A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY.

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

- 1 SECTION 1. Chapter 466, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
- 2 amended by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and
- 3 to read as follows:
- 4 "PART . PEER REVIEW PROCESS
- 5 §466-A Definitions. As used in this part, unless the
- 6 context clearly indicates otherwise:
- 7 "Rating" means the type of report issued following a peer
- 8 review. Rating shall be "pass", "pass with deficiency", or
- 9 "fail".
- 10 "Sponsoring organization" means a third-party entity that
- 11 meets the standards specified by this part for administering a
- 12 peer review.
- 13 §466-B Establishment of peer review process;
- 14 confidentiality. (a) There is established a peer review
- 15 process to review the attest work of firms. The peer review
- 16 process shall be for educational or remedial, and not punitive,
- 17 purposes.

- 1 (b) The peer review process shall keep confidential the
- 2 identity of any person or firm for whom attest work has been
- 3 performed by the firm under review.
- 4 (c) Neither the proceedings nor the records of any peer
- 5 review process shall be subject to discovery. No person
- 6 involved in the peer review process shall be required to testify
- 7 on that process; provided that statements made by any person in
- 8 connection with the peer review process who is a party to an
- 9 action or proceeding, the subject matter of which was reviewed
- 10 in that process, shall be subject to discovery.
- 11 (d) This part shall not be construed to require any firm
- 12 to become a member of any sponsoring organization.
- 13 §466-C Standards for peer reviews and sponsoring
- 14 organizations. (a) Except as otherwise provided by section
- 15 466-F, the board shall adopt the Standards for Performing and
- 16 Reporting on Peer Reviews and any applicable ethical
- 17 requirements adopted by the American Institute of Certified
- 18 Public Accountants and the public company accounting oversight
- 19 board firm inspection standards for public company audit firms
- 20 required under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, as amended, as
- 21 its minimum standards for peer reviews.

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- Subject to sections 466-J and 466-K, qualified 1 2 sponsoring organizations shall be the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants peer review program, the Hawaii 3 Society of Certified Public Accountants peer review program, 4 5 state certified public accountant societies fully involved in 6 the administration of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants peer review program, the public company accounting 7 oversight board, the board, and other entities that are approved 8 9 by the board.
- 10 §466-D Enrollment and participation. (a) Every firm,
 11 including the Hawaii offices and Hawaii engagements of foreign
 12 or multistate firms, that is required to obtain a firm permit to
 13 practice pursuant to section 466-7 shall undergo a peer review
 14 every three years on the firm's Hawaii attest work.
 - (b) All firms subject to this part and performing Hawaii attest work as of December 31, 2014, shall enroll in the applicable program of an approved sponsoring organization by December 31, 2015, notify the board of enrollment in that program, and have a peer review performed by December 31, 2017.
- 20 (c) Any firm that begins performing Hawaii attest work
 21 after December 31, 2014, shall:

1	(1)	Notify the board within thirty days of the beginning
2		of the performance of attest work;
3	(2)	Enroll in the applicable programs of an approved
4		sponsoring organization within one year from its
5		initial licensing date or the performance of Hawaii
6		attest work that requires a peer review;
7	(3)	Provide the board with enrollment information within
8		one year of the date the Hawaii attest work was first
9		performed;
10	(4)	Have a peer review performed within eighteen months of
11		the date the Hawaii attest work was first performed;
12	· (5)	Adopt the peer review due date assigned by the
13		sponsoring organization and notify the board of the
14		peer review due date within thirty days of its
15		assignment; and
16	(6)	Schedule and begin an additional review within three
17		years of the previous review's due date, or earlier if
18		required by the sponsoring organization or the board;
19		provided that the firm shall be responsible for
20		anticipating its needs for peer review services in
21		sufficient time to enable the reviewer to complete the
22		review by the assigned review due date.

