

SB-2824

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 9:44:52 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Weltin	Testifying for Kaʻu Voices-An Indivisible Chapter on the Island of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Elefante, Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,**I am in strong support of SB2824.****SB2824 will establish a clear duty for public servants to report known or suspected bribery. Public service should carry an obligation to speak up when bribery occurs.****This bill is important because bribery often persists when it is treated as an “open secret.” Even when people are aware something is wrong, the lack of a reporting requirement allows unethical behavior to remain hidden, uninvestigated, and normalized.**

Of note, in almost all political conversations I've been in with my community members of late, the topic of the bribery situation that has allegedly taken place in the State Legislature has come up. We must uphold election integrity and assure our citizenry that no one is above the law and all crimes will be investigated and prosecuted and that turning a blind eye to criminal activity is also a crime.

This bill reinforces ethical standards, and helps restore trust in our government.**Mahalo,****Elizabeth Weltin as an individual citizen and on behalf of Kaʻū Voices-An Indivisible Chapter and member of the Indivisible Hawai'i Statewide Network (IHSN)**



**Senate Committee on Labor and Technology and
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Strongly Supports SB2824
Wednesday, February 4th, 3 PM in Conference Room 225**

Aloha Chair Elefonte, Chair Fukunaga, and member of the committees,

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action supports SB2824, mandatory reporting for bribery.

Public trust in democratic institutions continues to be undermined by both real and perceived corruption. While bribery and related conduct are already illegal, the lack of a clear requirement for public servants to report such behavior allows corruption to remain hidden and unaddressed.

SB 2824 affirms that public service carries an obligation not only to avoid corruption, but to report it when it is known. Establishing a duty to report strengthens transparency, reinforces accountability, and helps prevent corruption from becoming normalized through silence.

Many public-serving professions already require mandatory reporting as part of their ethical responsibilities. Applying a similar standard to public servants reflects the seriousness of the trust placed in them and the importance of safeguarding the integrity of government.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge support for SB 2824.

Thank you for your support and consideration,

Anne Frederick, Executive Director



Protect Democracy Move Forward

www.indivisiblehawaii.org
info@indivisiblehawaii.org

LATE

To: Chair Elefante, Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee

Hearing Date/Time: 02-04-26 3:00 PM

Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 225

Re: Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2824

Aloha Chair Elefante, Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Indivisible Hawai'i, thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of SB2824.

SB2824 will establish a clear duty for public servants to report known or suspected bribery. Public service should carry an obligation to speak up when bribery occurs.

This bill is important because bribery often persists when it is treated as an "open secret." Even when people are aware something is wrong, the lack of a reporting requirement allows unethical behavior to remain hidden, uninvestigated, and normalized.

This bill reinforces ethical standards, and helps restore trust in our government.

Sincerely,

Marlene Thom

Indivisible Hawai'i Good Government & Secure Elections Team

The mission of the 14-chapter Indivisible Hawai'i Statewide Network (IHSN) is to protect Hawai'i and democracy by defending civil rights, communities and values, most importantly, Hawai'i's Constitutionally protected spirit of Aloha. In October 2025, IHSN with other partners turned out over 22,000 residents on all major islands to say No Dictators! and to stand up for democracy. This call-to-action was part of Indivisible national's mobilization of more than 7 million across the country as the voice of the people, committed to election integrity and to evolving as a place of equity, opportunity and peace.

SB-2824

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 7:02:02 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L.Perry Support

2824 SB RELATING TO BRIBERY.	PSM/LBT	CR 225 & Videoconference	Feb 4, 2026 3:00 PM
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SB-2824

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 8:12:02 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tim Huycke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2824.

SB-2824

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 8:51:07 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy D Moser	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you

SB-2824

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 9:35:31 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jody Weidemann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Bribery is a serious illegal action and should be at least a Misdemeanor

SB-2824

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 3:56:23 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanani Kai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this Bill.

Mahalo.

Kanani Kai

Member Hawaii Indivisible.

SB-2824

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 9:24:08 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amber Kanehailua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2824. Thank you.

SB-2824

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 9:30:51 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kayla Marie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this measure

SB-2824

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 10:56:41 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vivian S. Toellner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill SB 2824. Sadly, there is even a need for this bill.

