

JAN 20 2012

S.B. NO. 2561

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FUNDRAISING 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 suspicious
10 that legislative votes may be affected by fundraising activity.
11 Even if the legislators' motives are pure, public perception of
12 the legislature and the lawmaking process is lowered, along with
13 the public trust and confidence in elected officials.

14 The legislature believes that banning fundraisers during
15 regular sessions of the legislature will reduce public suspicion
16 and result in increased public trust and confidence in our
17 elected leaders.



1 The purpose of this Act is to prohibit fundraising activity
2 of legislators during regular sessions of the legislature.

3 SECTION 2. Section 11-342, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 "~~[+]§11-342[+]~~ ~~[Fundraiser, notice of intent.]~~

6 **Fundraisers.** (a) No fundraiser shall be held unless a notice
7 of intent to hold the fundraiser is filed with the commission
8 setting forth the name and address of the person in charge, the
9 price per person, the date, hour, and place of the fundraiser,
10 and the method thereof.

11 (b) The person in charge of the fundraiser shall file the
12 notice with the commission prior to the fundraiser.

13 (c) No fundraiser shall be held by any candidate for
14 public office who also holds a seat in the state legislature
15 during the period in which the legislature is in regular
16 session.

17 ~~[+e+]~~ (d) As used in this section, "fundraiser" means any
18 function held for the benefit of a candidate, candidate
19 committee, or noncandidate committee that is intended or
20 designed, directly or indirectly, to raise contributions for
21 which the price or suggested contribution for attending the
22 function is more than \$25 per person."

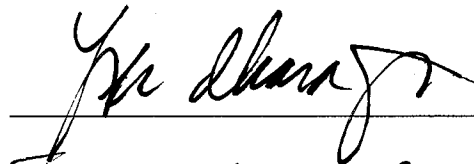


1 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2012, or
4 upon its approval, whichever is later.

5

INTRODUCED BY:


Suzanne Chun Oakland



S.B. NO. 2561

Report Title:

Elections; Fundraisers; Legislators

Description:

Prohibits fundraisers for legislators during regular sessions of the legislature.

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