- 1 (d) A firm that does not perform Hawaii attest work shall
- 2 be exempt from the peer review process.
- 3 (e) If a firm is merged, combined, dissolved, or
- 4 separated, the sponsoring organization shall determine which
- 5 resultant firm shall be considered the succeeding firm. The
- 6 succeeding firm shall retain its peer review status and the
- 7 review due date.
- 8 (f) The board shall accept extensions granted by the
- 9 sponsoring organization to complete a peer review; provided that
- 10 the board is notified by the firm within twenty days of the date
- 11 that an extension is granted. The board may also grant a firm
- 12 an extension of time to comply with the peer review requirement
- 13 of this part based on a showing of hardship, including reasons
- 14 of health, military service, or other good cause as determined
- 15 by the board.
- (g) A firm that has been rejected by a sponsoring
- 17 organization for any reason shall make a request in writing to
- 18 the board for authorization to enroll in a program of another
- 19 sponsoring organization.
- 20 (h) A firm that chooses to enroll in a program of another
- 21 sponsoring organization pursuant to subsection (g) may do so;
- 22 provided that the firm authorizes the previous sponsoring

- 1 organization to communicate to the succeeding sponsoring
- 2 organization any outstanding corrective actions related to the
- 3 firm's most recent peer review. Any outstanding corrective
- 4 actions shall be cleared and outstanding fees paid prior to the
- 5 transfer between sponsoring organizations.
- 6 (i) An out-of-state firm performing Hawaii attest work
- 7 shall comply with this part.
- **8** (j) If a firm is subject to inspections pursuant to the
- 9 Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, as amended, and also performs Hawaii
- 10 attest work not subject to those inspections, the firm shall
- 11 enroll in a peer review program for review of its non-public
- 12 company Hawaii attest work in addition to the firm inspection
- 13 program required by the public company accounting oversight
- 14 board.
- 15 §466-E Peer review compliance reporting form. (a) Upon
- 16 the completion of a peer review, each reviewed firm shall submit
- 17 a peer review compliance reporting form to the board pursuant to
- 18 section 466-H. The peer review compliance reporting form shall
- 19 include the following:
- 20 (1) The name of the firm conducting the peer review;
- 21 (2) The name of the approved sponsoring organization;

1	(3)	Except for public company accounting oversight board
2		inspections, the name of the peer reviewer or
3		reviewers, who shall not be affiliated with the firm
4		being reviewed;
5	(4)	The rating issued to the firm as a result of the
6		review, which shall be clearly indicated in the review
7		report;
8	(5)	The date of completion of the peer review; and
9	(6)	A statement that the peer review or the inspection by
10		the public company accounting oversight board firm
11		inspection program includes the firm's Hawaii attest
12		engagements within the scope of the review or the
13		inspection.
14	(b)	A firm shall include, with the peer review compliance
15	reporting	form, the contemporaneous supplemental Hawaii peer
16	review rep	port pursuant to section 466-F, if:
17	(1)	A peer review report from an approved sponsoring
18		organization does not include the selection of a
19		Hawaii office or Hawaii attest engagement;
20	(2)	The peer reviewer does not hold permits to practice
21		public accountancy under section 466-7, and is
22		required to have permits to practice under section

1		466-7, except inspectors for the public company
2		accounting oversight board; or
3	(3)	The final report resulting from any inspection by the
4		public company accounting oversight board firm
5		inspection program does not include the firm's Hawaii
6		offices, if any, and Hawaii attest engagements in the
7		scope of the inspection, and the firm is not required
8		to enroll in another peer review program under section
9		466-D.
10	§466	-F Hawaii supplement to the peer review; report. (a)
11	A firm re	quired to undergo a peer review under this chapter
12	shall eng	age the services of a practitioner or firm holding a
13	permit is	sued under section 466-7 to perform the following
14	procedure	s to supplement the peer review report:
15	(1)	Obtain from the reviewed firm a list of Hawaii attest
16		engagements included in the scope of the peer review,
17		in accordance with the American Institute of Certified
18		Public Accountants Standards for Performing and
19		Reporting on Peer Reviews;
20	(2)	Select engagements from the list of engagements
21		obtained from the reviewed firm;

