CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REP. NO. 162 -26

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAY 1 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2247
S.D. 1
H.D. 1
C.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Sir and Madam:

Your Committee on Conference on the disagreeing vote of the Senate to the amendments proposed by the House of Representatives in S.B. No. 2247, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO POLITICAL FUNDRAISING BY EXECUTIVE BRANCH EMPLOYEES,"

having met, and after full and free discussion, has agreed to recommend and does recommend to the respective Houses the final passage of this bill in an amended form.

The purpose of this measure is to prohibit any executive branch employee who is nominated or appointed by the Governor to a compensated position subject to confirmation by the Senate and who exercises authority or significant influence over the solicitation, award, or administration of state contracts, from engaging in certain campaign fundraising activities.

Your Committee on Conference finds that public confidence in state government depends on assurance that procurement decisions are made without undue political influence. However, the participation of executive branch employees in certain campaign fundraising

activities creates the perception, even absent misconduct, of "pay-to-play" politics. This measure will restrict certain executive branch employees from engaging in these activities to reduce the risk of pay-to-play politics and strengthen the public trust.

Your Committee on Conference has amended this measure by:

(1) Expanding the prohibition on engaging in certain campaign fundraising activities to include any executive branch employee who is nominated or appointed by the Governor to a compensated position subject to confirmation by the Senate, rather than just those who exercise authority or significant influence over State contracts;

(2) Making it effective upon its approval; and

(3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the managers of your Committee on Conference that is attached to this report, your Committee on Conference is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2247, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Final Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2247, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, C.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the managers:
of the managers:

ON THE PART OF THE HOUSE

DAVID A. TARNAS
Co-Chair

SUE L. KEOHOKAPU-LEE LOY
Co-Chair

ON THE PART OF THE SENATE

KARL RHOADS
Chair

CHRIS LEE
Co-Chair

Hawai'i State Legislature

Record of Votes of a Conference Committee

CCR 162-26

Bill / Concurrent Resolution No.: **SB 2247, SD 1, HD 1**	Date/Time: 5/1/26; 2:18pm

☒ The recommendation of the House and Senate managers is to pass with amendments (CD).

☒ The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision.

☐ The recommendation of the Senate Manager(s) is to AGREE to the House amendments made to the Senate Measure

☐ The recommendation of the House Manager(s) is to AGREE to the Senate amendments made to the House Measure.

Senate Managers	A	WR	N	E
RHOADS, Karl, Chr.	✓			
LEE, Chris, Co-Chr.	✓			
AWA, Brenton	✓			
TOTAL	3	0	0	0

House Managers	A	WR	N	E
TARNAS, David A., Co-Chr.	✓			
KEOHOKAPU-LEE LOY, Sue L., Co-Chr.	✓			
POEPOE, Mahina	✓			
GARCIA, Diamond	✓			
TOTAL	4	Ø	Ø	Ø

A = Aye **WR** = Aye with Reservations **N** = Nay **E** = Excused

Senate Recommendation is:
☒ Adopted ☐ Not Adopted

House Recommendation is:
☒ Adopted ☐ Not Adopted

Senate Lead Chair's or Designee's Signature: Karl Rhoads

House Lead Chair's or Designee's Signature: David Tarnas

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