STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2467

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 19 2026

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

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

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred S.B. No. 2247 entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent 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 from engaging in certain campaign fundraising activities.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission, Campaign Spending Commission, Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action, League of Women Voters of Hawaii, and four individuals.

Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from one individual.

Your Committee finds that public confidence in state government depends on assurance that procurement decisions are made free from political influence. Even absent actual misconduct, the perception that fundraising relationships could influence contract awards or contract management can undermine trust in the fairness and integrity of governmental decision-making. This measure will establish clear separation



between procurement authority and campaign fundraising to protect vendors, public officials, and the public from circumstances that could reasonably call the objectivity of contracting decisions into question.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

(1) Specifying that an executive branch employee who is nominated or appointed by the Governor to a compensated position subject to confirmation by the Senate, shall be prohibited from engaging in certain campaign fundraising activities once confirmed and until employment in a covered positions ends; and

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

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2247, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2247, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Judiciary,

KARL RHOADS, Chair

The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary
JDC

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:
SB 2247	JDC, WAM	2/18/26

☐ The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.

If so, then the previous decision was to: _____

The Recommendation is:

☐ Pass, unamended 2312 ☑ Pass, with amendments 2311 ☐ Hold 2310 ☐ Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RHOADS, Karl (C)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike (VC)	✓			
CHANG, Stanley	✓			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.				✓
AWA, Brenton	✓			
TOTAL	4	—	—	1

Recommendation: ☑ Adopted ☐ Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature:

Distribution: Original — File with Committee Report; Yellow — Committee; Pink — Drafting Agency

*Only one measure per Record of Votes

Revised: 01/02/26