When someone starts to imply a favor of any kind, ask them to put it in writing....that will stop a lot of this nonsense....people say a lot of things, but will they write it down and sign their name to it? Then you have proof of the incident, and not your word against theirs. Also tape recordings would be helpful.

Reporting it is also helpful for others to resist temptation. People can be caught unaware, in tight spots, or off guard, by these offers.

There was a time when, we thought our officials were above reproach....but those times have long gone, as we see in the mess leading our country now.

It is good to bring these things to light and expose them. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please support this Bill SB 2824.

SB-2824

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 11:53:25 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lily Troy MD	Testifying for Maui Indivisible member	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bribery as misdemeanor

SB-2824

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 12:25:02 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roger Hamada	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2824.

This measure further promotes "clean government" which is especially important in the public perception. It will be helpful to combat voter impression that we don't matter, only people with money are heard by lawmakers.

Additionally, this measure, if passed into law, helps give an out to people who culturally feel like they shouldn't "rat" on other people whom they know are doing wrong. Now, potential reporters would have the reason or excuse of "not getting in trouble myself" or "it's the law" for doing the right thing and reporting wrongdoing.

Thank you.

SB-2824

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 12:48:44 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Younghee Overly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for hearing this measure.

Younghee Overly,

a member of Indivisible Hawaii.

SB-2824

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 9:05:58 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James E Raymond	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you -- I am a member of Indivisible Windward.

SB-2824

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 10:11:17 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ron Brown	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Confidence must be restored in our state government and this bill makes a sensible start. I join with INDIVISIBLE in supporting it; thank you for letting me give this testimony.

SB-2824

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 5:01:14 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janet Teare	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for supporting this bill to mitigate bribery in our State government.

SB-2824

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 5:36:35 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Van Horne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this measure.

SB-2824

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 9:12:49 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Bonk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you.

SB-2824

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 9:40:30 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane Aquino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am for honesty and Transparency. I support this bill. Reveal the legislator who took a \$35,000 BRIBE!

Thanks, Jane Aquino, Indivisible Hawaii, Hawaii J20

SB-2824

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 10:03:44 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel R Freund	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please to the right thing and advance this good government initiative. - Dan Freund (Kapaa)

SB-2824

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 10:47:45 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Winternitz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Elefante, Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

I am in strong support of SB2824.

SB2824, by requiring public servants report known or suspected bribery, may help avert the embarrassment of cash bribes in paper bags handed to elected officials. This bill, by reinforcing ethical standards, is a start in restoring public faith in state government.

Mahalo, Elizabeth Winternitz, Kula

Your Name, Town

SB-2824

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 10:51:57 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This is unfortunate to have to be mandated and should be automatic, but since we have documented cases of bribery- we can only imagine what we haven't found. Mandatory reporting of bribery should be an easy bill to pass and should be mandatory already. Holding our officials accountable is imperative for public trust. Since public trust is already at an all time low, let's take this small step in the right direction and pass this bill.

SB-2824

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 10:56:23 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Martha Nakajima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Thank you. Martha Nakajima, Honolulu, member of Indivisible

SB-2824

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 11:04:30 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacey Alapai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Elefante, Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

I am in strong support of SB2824.

SB2824 will establish a clear duty for public servants to report known or suspected bribery. Public service should carry an obligation to speak up when bribery occurs.

This bill is important because bribery often persists when it is treated as an “open secret.” Even when people are aware something is wrong, the lack of a reporting requirement allows unethical behavior to remain hidden, uninvestigated, and normalized.

This bill reinforces ethical standards, and helps restore trust in our government.

Mahalo,

Stacey Alapai, Maui

SB-2824

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 11:08:56 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Troy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This seems important to reduce bribery

SB-2824

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 11:19:35 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl burghardt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Elefante, Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

I am in **STRONG** support of SB2824. **THIS BILL** is **HUGE** for HAWAII and the trust of the people of these islands. As we continue to wait (while knowing that someone knows) for the \$35,000 person to be identified. It is so important that we set steps in place to keep this from happening in the future.

