
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO PRIORITIZE AND
EXPEDITE THE STATE INVESTIGATION INTO THE ALLEGED
ACCEPTANCE OF APPROXIMATELY \$35,000 BY A STATE LEGISLATOR
IN JANUARY 2022.

1 WHEREAS, in 2022, former State Representative Ty J. K.
2 Cullen and former State Senator J. Kalani English each pleaded
3 guilty in federal court to honest services wire fraud for
4 accepting bribes in exchange for official legislative acts; and
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6 WHEREAS, unredacted federal court filings submitted in
7 support of Cullen's reduced sentence describe a January 20,
8 2022, meeting in which Cullen, the subject of an investigation,
9 and an influential state legislator were present, and Cullen
10 recorded the subject providing the influential legislator with
11 approximately \$35,000 purportedly intended for an existing
12 campaign; and
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14 WHEREAS, the discovery of this transaction has prompted
15 significant public demand for a state investigation into the
16 identity of the legislator involved, and state legislative
17 leadership has strongly urged that the matter be formally
18 reviewed to ensure accountability and transparency; and
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20 WHEREAS, several members of the House of Representatives
21 reached out to the Department of the Attorney General on
22 multiple occasions to request that the State initiate an
23 investigation into these allegations; and
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25 WHEREAS, on November 7, 2025, leadership of the House of
26 Representatives sent a letter to the Department of the Attorney
27 General requesting clarification on the status of any
28 investigation; and
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1 WHEREAS, on January 7, 2026, the twenty-three members of
2 the House of Representatives who were serving in office in
3 January 2022 released the following signed statement "[t]he
4 House condemns any acceptance of campaign funds without
5 reporting those funds to the Campaign Spending Commission. In
6 response to the petition to 'Restore Public Trust - Investigate
7 the Unknown Hawai'i Legislator', the twenty-three currently
8 serving House members who held office in 2022 publicly affirm
9 that they are not the lawmaker referenced in the United States
10 Attorney's pleading and that they have no knowledge of the
11 identity of said lawmaker."; and
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13 WHEREAS, on January 9, 2026, the Senate President released
14 the following statement "[b]ased upon the January 7, 2026 press
15 release issued by Attorney General Anne Lopez, who stated that
16 the State of Hawai'i will not initiate any investigation
17 regarding the alleged \$35,000 campaign contribution while the
18 matter is still within the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department
19 of Justice and that 'any parallel state investigation into this
20 matter conducted by any state governmental entity does not serve
21 the interests of justice until the federal investigation has
22 concluded,' the Hawai'i State Senate will await notice from the
23 Department of the Attorney General with regard to its review of
24 the federal investigation and its pending course of action.
25 Additionally, all current sitting Senators have been asked as to
26 whether they received the alleged funds and/or if they know any
27 legislator who received the alleged funds. All majority Senate
28 members have stated that they did not receive the alleged funds
29 and do not know any legislator who received the alleged funds.
30 None of the minority members responded to my inquiry."; and
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32 WHEREAS, on January 16, 2026, federal authorities informed
33 state officials that they would provide the Attorney General
34 with evidence concerning the alleged incident, thereby creating
35 a clear path for the Attorney General to proceed with a state
36 investigation without jeopardizing the ongoing federal
37 investigation; and
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39 WHEREAS, on January 20, 2026, Governor Josh Green and
40 Attorney General Anne Lopez jointly determined that initiating a



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1 state investigation into this matter serves the public interest;
2 and
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4 WHEREAS, the Attorney General assigned the Special
5 Investigation and Prosecution Division to lead the investigation
6 pursuant to section 28-2.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and
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8 WHEREAS, the public deserves timely clarity regarding the
9 circumstances of the alleged \$35,000 payment that occurred four
10 years ago, making prompt action essential; now, therefore,
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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
13 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
14 of 2026, that the Department of the Attorney General is urged to
15 prioritize and expedite the state investigation into the alleged
16 acceptance of approximately \$35,000 by a state legislator in
17 January 2022; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of the Attorney
20 General is requested to confirm and notify the Legislature in
21 writing as soon as possible that the legislator who allegedly
22 accepted the \$35,000 is not a current member of the Thirty-Third
23 Legislature; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of the Attorney
26 General is requested to notify the Legislature upon completion
27 of the investigation and, to the extent allowable, provide a
28 summary of findings for public release; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
31 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Attorney General.
32
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OFFERED BY:



JAN 30 2026