1	(3)	Obtain from the reviewed firm, the reports, financial
2		statements, work papers, and work product resulting
3		from the attest engagements selected;
4	(4)	Read and compare the reports, work papers, and work
5		product to an appropriate peer reviewed disclosure
6		checklist to evaluate the firm's compliance with
7		professional standards; and
8	(5)	Accumulate instances of noncompliance with
9		professional standards detected while performing the
10		procedures listed in this section.
11	(b)	The procedures required by this section shall be
12	performed	in accordance with section AT 201 of the Statements on
13	Standards	for Attestation Engagements adopted by the American
14	Institute	of Certified Public Accountants.
15	(C)	The supplemental Hawaii peer review report to the firm
16	and to the	e board shall state, at a minimum, the following:
17	(1)	Name of firm;
18	(2)	Date the supplemental Hawaii peer review was
19		completed;
20	(3)	Period that was reviewed;
21	(4)	Any Hawaii office or offices selected;
22	(5)	Number and type of Hawaii engagements reviewed;

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1	(6)	Any limitations that may have been imposed upon the
2		peer reviewer in complying with subsection (a),
3		including the selection of Hawaii engagements and peer
4		review standards by the peer reviewer; provided that
5		the acceptability of the limitations shall be subject
6		to board approval; and
7	(7)	The procedures performed and any instances of
8		noncompliance with professional standards found.
9	(d)	The practitioner or firm selected to perform the
10	procedure	s required by this section shall:
11	(1)	Hold a permit to practice under section 466-7;
12	(2)	Not be affiliated with the firm being reviewed; and
13	(3)	Be recognized as a qualified peer reviewer by a
14		sponsoring organization.
15	§ 4 66	-G Retention of documents. (a) Each reviewer shall
16	maintain	all documentation necessary to establish that each
17	review co	nforms to the review standards of the relevant review
18	program,	including the review working papers, copies of the
19	review re	port, and any correspondence indicating the firm's
20	concurren	ce and non-concurrence, along with any proposed
21	remedial	actions and any related implementation.

1	(b)	The documents described in subsection (a) shall be
2	retained	by the reviewer for a period of time corresponding to
3	the reten	tion period of the sponsoring organization, and upon
4	request o	f the board, shall be made available to the board;
5	provided	that the document shall be retained for at least one
6	hundred t	wenty days after the date of completion of the review
7	by the sp	onsoring organization.
8	§ 466	-H Reporting to the board. (a) A firm shall submit
9	to the bo	ard:
10	(1)	A copy of the peer review report and the final letter
11		of acceptance from the sponsoring organization, if the
12		report has a rating of "pass";
13	(2)	A copy of the peer review report, the firm's letter of
14		response, the corrective action letter, and the final
15		letter of acceptance if the report has a rating of
16		"pass with deficiency" or "fail"; or
17	(3)	A copy of any final report resulting from any
18		inspection by the public company accounting oversight
19		board firm inspection program together with
20		documentation of any significant deficiencies,
21		findings, and the firm's response.

1	(d)	For peer reviews scheduled after December 31, 2014,
2	any repor	t or document required to be submitted under subsection
3	(a) shall	be filed with the board as follows:
4	(1)	Firms enrolled in the American Institute of Certified
5		Public Accountants and Hawaii Society of Certified
6		Public Accountants peer review programs and
7		administered by the Hawaii Society of Certified Public
8		Accountants, within ten days of receipt of the notice
9		of completion from the Hawaii Society of Certified
10		Public Accountants, shall complete the peer review
11		compliance reporting form under section 466-E and
12		submit the form to the board along with the required
13		documents;
14	(2)	Firms otherwise enrolled in the American Institute of
15		Certified Public Accountants peer review program,
16		including those whose peer reviews are administered by
17		the National Peer Review Committee, within ten days of
18		receipt of the notice of completion from the
19		sponsoring organization, shall complete the peer
20		review compliance reporting form under section 466-E
21		and submit the form to the board along with the

required documents;

