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

15           The purpose of this Act is to require a public hearing or  
16 informational briefing on certain audit reports and studies  
17 enacted with an appropriation within one year of the receipt of



1 the report or study in order to properly review and consider the  
2 information provided therein.

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

6 "PART . HEARINGS OR BRIEFINGS ON REPORTS

7 §21- Procedures for consideration of reports. (a) For  
8 any study or audit enacted with a legislative appropriation to  
9 fund the study or audit, including those studies or audits in  
10 any budget measure, and which are conducted by:

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

17 the state agency completing the study or audit shall submit the  
18 report to the chair of the applicable subject matter committee  
19 of each chamber and if no chair is currently appointed to such  
20 committee, then to the presiding officer of that chamber. The



1 report shall also be in compliance with the requirements of  
2 section 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 within one year  
6 of the chair receiving the report. Upon request of the chair, a  
7 one-year extension of time or waiver of the requirement to  
8 conduct a public hearing or informational briefing may be  
9 granted by the president of the senate or the speaker of the  
10 house of representatives, as appropriate; provided that the  
11 reasons for the granting a one-year extension of time or waiver  
12 of the requirement under this part shall be posted on the  
13 legislature's website and publicly noticed at the capital."

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

17 SECTION 4. Sections 21-1, 21-2, 21-6, 21-13, 21-15, and  
18 21-19, Hawaii Revised Statutes, are amended by substituting the  
19 word "part" wherever the word "chapter" appears, as the context  
20 requires.

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



**Report Title:**

Government Accountability; Legislative Hearings; Studies and Reports; Waiver

**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 be submitted to the 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 extension granted to the hearing or briefing requirement by the senate president or speaker of the house of representatives or if the requirement is waived by the senate president or speaker of the house of representative. (SD1)

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