

JAN 21 2026

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

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RELATING TO FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES.

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

1       SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to strengthen public  
2 trust in government by expanding the categories of boards and  
3 commissions whose members are required to file public financial  
4 disclosure statements under section 84-17, Hawaii Revised  
5 Statutes, and by including in public disclosure requirements the  
6 executive directors and executive officers for those boards.  
7 Under existing law, public financial disclosure is required for  
8 members of certain state boards and commissions whose duties  
9 involve significant regulatory authority, fiduciary  
10 responsibility, or oversight of substantial public resources.  
11 However, several boards and commissions that manage large sums  
12 of public funds, exercise significant financial discretion, or  
13 make decisions with substantial economic impact are not  
14 currently included in the statute's public disclosure  
15 requirements.

16       This Act addresses that gap. It adds to the public  
17 disclosure list:



(1) Members of additional boards and commissions that oversee or control substantial state moneys, investments, or expenditures; and

(2) The executive directors or executive officers of those same boards and commissions, who, as state employees entrusted with day-to-day financial or operational authority, should be subject to the same transparency expectations.

By including both members and chief executive officers of influential boards and commissions, this Act ensures that the individuals exercising the greatest influence over high-value public resources are covered by uniform disclosure standards. Public financial disclosure helps identify and prevent conflicts of interest, promotes accountability, and reinforces the public's confidence that state decision-makers act in the public interest.

Accordingly, this Act amends section 84-17, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to require public financial disclosure statements from members and executive leadership of specified boards and commissions having broad budgetary, investment, or expenditure authority.



SECTION 2. Section 84-17, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

**"§84-17 Requirements of disclosure.** (a) For the purposes of this section, "disclosure period" refers to the period from January 1 of the preceding calendar year to the time of the filing of the employee's or legislator's disclosure of financial interests.

(b) The disclosure of financial interests required by this section shall be filed:

(1) By any person enumerated in subsection (c), except a member of the legislature, between January 1 and May 31 of each year;

(2) By a member of the legislature between January 1 and January 31 of each year;

(3) Within thirty days of a person's election or appointment to a state position enumerated in subsection (c); or

(4) Within thirty days of separation from a state position if a prior financial disclosure statement for the position was not filed within ~~[the one hundred eighty days]~~ twelve months preceding the date of separation;



1 provided that candidates for state elective offices or the  
2 constitutional convention shall file the required statements no  
3 later than ten days after the nomination filing deadline  
4 established pursuant to section 12-6.

5 (c) The following persons shall file annually with the  
6 state ethics commission a disclosure of financial interests:

7 (1) The governor, lieutenant governor, members of the  
8 legislature, and delegates to the constitutional  
9 convention; provided that delegates to the  
10 constitutional convention shall only be required to  
11 file initial disclosures;

12 (2) The directors and their deputies, the division chiefs,  
13 the executive directors, and the executive  
14 ~~[secretaries]~~ officers and their deputies, the  
15 purchasing agents, and the fiscal officers, regardless  
16 of the titles by which the foregoing persons are  
17 designated, of every state agency and department;

18 (3) The permanent employees of the legislature and its  
19 service agencies, other than persons employed in  
20 clerical, secretarial, or similar positions;



- 1           (4)   The administrative director of the State, and the
- 2                   assistants in the office of the governor and
- 3                   lieutenant governor, other than persons employed in
- 4                   clerical, secretarial, or similar positions;
- 5           (5)   The hearings officers of every state agency and
- 6                   department;
- 7           (6)   The president, vice presidents, assistant vice
- 8                   presidents, chancellors, and provosts of the
- 9                   University of Hawaii and its community colleges;
- 10          (7)   The superintendent, deputy superintendent, assistant
- 11                   superintendents, and complex area superintendents[7]
- 12                   of the department of education, and the state
- 13                   librarian[7] and [~~deputy state librarian of the~~
- 14                   ~~department of education;~~] the special assistant to the
- 15                   state librarian of the public library system;
- 16          (8)   The administrative director and deputy director of the
- 17                   courts;
- 18          (9)   The members of every state board or commission whose
- 19                   original terms of office are for periods exceeding one
- 20                   year and whose functions are not solely advisory;