1	(3)	Firms enrolled in the public company accounting
2		oversight board inspection program shall, within ten
3		days of receipt of the notice of completion from the
4		public company accounting oversight board, complete
5		the peer review compliance reporting form required by
6		section 466-E and submit the form to the board along
7		with the required documents; and
8	(4)	Firms enrolled in any other peer review program
9		approved by this part shall submit the report
10		generated by that review process and all associated
11		documentation to the board in a form acceptable to the
12		board.
13	(C)	Any report or document submitted to the board under
14	this sect	ion, including the board's peer review compliance
15	reporting	form, shall be confidential.
16	§4 66	-I Restrictions on attest work; appeals. (a) The
17	board may	restrict a firm's or an individual's ability to
18	perform a	ttest work or certain types of attest work in Hawaii or

21 (b) A firm or individual shall have twenty days after the 22 filing of the peer review compliance reporting form to appeal a 2012-1334 SB2421 SD1 SMA.doc

for Hawaii engagements based on the findings or conclusions of a



firm's peer review.

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- 1 "pass with deficiency" or a "fail" rating that may result in a
- 2 restriction on a firm's or an individual's ability to perform
- 3 attest work or certain types of attest work.
- 4 (c) A firm may also appeal the findings or conclusions of
- 5 any peer review process under this part that results in a
- 6 restriction on a firm or an individual's ability to perform
- 7 attest work or certain types of attest work.
- 8 (d) The appeal process under this section shall include
- 9 the postponement of any adverse action during the pendency of
- 10 the appeal.
- 11 §466-J Procedures for sponsoring organization. (a) To
- 12 qualify as a sponsoring organization, a third-party entity shall
- 13 submit a peer review administration plan to the board for review
- 14 and approval. The peer review administration plan shall:
- 15 (1) Establish a peer review report committee and any
- 16 necessary subcommittees and provide professional staff
- as needed for the operation of the peer review
- 18 program;
- 19 (2) Establish a program to communicate to firms
- 20 participating in the peer review program the latest
- 21 developments in peer review standards and the most

1		common rindings in the peer reviews conducted by the
2		sponsoring organization;
3	(3)	Establish procedures for resolving any disagreement
4		that may arise out of the performance of a peer
5		review;
6	(4)	Establish procedures to resolve matters that may lead
7		to the dismissal of a firm from the peer review
8		program and conduct hearings pursuant to those
9		procedures;
10	(5)	Establish procedures to evaluate and document the
11		performance of each peer reviewer and conduct
12		evaluation proceedings that may lead to the
13		disqualification of a reviewer who does not meet the
14		American Institute of Certified Public Accountants
15		standards;
16	(6)	Require the maintenance of records of peer reviews
17		conducted under the program in accordance with the
18		records retention rules of the American Institute of
19		Certified Public Accountants and this part; and
20	(7)	Provide for periodic reports to the board on the
21		results of the peer review program; provided that
22		reports submitted to the board shall not contain

1		information concerning specific firms or peer
2		reviewers.
3	(b)	A sponsoring organization:
4	(1)	Shall be subject to review and oversight by the board;
5	(2)	Shall not require firms or the firms' owners or
6		employees to become members of the sponsoring
7		organization to participate in a peer review; and
8	(3)	Shall charge the same rate for peer review services to
9		members and nonmembers.
10	(c)	The public company accounting oversight board shall be
11	exempt fr	om the requirements of this section.
12	§4 66	-K Oversight of sponsoring organizations. (a) The
13	board sha	ll retain oversight of sponsoring organizations through
14	the peer	review oversight committee described in section 466-L.
15	(b)	The board shall periodically publish a list of
16	sponsorin	g organizations that have been approved by the board.
17	§4 66	-L Peer review oversight committee. (a) The board
18	shall ret	ain a peer review oversight committee for the purpose
19	of:	
20	(1)	Monitoring sponsoring organizations to ensure that
21		peer reviews are being conducted and reported in
22		accordance with standards for performing and reporting
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l	on peer re	eviews adopted	l by the Am	erican I	nstitute of
2	Certified	Public Accour	tants Peer	Review 1	Board;