SB2824 will establish a clear duty for public servants to report known or suspected bribery. Public service should carry an **obligation** to speak up when bribery occurs. (Where is this obligation now)

This bill is important because bribery often persists when it is treated as an “open secret.” Even when people are aware something is wrong, the lack of a reporting requirement allows unethical behavior to remain hidden, uninvestigated, and normalized.

There are so many unethical things happening at the Federal, State and County levels, in general. it is good to see this bill which reinforces ethical standards, and helps restore trust in our government.

Mahalo,

Cheryl Burghardt

Nuuanu Oahu

SB-2824

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 11:24:10 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leo Nahe Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support [SB 2824](#)!

SB-2824

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 11:58:54 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelle Lindenmann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Elefante, Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

I am in strong support of SB2824.

SB2824 will establish a clear duty for public servants to report known or suspected bribery. Public service should carry an obligation to speak up when bribery occurs.

This bill is important because bribery often persists when it is treated as an “open secret.” Even when people are aware something is wrong, the lack of a reporting requirement allows unethical behavior to remain hidden, uninvestigated, and normalized.

Without any accountability, people are less inclined to trust our elected officials to do the right thing.

This bill reinforces ethical standards, and helps restore trust in our government.

Mahalo,

Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

SB-2824

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 12:01:38 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pamela Elders	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Elefante, Chair Fukunaga, and

Members of the Committee,

I strongly support of SB2824.

SB2824 will establish a clear duty for public servants to report known or suspected bribery.

Public service should carry an obligation to speak up when bribery occurs.

This bill is important because bribery often persists when it is treated as an “open secret.”

Even when people are aware something is wrong, the lack of a reporting requirement allows unethical behavior to remain hidden, uninvestigated, and normalized.

The legislature must ensure lawmaker ethics are upheld by all its members and all its members must be obligated to report wrongdoing. This builds public trust in the people we have delegated to make our democracy work.

Mahalo,

Pamela Elders,

Laupahoehoe, HI 96764

SB-2824

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 12:59:37 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcia Kemble	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Greetings Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of SB2824, which will establish a clear duty for public servants to report known or suspected bribery. Public service should carry an obligation to speak up when bribery occurs. Even when people are aware something is wrong, the lack of a reporting requirement allows unethical behavior to remain hidden, uninvestigated, and normalized. Reforms like this are needed to reduce the profound cynicism that so many Hawaii residents have about politics.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Marcia Kemble

Makiki

SB-2824

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 1:09:46 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jackie Keefe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Elefante, Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

I am in strong support of SB2824.

SB2824 will establish a clear duty for public servants to report known or suspected bribery. Public service should carry an obligation to speak up when bribery occurs.

This bill is important because bribery often persists when it is treated as an “open secret.” Even when people are aware something is wrong, the lack of a reporting requirement allows unethical behavior to remain hidden, uninvestigated, and normalized.

This bill reinforces ethical standards, and helps restore trust in our government.

Mahalo,

Jackie Keefe, Lahaina

SB-2824

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 1:32:04 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of SB2824 because I believe it will help create trust in the government, which is a vital component to have in a representative democracy. Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-2824

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 1:55:31 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ken Stover	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support

SB-2824

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 2:25:44 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steven Singer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in support of SB 2824.

None of us can simply look the other way when we see or know of bribery. If we want a fair and democratic government, we have to be willing to testify.

After recent events where bribery was documented but not disclosed, it is imperative that we move to make this common sense measure the law.

Please pass SB 2824.

Dr. Steven Singer, Hawaii Kai

SB-2824

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 3:35:44 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lindsay Roth	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of SB2824.

This bill reflects a constructive approach to strengthening systems that impact community wellbeing and public trust. SB2824 advances thoughtful, responsible policy that prioritizes clarity, fairness, and long-term benefit for Hawai‘i’s people.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support.

Sincerely,
Lindsay Roth, LCSW
Kailua-Kona, Hawai‘i

SB-2824

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 3:36:41 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Addie Berliner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank You for supporting this bill!

SB-2824

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 3:44:08 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen A Valasek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of SB2824 both personally and as a member of Indivisables Hawaii

SB2824 will establish a clear duty for public servants to report known or suspected bribery. Public service should carry an obligation to speak up when bribery occurs.

This bill reinforces ethical standards, and helps restore trust in our government.

