

HB-142

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 1:28:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/9/2023 10:00:00 AM

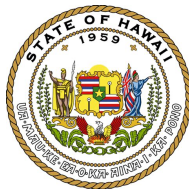
Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Foley	Testifying for Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Dear Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

As Chair of the Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct, I support HB 142 which would prohibit lobbyists from making prohibited gifts to legislators and state employees with administrative fines imposed for violations. See Commission December 1, 2022 Final Report at page 33.

Mahalo, Judge Daniel Foley (ret.)



HAWAI'I STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

State of Hawai'i · Bishop Square, 1001 Bishop Street, ASB Tower 970 · Honolulu, Hawai'i

Committee: Senate Committee on Judiciary
Bill Number: HB 142
Hearing Date/Time: March 9, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
Re: Testimony of the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission in **SUPPORT** of
H.B. 142, Restricting Lobbyists from Giving Prohibited Gifts

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members:

The Hawai'i State Ethics Commission ("Commission") **supports** H.B. 142, which imposes the same gifting regulations on lobbyists that are already in place for state employees, legislators, and board and commission members.

This measure makes no changes to Hawaii's existing gift law, Haw. Rev. Stat. § 84-11, except to impose a gifting restriction on lobbyists. If passed, this measure would preclude lobbyists from giving a prohibited gift. Existing prohibitions and exceptions to the gift law would remain the same.

The intent of this measure is to lessen the number of situations where a legislator or employee must refuse a prohibited gift. The Commission would use this measure as an opportunity to better educate the lobbying community about the gift law and seek a more uniform application. To the extent new exceptions are administratively created over time, this measure wisely incorporates those changes.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 142.

Very truly yours,

/S/ Robert D. Harris

Robert D. Harris
Executive Director and General Counsel

HB-142

Submitted on: 3/7/2023 12:54:43 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/9/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill was part of the Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct. It will prohibit lobbyists from making prohibited gifts to legislators and employees. It puts some teeth in the law. Its passage will help improve the public's perception of the legislature after the English and Cullen scandals. Please pass.

Testimony in Support of HB142

Submitted for: Judiciary Committee Hearing, scheduled for Thursday, 3/9/23 at 10:00 AM.

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Greg Misakian and I support HB142.

This is my first year submitting testimony to the Hawaii Legislature for numerous bills, two of which I co-wrote regarding measures which will provide better consumer protections for condominium owners throughout Hawaii (HB178 and HB1501). What I learned along the way is that the process that is currently in place invites unethical and improper behavior, and without protections in place, including oversight, enforcement, and accountability, Hawaii will never be a fair and democratic state.

I thank those that are working to call out unethical and unlawful behavior, and those who provide measures that help make legislators, lobbyists, developers, and others accountable for their actions.