- (2) Reviewing the policies and procedures of sponsoring organization applicants as to their conformity with the peer review standards of any applicable peer review organization and this part; and
- (3) Reporting to the board on the conclusions and recommendations reached as a result of performing the functions in paragraphs (1) and (2).
- 10 (b) Except to the extent otherwise required under this section and section 466-K(b), information concerning a specific 11 12 firm or reviewer obtained by the peer review oversight committee during oversight activities shall be confidential and shall not 13 14 be subject to discovery, pursuant to section 466-B, and reports submitted to the board by the peer review oversight committee 15 16 shall not contain information concerning specific firms or 17 reviewers. Members of the peer review oversight committee shall 18 be required to execute confidentiality statements for the 19 sponsoring organization that they oversee.
 - (c) Effective January 1, 2013, the peer review oversight committee shall consist of three individual licensees who hold permits to practice under section 466-7. No member of the peer

1	review	oversight	committee	shall	be	a	current	member	of	the

- 2 board, the Hawaii Society of Certified Public Accountants Peer
- 3 Review or Professional Ethics Committees, or the American
- 4 Institute of Certified Public Accountants Professional Ethics
- 5 Executive Committee. The members shall have significant
- 6 experience with attest engagements and currently be in the
- 7 practice of public accountancy at the partner or equivalent
- 8 level. The member's firm shall have received a report with a
- 9 rating of pass or an unmodified opinion from its last peer
- 10 review.
- 11 (d) The peer review oversight committee shall make an
- 12 annual recommendation to the board as to the qualifications of
- 13 an approved sponsoring organization to continue as an approved
- 14 sponsoring organization on the basis of the results of the
- 15 following procedures:
- 16 (1) Where the sponsoring organization is:
- 17 (A) The American Institute of Certified Public
- 18 Accountants;
- (B) A state certified public accountant society,
- 20 including the Hawaii Society of Certified Public
- 21 Accountants, fully involved in administering the

1			Amer	ican Institute of Certified Public
2			Acco	untants peer review program; or
3	(C)	The p	public company accounting oversight board,
4			the p	peer review oversight committee shall review
5			the p	published reports of the entity or the
6			enti	ty's successor to determine whether there is
7			an a	cceptable level of oversight; and
8	(2) W	here	e the	sponsoring organization is any organization
9	O	ther	than	n those listed in paragraph (1), the peer
10	r	evie	ew ove	ersight committee shall perform the following
11	f	unct	ions	• •
12	(A)	At le	east one member of the peer review oversight
13			comm:	ittee shall attend all meetings of the
14			spons	soring organization's peer review committee;
15			and	
16	(B)	Duri	ng these visits, the peer review oversight
17			comm:	ittee members shall:
18			(i)	Meet with the organization's peer review
19				committee during the committee's
20				consideration of peer review documents;
21		((ii)	Evaluate the organization's procedures for
22				administering the peer review program;

1		(111)	Examine, on the basis of a random selection,
2			a number of reviews performed by the
3			organization to include, at a minimum, a
4			review of the report on the peer review, the
5			firm's response to the matters discussed,
6			the sponsoring organization's letter of
7			acceptance outlining any additional
8			corrective or monitoring procedures, and the
9			required technical documentation maintained
10			by the sponsoring organization on the
11			selected reviews; and
12		(iv)	Expand the examination of peer review
13			documents if significant deficiencies,
14			problems, or inconsistencies are encountered
15			during the analysis of the materials.
16	(e)	In the eva	aluation of policies and procedures of
17	sponsoring	organizat	tion applicants, the peer review oversight
18	committee s	shall:	•
19	(1)	Examine th	ne policies as drafted by the applicant to
20	C	determine	whether the policies provide reasonable
21	ē	assurance	of conforming to the standards for peer
22	:	reviews;	