Mahalo, Karen Valasek

SB-2824

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 4:54:53 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ANDREW ISODA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Elefante, Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

I am in strong support of SB2824.

SB2824 will establish a clear duty for public servants to report known or suspected bribery. Public service should carry an obligation to speak up when bribery occurs.

This bill is important because bribery often persists when it is treated as an “open secret.” Even when people are aware something is wrong, the lack of a reporting requirement allows unethical behavior to remain hidden, uninvestigated, and normalized.

This bill reinforces ethical standards, and helps restore trust in our government.

Mahalo,

Andrew Isoda
Lahaina, Mau'i

SB-2824

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 5:02:07 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kencho Gurung	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Elefante, Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

I am in strong support of SB2824.

SB2824 will establish a clear duty for public servants to report known or suspected bribery. Public service should carry an obligation to speak up when bribery occurs.

This bill is important because bribery often persists when it is treated as an “open secret.” Even when people are aware something is wrong, the lack of a reporting requirement allows unethical behavior to remain hidden, uninvestigated, and normalized.

This bill reinforces ethical standards, and helps restore trust in our government.

Mahalo,

Kencho Gurung, Hilo

SB-2824

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 6:01:01 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emma Waters	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Writing in strong support. Bribery is serious and must be reported. I am a member of Indivisible Hawaii. Mahalo.

SB-2824

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 6:35:07 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann Dorsey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Chair Elefante, Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,**I am in strong support of SB2824 and urge you to pass it.**SB2824 will establish a clear duty for public servants to report known or suspected bribery. Public service should carry an obligation to speak up when bribery occurs.**This bill is important because bribery often persists when it is treated as an “open secret.” Even when people are aware something is wrong, the lack of a reporting requirement allows unethical behavior to remain hidden, uninvestigated, and normalized.**This bill reinforces ethical standards, and helps restore trust in our government.**Thank you*

SB-2824

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 3:02:18 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of SB2824.

SB2824 will establish a clear duty for public servants to report known or suspected bribery. Public service should carry an obligation to speak up when bribery occurs.

This bill is important because bribery often persists when it is treated as an “open secret.” Even when people are aware something is wrong, the lack of a reporting requirement allows unethical behavior to remain hidden, uninvestigated, and normalized.

This bill reinforces ethical standards, and helps restore trust in our government. Mahalo.

SB-2824

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 7:46:19 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Elefante, Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

I am in strong support of SB2824.

SB2824 will establish a clear duty for public servants to report known or suspected bribery. Public service should carry an obligation to speak up when bribery occurs.

This bill is important because bribery often persists when it is treated as an “open secret.” Even when people are aware something is wrong, the lack of a reporting requirement allows unethical behavior to remain hidden, uninvestigated, and normalized.

This bill reinforces ethical standards, and helps restore trust in our government.

Mahalo, Shay Chan Hodges

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND TECHNOLOGY

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair

Senator Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair

Senator Chris Lee, Vice Chair

HEARING:

Wednesday, February 4, 2026 at 3:00 PM

Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF **SB 2824 - RELATING TO BRIBERY.**

Aloha Chair Elefante, Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lamosao, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Christine Andrews, and I live in Wailuku, Maui. I write to you today in **support of SB 2824, Relating to Bribery**. SB 2824 establishes the offense of failure to report bribery as a misdemeanor. If a public servant reasonably knows that a bribe was offered, solicited, or accepted, they must report it to the Attorney General or a county prosecutor within 30 days.

I have been an attorney licensed in Hawai'i for over 25 years. I am sure the members of the Committee are aware of the New York Times article, "Inside the Late-Night Parties Where Hawaii Politicians Raked In Money," published in January, 2024, with the tagline, "[a]fter the state passed a law barring government contractors from donating to politicians, fund-raising parties showed just how completely the reform effort failed"¹. As a long-term resident of Maui, at a time when my Lahaina neighbors were depending on the kindness of donations pouring in from around the world to help with recovery from the wildfire, an article in a major newspaper highlighting apparent corruption and apparent bribery in Hawaii is not only shameful, it directly impairs the recovery of the people of Lahaina by creating a chilling effect on charitable contributions.

