

JAN 17 2025

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawai'i's existing
2 campaign finance law prohibits companies who receive state and
3 county contracts from making campaign contributions. The
4 prohibition against state and county contractors does not extend
5 to any owners, officers, or family members of the contractor,
6 meaning that those individuals can still make contributions to
7 election campaigns.

8 The legislature also finds that there are no campaign
9 contribution prohibitions on organizations that receive grants
10 from the State or counties. These grantees receive public funds
11 appropriated by a legislative body, similar to state or county
12 contractors.

13 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to reduce the
14 potential for donations to unduly influence policy-making and to
15 improve actual and perceived standards of conduct by expanding
16 the prohibition against contributions to candidate and
17 noncandidate committees to include contributions from state and



1 county grantees and the officers and immediate family members of
2 a state or county contractor or grantee.

3 SECTION 2. Section 11-355, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 "[+]§11-355[+] Contributions [~~by state and county~~
6 ~~contractors~~]; state or county contractors; state or county
7 grantees; officers and immediate family members of state or
8 county contractors or grantees; prohibited. (a) It shall be
9 unlawful for any person who enters into any contract with the
10 State, any of the counties, or any department or agency thereof
11 either for the rendition of personal services, the buying of
12 property, or furnishing of any material, supplies, or equipment
13 to the State, any of the counties, any department or agency
14 thereof, or for selling any land or building to the State, any
15 of the counties, or any department or agency thereof, if payment
16 for the performance of the contract or payment for material,
17 supplies, equipment, land, property, or building is to be made
18 in whole or in part from funds appropriated by the legislative
19 body, at any time between the execution of the contract through
20 the completion of the contract, to:



1 (1) Directly or indirectly make any contribution, or
2 promise expressly or impliedly to make any
3 contribution to any candidate committee or
4 noncandidate committee, or to any candidate or to any
5 person for any political purpose or use; or

6 (2) Knowingly solicit any contribution from any person for
7 any purpose during any period.

8 (b) It shall be unlawful for the owners, officers, and any
9 immediate family member of any state or county contractor under
10 subsection (a), at any time between the execution of the
11 contract through the completion of the contract pursuant to
12 subsection (a), to directly or indirectly make any contribution
13 to any candidate committee or noncandidate committee.

14 (c) It shall be unlawful for any person who receives a
15 grant or subsidy from the State pursuant to chapter 42F, or from
16 a county pursuant to a county charter or code, at any time
17 between the execution of the contract through the completion of
18 the contract for the grant or subsidy to:

19 (1) Directly or indirectly make any contribution, or
20 promise expressly or impliedly to make any
21 contribution to any candidate committee or



1 noncandidate committee, or to any candidate or to any
2 person for any political purpose or use; or

3 (2) Knowingly solicit any contribution from any person for
4 any purpose during any period.

5 (d) It shall be unlawful for the owners, officers, and any
6 immediate family member of a state or county grantee under
7 subsection (c), at any time between the execution of the
8 contract through the completion of the contract for the grant or
9 subsidy pursuant to subsection (c), to directly or indirectly
10 make any contribution to any candidate committee or noncandidate
11 committee.

12 (e) Any candidate, candidate committee, or noncandidate
13 committee receiving a contribution made unlawful by this section
14 shall return the unlawful contribution to the contributor within
15 thirty calendar days of receipt. If any unlawful contribution
16 is not returned to the contributor within thirty calendar days
17 of receipt, the unlawful contribution shall escheat to the
18 Hawaii election campaign fund.

19 (f) At the time of the execution of a contract subject to
20 this section, the state or county contractor or grantee shall
21 provide to the state or county office executing the contract a



1 list of the names of any owners, officers, and immediate family
2 members of the state or county contractor or grantee. For the
3 purposes of assessing compliance with this section, the state or
4 county office shall make the reported information available
5 electronically to the commission, which shall then make the
6 information available to candidate and noncandidate committees
7 on a password-protected section of the commission's website.

8 ~~[(b)]~~ (g) Except as provided in ~~[subsection]~~ subsections
9 (a), (b), (c), and (d), this section does not prohibit or make
10 unlawful the establishment or administration of, or the
11 solicitation of contributions to, any noncandidate committee by
12 any person other than the state or county contractor, the state
13 or county grantee, or the owners, officers, and immediate family
14 members of a state or county contractor or grantee, for the
15 purpose of influencing the nomination for election, or the
16 election of any person to office.

17 ~~[(e)]~~ (h) For purposes of this section, "completion of the
18 contract" means that the parties to the government contract have
19 either terminated the contract prior to completion of
20 performance or fully performed the duties and obligations under
21 the contract, no disputes relating to the performance and



1 payment remain under the contract, and all disputed claims have
2 been adjudicated and are final."

3 SECTION 3. Section 11-364, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

5 "(a) Any candidate, candidate committee, or noncandidate
6 committee that receives in the aggregate more than the
7 applicable contribution limit in section 11-357, 11-358, 11-359,
8 or 11-360 shall return any excess contribution to the
9 contributor within thirty calendar days of receipt of the excess
10 contribution. Any candidate, candidate committee, or
11 noncandidate committee that receives in the aggregate more than
12 the applicable contribution limit in section 11-362 shall return
13 any excess contribution to the contributor within thirty
14 calendar days of the end of the election period; provided that
15 the candidate, candidate committee, or noncandidate committee
16 may choose which contributions to return. Any excess
17 contribution not returned to the contributor within thirty
18 calendar days shall escheat to the Hawaii election campaign
19 fund."



1 SECTION 4. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
2 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
3 begun before its effective date.

4 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
5 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

7

INTRODUCED BY:

Karl Rhoads



S.B. NO. 809

Report Title:

Campaign Spending Commission Package; State or County Contractors; State or County Grantees; Officers; Immediate Family Members; Prohibited Contributions; Disclosures

Description:

Prohibits state or county grantees, officers and immediate family members of state or county contractors, and officers and immediate family members of state or county grantees, from contributing to candidate committees and noncandidate committees for the duration of the contract. Prohibits state or county grantees from knowingly soliciting any contributions. Requires candidates, candidate committees, and noncandidate committees to return any unlawful contribution to the contributor within 30 calendar days of receipt. Provides that an unlawful contribution shall escheat to the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund if it is not returned to the contributor within 30 calendar days. Requires disclosures of the names of any owners, officers and immediate family members of a state or county contractor or grantee.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