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1	(2)	Evan	date the procedures proposed by the applicant to
2		dete:	rmine whether:
3		(A)	Assigned reviewers are appropriately qualified to
4			perform the review for the specific firm;
5		(B)	Reviewers are provided with appropriate
6			materials;
7		(C)	The applicant has provided for consultation with
8			the reviewers on problems arising during the
9			review and that specified occurrences requiring
10			consultation are outlined;
11		(D)	The applicant has provided for the assessment of
12			the results of the review; and
13		(E)	The applicant has provided for an independent
14			report acceptance body that considers and accepts
15			the reports of the review and requires corrective
16			actions by firms with significant deficiencies;
17			and
18	(3)	Make	recommendations to the board as to approval of
19		the	applicant as a sponsoring organization.
20	(f)	Annu	ally, the peer review oversight committee shall
21	provide t	he bo	ard with a report on the continued reliance of
22	sponsorin	g org	anizations' peer reviews. The peer review
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- 1 oversight committee report shall provide reasonable assurance
- 2 that peer reviews are being conducted and reported on
- 3 consistently and in accordance with the Standards for Performing
- 4 and Reporting on Peer Review adopted by the American Institute
- 5 of Certified Public Accountants. A summary of oversight visits
- 6 shall be included with the annual report.
- 7 §466-M Oversight of peer reviewers for a Hawaii
- 8 supplemental peer review. (a) A peer reviewer for a Hawaii
- 9 supplement to the peer review report under section 466-F shall
- 10 be a person who:
- 11 (1) Holds a permit to practice public accountancy under
- 12 section 466-7; and
- 13 (2) Is not affiliated with the firm being reviewed.
- 14 (b) The board shall retain oversight of the peer reviewers
- 15 for a Hawaii supplemental peer review by monitoring the peer
- 16 reviewers to ensure that the peer reviewers are in compliance
- 17 with subsection (a) and that peer reviews are conducted in
- 18 accordance with the standards established under section 466-F.
- 19 (c) Information concerning any peer reviewer that is
- 20 obtained during the board's peer review oversight activities
- 21 shall be confidential as required by section 466-B.

- 1 (d) The board shall annually assess the qualifications of
- 2 all peer reviewers for a Hawaii supplemental peer review based
- 3 on a random selection of each reviewer's published Hawaii
- 4 supplemental peer review reports and shall determine whether the
- 5 published reports comply with subsection (b). The board may
- 6 suspend a person from being a peer reviewer for a Hawaii
- 7 supplemental peer review for a period not to exceed one year for
- 8 failure to comply with subsection (b).
- 9 (e) A peer reviewer suspended under subsection (d) may
- 10 appeal the suspension to the board at a public hearing that
- 11 shall be an action or proceeding subject to discovery under the
- 12 provisions of section 466-B(c)."
- 13 SECTION 2. Chapter 466, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
- 14 amended by designating sections 466-1 through 466-17 as part I
- 15 and inserting a title before section 466-1 to read as follows:
- 16 "PART I. GENERAL PROVISIONS"
- 17 SECTION 3. Act 66, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010, is amended
- 18 as follows:
- 19 1. By amending section 3 to read:
- 20 "SECTION 3. Section 466-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
- 21 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

