



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: SB 1187
Hearing Date/Time: February 17, 2023, 9:35 a.m.
Re: Testimony of the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission in **SUPPORT** of SB 1187

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Committee Members:

The Hawai'i State Ethics Commission (“Commission”) **supports** SB 1187, which increases the post-employment restriction on former legislators from twelve months to twenty-four months.

Currently, the post-employment law¹ prohibits legislators from:

- 1) Representing any entity, for pay, before either house of the Legislature; and
- 2) Representing any entity, for pay, before any state agency, on any matter the legislator worked on while a legislator.

“Represent” means to “engage in direct communication” pursuant to Haw. Rev. Stat. § 84-18(g). Existing restrictions do not prohibit a legislator from “behind the scenes” work, such as drafting testimony for someone else’s signature.

The Commission supports strong post-employment restrictions to maintain and improve the public’s trust in state government. Legislators are uniquely in the public eye, and there is a logical reason to extend the existing restrictions to match the length of a typical representative term (2 years). Such a step would reduce the appearance of influence trading between a former legislator and a recent colleague.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 1187.

Very truly yours,

/S/ Robert D. Harris
Robert D. Harris
Executive Director and General Counsel

¹ The post-employment law is a bit more extensive than what is described here. Any individual concerned about its application is welcome to contact the Commission for confidential and timely advice.

SB-1187

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 9:23:12 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/17/2023 9:35:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dawn Poiani | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support SB1187

This bill will help reduce legislator corruption.

SB-1187

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 11:20:30 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/17/2023 9:35:00 AM

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

Comments:

The will improve the standing of the legislature in the eyes of the public. Please support.

SB-1187

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 4:23:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/17/2023 9:35:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Cathy Goeggel | Testifying for Animal Rights Hawai'i | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Please pass this bill. Serving in public office should not be the easy way for politicians to segue into lobbying.

Mahalo

LATE

SB-1187

Submitted on: 2/17/2023 9:43:20 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/17/2023 9:35:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nani | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloah Chair, vice chair, and members of the committee,

My name is Nani and I support this bill with comments.

There should be stronger ethics process reviews on all state officials and their department heads.
Help avoid conflict of interests & self interest deals.

Mahalo,

Nani B