
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that after every session,
2 laws are enacted or concurrent resolutions are adopted during
3 session that require new studies and audits of various state
4 government departments or agencies. Conducting and completing
5 many of these studies and audits require an appropriation and
6 also consume valuable time and resources of the department,
7 agency, office, or branch of government tasked with preparing
8 the study or audit. The legislature also finds that the
9 resultant report is often not widely reviewed by the legislature
10 or public and can sometimes go completely unnoticed despite the
11 fact that these reports can contain valuable information. The
12 legislature further finds that mandating a public hearing or
13 informational briefing which would facilitate discussion and
14 analysis of the report findings and recommendations would better
15 serve the public interest.

16 The purpose of this Act is to require a public hearing or
17 informational briefing on certain audit reports and studies



1 enacted with an appropriation within one year of the receipt of
2 the report or study in order to properly review and consider the
3 information provided therein.

4 SECTION 2. Chapter 21, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
5 by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and to read
6 as follows:

7 "PART . HEARINGS OR BRIEFING ON REPORTS

8 §21- Procedures for consideration of reports. (a) For
9 any study or audit enacted with a legislative appropriation,
10 including those studies or audits in any budget measure, and
11 which are conducted by:

- 12 (1) The executive departments and agencies, including the
13 Hawaii health systems corporation;
- 14 (2) The auditor;
- 15 (3) The judiciary;
- 16 (4) The legislative reference bureau; or
- 17 (5) The Office of Hawaiian Affairs,

18 requires the state agency completing the report of the study or
19 audit to submit the report, at a minimum, to the clerk of each
20 house, the chair of the applicable subject matter committee of



1 each chamber, and in compliance with the requirements of section
2 93-16.

3 (b) The respective chairs of the committees to whom a
4 report is submitted under subsection (a) shall conduct a public
5 hearing or informational briefing on the report during the
6 legislative session or during the legislative interim in which
7 the report is submitted within one year of receipt. Waivers for
8 a public hearing or briefing may be granted by the president of
9 the senate or the speaker of the house of representatives, as
10 appropriate; provided that the reasons for granting any waiver
11 shall be posted on the legislature's website and publicly
12 noticed at the capitol.

13 **§21- Applicability; reports excluded.** This part shall
14 not apply to annual reports or reports of a routine nature such
15 as those prepared by executive departments, boards, or agencies;
16 provided that the chair of any committee of the legislature
17 shall not be precluded from holding a public hearing or
18 informational briefing on any report."

19 SECTION 3. Chapter 21, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
20 by designating sections 21-1 to 21-19 as part I, entitled
21 "Investigating Committees".



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1 SECTION 4. Sections 21-1, 21-2, 21-6, 21-13, 21-15, and
2 21-19, Hawaii Revised Statutes, are amended by substituting the
3 word "part" wherever the word "chapter" appears, as the context
4 requires.

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

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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 20 2017



H.B. NO. 379

Report Title:

Government Accountability; Legislative Hearings; Studies and Reports

Description:

Requires any report of a study or an audit enacted with a legislative appropriation and conducted by an executive department or agency, including the Hawaii health systems corporation, and by the legislative reference bureau, auditor, judiciary, or Office of Hawaiian Affairs, to submit the report to the clerk of each house, senate president, speaker of the house, chairs of the appropriate subject matter committee of each house, and the legislative reference bureau library. Requires a public hearing or informational briefing within one year of receipt of report, except if waived by the senate president or speaker of the house of representatives. Excludes certain routine reports.

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