1	"(b)	An applicant for the initial issuance or renewal of a			
2	permit shall have:				
3	(1)	A valid license;			
4	(2)	Completed continuing professional education hours, the			
5		content of which shall be specified by the board which			
6		may provide for special consideration by the board to			
7		applicants for permit renewal when, in the judgment of			
8		the board, full compliance with all requirements of			
9		continuing education cannot reasonably be met;			
10	(3)	Completed an application;			
11	(4)	Paid appropriate fees and assessments; and			
12	(5)	[Undergone any applicable] In the case of a renewal,			
13		undergone and provided proof of having undergone the			
14		peer review process [approved by the board of			
15		accountancy pursuant to section 466-13.] pursuant to			
16		<pre>part .""</pre>			
17	2. 1	By amending section 9 to read:			
18	"SEC	TION 9. This Act shall take effect upon its approval[;			
19	provided	that sections 2, 3, 4, and 5 shall take effect one year			
20	after the	-board of public accountancy reports the adoption of			
21	rules pur	suant to section 7 of this Act]."			

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3. By repealing section 7.

1	["SECTION 7. The board of public accountancy shall:
2	(1) Adopt rules pursuant to section 466-13(d), Hawaii
3	Revised Statutes, in section 5 of this Act; and
4	(2) Report the adoption of the rules under paragraph (1)
5	to the legislature immediately upon adoption of those
6	rules by means of written notice to the speaker of the
7	house of representatives and the president of the
8	senate."]
9	SECTION 4. Section 466-13, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
10	repealed.
11	["§466-13 Peer review. (a) Every firm, including the
12	Hawaii offices and Hawaii engagements of foreign or multistate
13	firms, required to obtain a firm permit to practice pursuant to
14	section 466-7 shall undergo a peer review every three years on
15	the firm's Hawaii attest work and submit evidence of such peer
16	review at the time of the renewal of the firm's permit to
17	practice under section 466-7.
18	(b) The board shall establish a peer review process to
19	review attest work of firms. The identity of the person or firm
20	for whom the professional work is done shall be preserved in
21	confidence. If the review discloses information that a firm has
22	not met the appropriate professional standards, the board may
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1	require further investigation of the firm. The peer review
2	process required by this section shall be for educational or
3	remedial and not punitive purposes.
4	(c) The board may authorize a third party entity to
5	administer the peer review required under subsection (a);
6	provided that the entity shall not require firms or the firms!
7	owners or employees to become members of the entity to
8	participate in peer review and shall charge the same rate for
9	peer review services to both members and nonmembers. If the
10	board chooses to authorize a third party entity to administer
11	peer reviews, the third party shall be held to the highest
12	standards of professionalism, quality, and ethics.
13	(d) The board shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 to
14	establish requirements and procedures for the qualification of
15	entities to conduct peer reviews and for the performance of peer
16	reviews by these entities. The rules shall include:
17	(1) A process for the conduct of peer review to be
18	followed by the board and by an authorized third party
19	entity;
20	(2) Definitions, standards, and requirements for an
21	acceptable peer review;

1	(3)	Standards for certification and qualification of peer
2		reviewers;
3	(4)	A process for a firm to appeal the findings or
4		conclusions of any peer review process that results in
5		the denial, termination, or nonrenewal of a firm
6		permit pursuant to section 466-9; provided that the
7		appeal process shall include the postponement of any
8		adverse action during the pendency of the appeal; and
9	(5)	Provisions for the grant of an extension of time to a
10		firm for compliance with the peer review requirement
11		based on a showing of hardship including for reasons
12		of health, military service, or other good cause as
13		determined by the board.
14	(e)	Neither the proceedings nor the records of the peer
15	review pro	ocess shall be subject to discovery. Except as
16	hereinaft	er provided, no person involved in the peer review
17	process s	hall be required to testify on that process; provided
18	that state	ements made by any person in connection with the peer
19	review pro	ocess who is a party to an action or proceeding the
20	subject m	atter of which was reviewed in that process, shall be
21	subject t	o-discovery."]

- 1 SECTION 5. In codifying the new sections added by section
- 2 1 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute
- 3 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating
- 4 the new sections in this Act.
- 5 SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
- 6 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.
- 7 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.

Report Title:

Public Accountancy; Peer Review; Attest

Description:

Establishes a peer review process for public accounting firms that engage in attest work. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.