
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE COUNTY GOVERNMENTS TO REVIEW THEIR RESPECTIVE
GOVERNMENT STRUCTURES TO IDENTIFY ORGANIZATIONAL RISKS OF
CORRUPTION AND ETHICAL VIOLATIONS AND TO DEVELOP SYSTEMATIC
IMPROVEMENTS TO MINIMIZE THOSE RISKS.

1 WHEREAS, the strength and stability of our democratic
2 government rely upon the public's trust in government
3 institutions, including the expectation that officers act
4 ethically with prudence, integrity, and sound judgment; and
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6 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Constitution places a duty on all
7 civil servants to "exhibit the highest standards of ethical
8 conduct"; and
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10 WHEREAS, recent allegations of corruption and ethics
11 violations were made against several county officials throughout
12 the State; and
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14 WHEREAS, in the City and County of Honolulu, several
15 Department of Planning and Permitting employees were charged
16 with and pleaded guilty to accepting bribes in exchange for
17 expediting the permitting process for projects; and
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19 WHEREAS, in the County of Hawaii, a former Hawaii County
20 housing official was charged with, and later pleaded guilty to,
21 one felony charge of honest services wire fraud, after accepting
22 nearly \$2,000,000 in bribes and kickbacks in exchange for the
23 approval of affordable housing credits; and
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25 WHEREAS, in the County of Maui, a former Maui County
26 official was accused by federal prosecutors of taking \$2,000,000
27 in bribes to steer \$19,000,000 in contracts to certain
28 companies, and was charged with conspiracy to deprive the public
29 of their right to honest services; and
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1 WHEREAS, these events have shaken the public's trust in the
2 strength and integrity of the county governments; and
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4 WHEREAS, a review of each county's government structure,
5 including identifying problems and developing systematic
6 improvements that will prevent future situations involving
7 corruption and ethical violations, is needed to help restore the
8 public's trust in government; now, therefore,
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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
11 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular
12 Session of 2023, the Senate concurring, that the county
13 governments are urged to review their respective government
14 structures to identify organizational risks of corruption and
15 ethical violations and to develop systematic improvements to
16 minimize those risks; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the counties, when performing
19 their respective reviews, are urged to:
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- 21 (1) Examine and identify gaps or shortfalls in government
22 structures that could have contributed to the recent
23 cases involving corruption or ethics violations by
24 county employees within their respective
25 jurisdictions;
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- 27 (2) Consult with and use existing state and county
28 resources and department and agency personnel to carry
29 out the objectives of this Concurrent Resolution; and
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- 31 (3) Develop mechanisms for county-level independent
32 oversight of executive departments; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor of the City
3 and County of Honolulu; Mayors of the Counties of Hawaii, Kauai,
4 and Maui; Chairperson of the Honolulu City Council; and
5 Chairpersons of the Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui County Councils.
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OFFERED BY: *Sam*
By Request
JAN 18 2023

