



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 1884 HD1
Hearing Date/Time: March 14, 2024, 9:30 a.m.
Re: Testimony of the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission in **SUPPORT** of
HB 1884 HD1, Requiring Disclosure of Financial Relationships with
Lobbying Organizations

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

The Hawai'i State Ethics Commission ("Commission") **supports** HB 1884 HD1, which clarifies that legislators should disclose significant financial relationships with lobbying organizations. This bill arises out of the Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct from last year.

The proposed bill enhances transparency regarding potential conflicts of interest. Under this measure, if a legislator receives \$5,000 or more in value from a lobbying organization (and not just from a lobbyist), such information would be public. Such disclosure is crucial for identifying potential conflicts of interest, fostering transparency, and bolstering public confidence in the integrity of legislators. This bill also acknowledges there may be situations where the legislator is unaware of potential financial relationships and establishes an exception.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 1884.

Very truly yours,

/S/ Robert D. Harris

Robert D. Harris
Executive Director and General Counsel