
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MANDATORY LOBBYIST TRAINING.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the house of
2 representatives adopted House Resolution No. 9 (2022) to
3 establish the commission to improve standards of conduct. The
4 resolution requests the commission ensure state laws and rules
5 relating to standards of conduct of public officers and
6 employees contain clear standards, enforcement, and penalties
7 and provide recommendations to increase awareness of, compliance
8 with, and deterrent effects of the code of ethics, lobbying
9 laws, campaign finance laws, and other relevant laws and rules.

10 Pursuant to House Resolution No. 9, the commission to
11 improve standards of conduct convened regularly throughout 2022
12 to diligently review, discuss, and consider the issues
13 presented, submitted an interim report to the house of
14 representatives outlining areas of immediate and long-term
15 focus, then continued its work with input from the public and
16 invited individuals and agencies to issue a final report with
17 various recommendations and accompanying proposed legislation.



1 The legislature also finds that the strength and stability
2 of our democratic government rely upon the public's trust in
3 government institutions, including the expectation that officers
4 act ethically with prudence, integrity, and sound judgement.
5 Therefore, an essential goal of the commission was to provide
6 recommendations that would help restore public trust in state
7 government and increase the level of transparency in its
8 operations and accountability of individuals.

9 The legislature further finds that requiring all lobbyists
10 to be educated on the state lobbyist law and state ethics code
11 is in the best interests of the State. Regular training by the
12 state ethics commission will ensure that all persons engaged in
13 lobbying activities are aware of current state lobbying and
14 ethics laws, which will increase the public's confidence in
15 state government.

16 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to implement
17 recommendations of the commission to improve standards of
18 conduct by establishing a lobbyist training course to be
19 designed and administered by the state ethics commission and
20 making lobbyist training mandatory for all lobbyists who are
21 required to register under chapter 97, Hawaii Revised Statutes.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 97, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
2 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to
3 read as follows:

4 "§97- Mandatory lobbyist training. (a) A lobbyist who
5 has not yet registered with the state ethics commission shall
6 complete a lobbyist training course administered by the state
7 ethics commission before registering as a lobbyist with the
8 state ethics commission.

9 (b) Registered lobbyists shall repeat the lobbyist
10 training course required by this section at least once every two
11 years.

12 (c) A lobbyist shall certify completion of the lobbyist
13 training course at the time of registering or renewing
14 registration and shall maintain all certificates or other
15 documentation of completion for a period of six years from the
16 date of registration or renewal.

17 (d) For good cause shown, the state ethics commission may
18 grant a lobbyist an extension of time to complete the training
19 course required by this section.

20 (e) The state ethics commission shall develop and conduct
21 online and live training courses that explain state lobbyist



1 laws under this chapter and relevant ethics laws under chapter
2 84. Live training courses may be conducted in person or via
3 videoconference as necessary to accommodate all persons who are
4 required to complete the course."

5 SECTION 3. Section 97-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
6 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

7 "(b) Each lobbyist shall provide and certify the following
8 information:

9 (1) The name, mailing address, and business telephone
10 number of the lobbyist[-];

11 (2) The name and principal place of business of each
12 person by whom the lobbyist is retained or employed or
13 on whose behalf the lobbyist appears or works and a
14 written authorization to act as a lobbyist from each
15 person by whom the lobbyist is employed or with whom
16 the lobbyist contracts[-];

17 (3) The subject areas on which the lobbyist expects to
18 lobby[-]; and

19 (4) The completion of the mandatory lobbyist training
20 course pursuant to section 97- ."



1 SECTION 4. Section 97-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

3 "(a) Any person who:

4 (1) Negligently fails to file any statement or report
5 required by this chapter;

6 (2) Negligently files a statement or report containing
7 false information or material omission of any fact;

8 (3) Engages in activities prohibited by section 97-5; or

9 (4) Fails to provide information required by section 97-2,
10 including certification of completion of the mandatory
11 lobbyist training course, or 97-3;

12 shall be subject to an administrative fine imposed by the state
13 ethics commission that shall not exceed \$1,000 for each
14 violation of this chapter. All fines collected under this
15 section shall be deposited into the general fund."

16 SECTION 5. In the absence of good cause shown, each
17 lobbyist who is registered with the state ethics commission as
18 of the effective date of this Act shall complete the lobbyist
19 training course required by section 97- , Hawaii Revised
20 Statutes, within six months following the effective date of this



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1 Act and at least once every two years following completion of
2 the previous lobbyist training course.

3 SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
4 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

6

INTRODUCED BY: *Stun*

JAN 20 2023



H.B. NO. 709

Report Title:

Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct; State Ethics Commission; Mandatory Lobbyist Training; Administrative Fine

Description:

Requires a lobbyist training course to be designed and administered by the state ethics commission. Makes the lobbyist training course mandatory for all lobbyists who are required to register and renew their registration with the state ethics commission. Imposes administrative fines for violations. Effective 7/1/2024.

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