14 In the past, bills to scrutinize legislative fundraisers
15 during the session have been introduced. For example, in 2003,
16 a bill requiring public disclosure of fundraising events while



1 the legislature is in session passed the senate, but failed in
2 the house of representatives.

3 The legislature believes that banning fundraisers during
4 regular sessions of the legislature will reduce public suspicion
5 and result in increased public trust and confidence in our
6 elected leaders.

7 The purpose of this Act is to prohibit fundraising activity
8 during regular sessions of the legislature.

9 SECTION 2. Section 11-203, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
10 amended to read as follows:

11 **"§11-203 Fundraisers and fundraising activities.** (a) As
12 used in this section, "fundraiser" means any function held for
13 the benefit of a person that is intended or designed, directly
14 or indirectly, to raise funds for political purposes for which
15 the price or suggested contribution for attending the function
16 is more than \$25 per person.

17 (b) There shall be no more than two fundraisers held for a
18 person prior to a general or special election in which that
19 person is either elected or defeated.

20 (c) No fundraiser or fundraising activity shall be held
21 unless a notice of intent to hold the function is filed by the
22 person in charge of the function with the commission prior to



1 the date of the function setting forth the name and address of
2 the person in charge, the price per person, the date, hour, and
3 place of the affair and the method thereof.

4 (d) Fundraisers sponsored by a candidate for a statewide
5 office are exempt from the \$25 limit of subsection (a) and the
6 restrictions of subsection (b), and fundraisers sponsored by a
7 party for a political purpose for the general benefit of the
8 party are exempt from the restrictions of subsection (b).

9 (e) No fundraiser or fundraising activity shall be held by
10 any state legislator during the period in which the legislature
11 is in regular session."

12 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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INTRODUCED BY:

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(BR)

JAN 19 2007



Report Title:

Elections; Fundraisers or Fundraising Activity

Description:

Prohibits state legislators from conducting a fundraiser or fundraising activity during regular sessions of the legislature.

