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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MANDATORY ETHICS TRAINING.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that requiring all state  
2 legislators and employees to be aware of and knowledgeable about  
3 the state ethics code is in the best interests of the State.  
4 Regular training on the state ethics code will ensure that state  
5 legislators and employees are aware of current ethics laws and  
6 will increase the public's confidence in state government.

7       Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish live  
8 and online ethics training courses to be designed and  
9 administered by the state ethics commission and to make ethics  
10 training mandatory for all state legislators and employees.

11       SECTION 2. Section 84-42, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
12 amended to read as follows:

13       "~~{}~~§84-42~~{}~~ Mandatory ethics training course. ~~[All~~  
14 ~~state officers and employees enumerated in section 84-41]~~ (a)  
15 Legislators, members of the board of education, trustees of the  
16 office of Hawaiian affairs, the governor, the lieutenant  
17 governor, executive department heads and deputies, and every



1 other person whose financial disclosure statement is a public  
2 record pursuant to section 84-17(d) shall complete [an] a live  
3 ethics training course administered by the state ethics  
4 commission [as provided in this part. For the purposes of this  
5 part, "ethics training" includes education and training in:

6 ~~(1) The ethics laws set forth in this chapter; and~~

7 ~~(2) The lobbying laws set forth in chapter 97.] within~~  
8 ninety days of taking office and at least once every  
9 four years thereafter.

10 (b) All other employees shall complete either a live or an  
11 online ethics training course administered by the state ethics  
12 commission within ninety days of becoming an employee and at  
13 least once every four years thereafter."

14 SECTION 3. Section 84-43, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
15 amended to read as follows:

16 **"§84-43 Ethics training [~~course.~~] courses; live and**  
17 **online.** (a) The state ethics commission shall establish,  
18 design, supervise, and conduct live and online ethics training  
19 courses for [~~the officers to whom this part applies.] all~~  
20 persons required to complete training under section 84-42.



(b) The live ethics training course may be conducted in person or via videoconference and shall include:

- (1) Explanations and discussions of the ethics laws, administrative rules, and relevant internal policies;
- (2) Specific technical and legal requirements;
- (3) The underlying purposes and principles of ethics laws;
- (4) Examples of practical application of the laws and principles; and
- (5) A question-and-answer participatory segment regarding common problems and situations.

The state ethics commission shall develop the methods and prepare any materials necessary to implement the live ethics training course.

(c) The online ethics training course shall include explanations, discussions, and examples of the practical application of ethics laws and principles as the ethics commission deems appropriate. The state ethics commission shall develop the methods and prepare any materials necessary to implement the online ethics training course.

~~[-e-]~~ (d) The state ethics commission shall:

- (1) Administer the ethics training ~~[course-]~~ courses;



(2) Designate those of its legal staff who are to conduct the live ethics training course; ~~[and]~~

(3) Notify each ~~[officer]~~ legislator or employee ~~[enumerated in section 84-41]~~, either directly or via the employee's employing agency, that their attendance or participation in ~~[this]~~ an applicable ethics training course is mandatory~~[-]~~; provided that a legislator's or employee's non-receipt of notice shall not be a defense to a charge concerning a violation of this chapter; and

(4) Design and administer the online ethics training course.

~~[(d)]~~ (e) The state ethics commission may repeat the live course as necessary to accommodate all persons who are required to attend.

~~[(e)]~~ (f) Each state agency shall provide to the state ethics commission in a timely manner the names and electronic mail addresses of those persons required to take the applicable course ~~[in a timely manner]~~ and shall assist the commission by providing adequate meeting facilities and equipment for the ethics training ~~[course-]~~ courses."



1       SECTION 4.   Section 84-41, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2   repealed.

3       ~~["§84-41 Applicability of part. This part applies to~~  
4   ~~legislators, members of the board of education, trustees of the~~  
5   ~~office of Hawaiian affairs, the governor, the lieutenant~~  
6   ~~governor, and executive department heads and deputies. This~~  
7   ~~part does not apply to any other officer or employee of the~~  
8   ~~State."]~~

9       SECTION 5.   Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, all  
10   state legislators and employees who are in active service on the  
11   effective date of this Act shall successfully complete a live or  
12   online ethics training course, as applicable, within twelve  
13   months following the effective date of this Act and at least  
14   once every four years thereafter; provided that the requirement  
15   to successfully complete an ethics training course within the  
16   twelve month period immediately following the effective date of  
17   this Act shall not apply to those state legislators or employees  
18   who, within the past three years from the effective date of this  
19   Act, have successfully completed a live or online ethics  
20   training course, as applicable.



1       SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.  
3       SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Hawaii State Ethics Commission Package; Ethics Code; Live and Online Ethics Training Courses; Mandatory Training

**Description:**

Requires state legislators and employees to complete mandatory ethics training courses every four years, subject to certain requirements. 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.*