We must act together now to establish norms and standards that address unethical behavior on the part of our elected officials and those who attempt to influence them in a manner contrary to the public interest. Currently, bribery often continues not because it goes unnoticed, but because it goes unreported. While bribery is illegal, current law does not require public officials to report it, allowing misconduct to remain hidden or unaddressed.

This bill is important because bribery often persists when it is treated as an "open secret." Even when people are aware something is wrong, the lack of a reporting requirement allows unethical behavior to remain hidden, uninvestigated, and normalized. I request your support of SB2824 which will establish a

¹ Blaze Lovell, Eric Sagara & Irene Casado Sanchez. Inside the Late-Night Parties Where Hawaii Politicians Raked In Money. New York Times; January 17, 2024.

clear duty for public servants to report known or suspected bribery. Public service should carry an obligation to speak up when bribery occurs.

Mahalo nui for taking an important step for restoring trust in government by supporting SB2824.

Christine L. Andrews, J.D.
Wailuku, Maui

SB-2824

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 9:10:07 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

thank you for supporting this bill

SB-2824

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 9:34:11 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cristina Holt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2824.

Public trust in government depends on transparency and accountability. While bribery and related corrupt conduct are already illegal, the absence of a clear requirement to report known instances of bribery allows wrongdoing to remain hidden and unaddressed.

SB 2824 affirms that public service carries an obligation not only to avoid corruption, but to report it when it is known. Silence should not be an acceptable option when public trust is at stake. Requiring reporting helps deter corruption, strengthens accountability, and reinforces ethical standards within government.

Many professions that serve the public already operate under mandatory reporting requirements. Applying a similar expectation to public servants reflects the seriousness of their role and the responsibility they carry to act in the best interests of the people of Hawai‘i.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your support for SB 2824.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2824

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 9:36:02 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nanea Lo, and I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of SB2824. I offer this testimony as a board member of the Hawai‘i Workers Center, a member of the Honolulu Tenants Union, and a member of Common Cause Hawai‘i.

This bill would establish the offense of failure to report bribery as a misdemeanor, requiring public servants who reasonably know that a bribe was offered, solicited, or accepted to report it to the Attorney General or a county prosecutor within 30 days.

Bribery often persists not because it goes unnoticed, but because it goes unreported. While bribery itself is already illegal, current law does not require public officials to report such conduct. This gap allows serious misconduct to remain hidden, undermining accountability and public confidence in government.

SB2824 would create a clear legal duty to report bribery, helping surface wrongdoing earlier and deter future abuses of power. Requiring timely reporting strengthens transparency, reinforces ethical standards for public service, and sends a strong message that corruption will not be tolerated in Hawai‘i.

When residents trust that government officials are held to high standards and that misconduct will be addressed promptly, democracy is stronger.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo, 96826

Hawai‘i Workers Center Board Member

Honolulu Tenants Union Member

Common Cause Hawai‘i Member

SB-2824

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 11:28:43 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Polk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Elefante, Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support SB2824. We need to bring more transparency into the legislature. It's too easy for legislators to just go along and not say anything when they know something is wrong. Maybe making failure to report knowledge of bribery a crime will finally break open the silence, not only about this matter, but about others as well.

SB-2824

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 2:22:49 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Justice, M.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a member of Indivisible Hawaii and a supporter of good government, I strongly support his bill. It is unfortunate that this bill is required because all public employees should feel an obligation to report observation of or other evidence of bribery.

JON N. IKENAGA
PUBLIC DEFENDER

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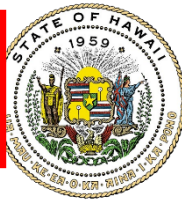
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February 3, 2026

HB2824: RELATING TO BRIBERY

Chair Elefante, Vice Chair Lamosao and Members of the Committee on Labor and Technology

Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

The Office of the Public Defender (OPD) **opposes SB2824**. This measure seeks to amend Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 710 by adding the offense of Failure to Report Bribery; Public Servants.

The proposed Failure to Report Bribery offense places an affirmative duty on any public servant to report "bribery" whether it involves the person themselves or another public servant where the person has knowledge of the bribery. A public servant must report the alleged offense to the Department of the Attorney General or a county prosecutor's office within thirty days of becoming aware, with reasonable certainty, that an offense occurred.

