STAND. COM. REP. NO. 7

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 0 2 7007

RE: S.B. No. 755

S.D. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa President of the Senate Twenty-Fourth State Legislature Regular Session of 2007 State of Hawaii

## Madam:

Your Committee on Intergovernmental and Military Affairs, to which was referred S.B. No. 755 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSIONS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to provide standards for the selection of County Ethics Commissioners to ensure their impartiality and independence.

Testimony in support of this measure was received from The League of Women Voters of Hawaii.

Your Committee finds that in the interest of ensuring sufficient independence and impartiality, the selection process of the State Ethics Commissioners should serve as a model for the selection of County Ethics Commissioners. Each member of the State Ethics Commission is appointed by the Governor from a list of two persons nominated by the Judicial Council, and complies with Article XIV of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, which provides that: "Ethics commissioners shall be selected in a manner which assures their independence and impartiality."

Your Committee further finds that, in contrast, members of the Honolulu Ethics Commission are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Honolulu City Council, both of which are subject to oversight by the County Ethics Commission.



To remedy this perceived conflict of interest, this measure requires the counties to establish a selection process that ensures a minimal amount of involvement of persons who are to be subject to an ethics commission's oversight.

Your Committee has amended this measure to further clarify the selection process of County Ethics Commissioners by requiring each County Ethics Commissioner to be appointed from a list of nominees selected by an independent body and not subject to confirmation by the county legislative body.

The intent of your Committee is to create improved standards for the selection of County Ethics Commissioners that will allow them to fulfill their duties in an independent and impartial manner.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Intergovernmental and Military Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 755, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 755, S.D. 1, and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Intergovernmental and Military Affairs,

LORRAINE R. INOUYE, Chair

## The Senate Twenty-Fourth Legislature State of Hawaii

## Record of Votes Committee on Intergovernmental and Military Affairs IGM

Bill / Resolution No.:*  SB 755	Committee Referral:		Da	Date: 2/28/07	
The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.  If so, then the previous decision was to:					
The Recommendation is:					
Pass, unamended Pass, with amendments Hold Recommit 2312 2311 2310 2313					
Members		Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
INOUYE, Lorraine R. (C)	30-V-10-V-10-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-	/			
TSUTSUI, Shan S. (VC)					
HEMMINGS, Fred					
TOTAL					**************************************
Recommendation:  Adopted Not Adopted					
Chair's or Designee's Signature:					
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency					

<sup>\*</sup>Only one measure per Record of Votes