

JAN 23 2026

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the integrity of
2 Hawaii's government and democratic process rests upon the
3 public's confidence in institutions that provide robust and
4 independent oversight of the political landscape. Government
5 agencies such as the campaign spending commission, state ethics
6 commission, auditor's office, office of the ombudsman, and
7 legislative reference bureau are vital watchdogs, each charged
8 with independent oversight to ensure that state operations
9 remain free from impropriety and are conducted with transparency
10 and accountability.

11 The legislature further finds that while the campaign
12 spending commission is administratively placed within the
13 executive branch, like its legislative-branch counterparts it
14 shares the common public purpose of protecting against
15 corruption, holding officials and state employees accountable,
16 and maintaining the public's trust. To this end, it is critical
17 that the campaign spending commission have the necessary



1 resources to effectively fulfill its mission. However, unlike
2 its legislative-branch counterparts, the campaign spending
3 commission's compensation structure is disparate. To recruit
4 and retain experienced staff of the campaign spending
5 commission, it is in the public's interest to provide a similar
6 compensation structure that acknowledges the equally critical
7 responsibilities, functions, independence, and professional
8 demands to ensure that public trust and the integrity of state
9 government is safeguarded uniformly and consistently.

10 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to increase the
11 salaries of the campaign spending commission's staff to align
12 with the compensation levels of similar legislative-branch
13 agencies having compliance and enforcement duties, thereby
14 securing the highest standards of public oversight for the
15 people of Hawaii.

16 SECTION 2. Section 11-314, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
17 amended to read as follows:

18 "§11-314 Duties of the commission. The duties of the
19 commission under this part are to:

20 (1) Develop and adopt forms required by this part;



- 1 (2) Adopt and publish a manual for all candidates,
2 candidate committees, and noncandidate committees,
3 describing the requirements of this part, including
4 uniform and simple methods of recordkeeping;
- 5 (3) Preserve all reports required by this part for at
6 least ten years from the date of receipt by the
7 commission;
- 8 (4) Permit the inspection, copying, or duplication of any
9 report required by this part pursuant to rules adopted
10 by the commission under chapter 91; provided that this
11 paragraph shall not apply to the sale or use of
12 information under section 11-344;
- 13 (5) Ascertain whether any person has failed to file a
14 report required by this part or has filed a
15 substantially defective or deficient report. The
16 commission shall notify the person by first class mail
17 that a fine may be assessed for the failure to file or
18 the filing of a substantially defective or deficient
19 report, and the defective or deficient report shall be
20 corrected and explained. All fines collected under
21 this section as authorized by sections 11-340 and



1 11-410 shall be deposited in the general fund of the
2 State;

3 (6) Hold public hearings;

4 (7) Investigate and hold hearings for receiving evidence
5 of any violations pursuant to subpart I of this part;

6 (8) Adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91;

7 (9) Request the initiation of prosecution for the
8 violation of this part pursuant to section 11-411;

9 (10) Administer and monitor the distribution of public
10 funds under this part;

11 (11) Suggest accounting methods for candidates, candidate
12 committees, or noncandidate committees in connection
13 with reports and records required by this part;

14 (12) Employ or contract with, without regard to chapters
15 76, 78, and 89, persons it finds necessary for the
16 performance of its functions, including a full-time
17 executive director[~~, and to fix their compensation~~];
18 provided that the commission shall have the authority,
19 at its discretion, to dismiss persons employed by or
20 contracted with the commission[~~+~~]. The salary of the
21 executive director shall be the same as the salary of



1 the director of health. The executive director shall
2 appoint an associate director and other officers and
3 employees as may be necessary to carry out the
4 functions of the commission. The salary of the
5 associate director shall be not more than eighty-seven
6 per cent of the salary of the executive director. The
7 executive director shall fix the compensation of the
8 employees within the amounts appropriated by the
9 legislature. The executive director, associate
10 director, and commission's full-time staff shall be
11 entitled to participate in any employee benefit
12 program or privilege;

13 (13) Conduct random audits and field investigations, as
14 necessary; and

15 (14) File for injunctive relief when indicated."

16 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$138,679 or so much
18 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for salary
19 increases and other cost adjustments authorized by chapter 89C,
20 Hawaii Revised Statutes, for the executive director, associate



1 director, and employees of the campaign spending commission
2 excluded from collective bargaining.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the campaign
4 spending commission for the purposes of this Act.

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

7 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

8
INTRODUCED BY:


By Request



S.B. NO. 2533

Report Title:

Campaign Spending Commission Package; Salaries; Appropriation

Description:

Adjusts the salaries of the Campaign Spending Commission's Executive Director and Associate Director to align with similar government officials who have compliance and enforcement responsibilities. Appropriates funds.

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