Any offense which places an affirmative duty on a person and penalizes that person for failing to perform that duty is questionable. In general, such statutes infringe on personal liberty and autonomy. The U.S. and Hawai'i constitutions ordinarily place only negative restrictions on government and do not require affirmative acts to assist the government or other persons. Statutes which impose an affirmative duty require a person to sacrifice their own ability to decide what is right and wrong or make their own choices, on threat of prosecution.

Also generally, offenses that place an affirmative duty on persons are difficult to enforce. It would be extremely difficult to prove that a public servant had knowledge of another public servant's acts. How would the State prove that the person knew or had knowledge of bribery involving another public servant, especially the details of whether they solicited, accepted or agreed to accept, either directly or indirectly, any pecuniary benefit? In fact, SB2824 would actually discourage persons from cooperating fully in investigations involving their employer or co-workers. A witness may be hesitant to fully cooperate with law enforcement because their responses could incriminate them and lead to them being prosecuted for failing to disclose their knowledge of the bribery.

Mandated reporting could also place the reporter in danger of retribution or retaliation. While employees who report corruption are supposed to be protected from retribution by their employer¹, this is not always the case. Employees may fear retaliation from co-workers which is not covered under whistleblower laws, may not trust the authorities they are required to report to or may be at risk of financial, workplace or physical retaliation which could have immediate effects or long lasting effects on their personal wellbeing, their careers or their families. SB2824 would require persons to ignore these perceived or actual risks to themselves on the threat of prosecution for failing to report bribery. HB2824 also fails to consider what could happen if the bribery occurs within the agencies to which the person must report the bribery. What if the person who has knowledge of the bribery works within the department of the attorney general or the county prosecutor's office? The threat of retribution or retaliation would be even more distinct, yet the person would have to report or face criminal prosecution.

SB2824 also fails to provide protections from civil liability. Persons who report misconduct could be subject to defamation or slander claims. Due to the 30-day reporting requirement, persons may feel pressured to report conduct that ultimately may not necessarily turn out to be bribery. The reporter could then be subject to civil liability for defamation or slander by the accused person.

The OPD opposes HB2824, which would criminally punish "passive Samaritans" for failing to report bribery at the cost of personal autonomy, the risk of retaliation and without protection from civil liability.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

¹ See e.g. HRS § 378-62 (the State Whistleblower Law), which holds that an employer shall not discharge, threaten, or otherwise discriminate against an employee regarding the employee's compensation, terms, conditions, location, or privileges of employment because the employee reports a violation of suspected violation of the law.

LATE

SB-2824

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 7:34:56 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judith White	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass!

Judith White, Psy.D.

Member, Hawaii Indivisible

LATE

SB-2824

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 8:54:19 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dave Mulinix	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Elefante, Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

I stand in support of [SB2824](#) that establishes the offense of failure to report bribery as a misdemeanor. If a public servant reasonably knows that a bribe was offered, solicited, or accepted, they must report it to the Attorney General or a county prosecutor within 30 days.

Passage of this legislation is important because bribery often continues not because it goes unnoticed, but because it goes unreported. While bribery is illegal, current law does not require public officials to report it, allowing misconduct to remain hidden or unaddressed.

Passage of SB2824 will reinforce ethical standards, and will help restore trust in our government.

Mahalo for your kind attention

Dave Mulinix

Kaneohe

SB-2824

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 12:56:23 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle R Stefanik	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this Bill. Please vote YES. Anyone knowing anything about bribery must report it or be held responsible for allowing corruption in our government. I support this bill because there is currently no punishment; however, I believe it should be harsher and classified as a Felony. A misdemeanor is nothing more than a slap on the back of the hand. It's not harsh enough to prevent it entirely. Regardless, as I said earlier, since there is nothing at this time, I will support this bill because something is better than nothing.

SB-2824

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:09:47 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lori Kizer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

At the very least reduce the corruption in our government. I support this bill and ask my elected officials to approve/pass. Mahalo.

SB-2824

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 11:36:34 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gary Hooser	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please accept my testimony in strong support and pass forward SB2824.

SB-2824

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 12:27:53 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support!

LATE

SB-2824

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 1:01:29 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support!

See something - say something!