(10) Candidates for state elective offices, including candidates for election to the constitutional convention; provided that candidates shall only be required to file initial disclosures;

(11) The ~~[administrator and assistant administrator]~~ chief executive officer and executive administrators of the office of Hawaiian affairs; and

(12) The Hawaii unmanned aerial systems test site chief operating officer~~[-and~~

~~(13) The members of the school facilities board appointed by the governor].~~

(d) The financial disclosure statements of the following persons shall be public records and available for inspection and duplication:

(1) The governor, lieutenant governor, members of the legislature, candidates for and delegates to the constitutional convention, trustees of the office of Hawaiian affairs, and candidates for state elective offices;

(2) The directors of the state departments and their deputies, regardless of the titles by which the



1           foregoing persons are designated; provided that with  
2           respect to the department of the attorney general, the  
3           foregoing shall apply only to the attorney general and  
4           the first deputy attorney general;

5           (3) The administrative director of the State;

6           (4) The president, vice presidents, assistant vice  
7           presidents, chancellors, members of the board of  
8           regents, and provosts of the University of Hawaii;

9           (5) The members of the board of education, superintendent,  
10          deputy [~~superintendent,~~] superintendents of the  
11          department of education, and the state librarian[7]  
12          and [~~deputy state librarian of the department of~~  
13          ~~education;~~] the special assistant to the state  
14          librarian of the public library system;

15          (6) The administrative director and deputy director of the  
16          courts;

17          (7) The [~~administrator and assistant administrator~~] chief  
18          executive officer and executive administrator of the  
19          office of Hawaiian affairs; and



(8) The executive directors or executive officers, if applicable, and members of the following state boards, commissions, and agencies:

(A) The [~~board of directors of the~~] agribusiness development corporation established under section 163D-3;

(B) The board of agriculture and biosecurity established under section 26-16;

(C) The state ethics commission established under section 84-21;

(D) The Hawaii community development authority established under section 206E-3;

(E) The Hawaiian homes commission established under the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, as amended, and section 26-17;

(F) The [~~board of directors of the~~] Hawaii housing finance and development corporation established under section 201H-3;

(G) The board of land and natural resources established under section 171-4;



- 1 (H) The state land use commission established under  
2 section 205-1;
- 3 (I) The legacy land conservation commission  
4 established under section 173A-2.4;
- 5 (J) The natural area reserves system commission  
6 established under section 195-6;
- 7 (K) The [~~board of directors of the~~] natural energy  
8 laboratory of Hawaii authority established under  
9 section 227D-2;
- 10 (L) The [~~board of directors of the~~] Hawaii public  
11 housing authority established under  
12 section 356D-3;
- 13 (M) The public utilities commission established under  
14 section 269-2;
- 15 (N) The commission on water resource management  
16 established under section 174C-7; [~~and~~]
- 17 (O) The stadium authority established under  
18 section 109-1[-];
- 19 (P) The employees' retirement system;
- 20 (Q) The Hawaii employer-union health benefits trust  
21 fund;



1           (R) The Hawaii green infrastructure authority;

2           (S) The Hawaii technology development corporation;

3           and

4           (T) The school facilities authority.

5           (e) The information on the financial disclosure statements  
6 shall be confidential, except as provided in subsection (d).

7 The commission shall not release the contents of the disclosures  
8 except as may be permitted pursuant to this chapter. The  
9 unauthorized release of any confidential financial disclosure  
10 statement information shall be a violation of this chapter.

11          (f) Candidates for state elective offices, including  
12 candidates for election to the constitutional convention, shall  
13 only be required to disclose their own financial interests. The  
14 disclosures of financial interests of all other persons  
15 designated in subsection (c) shall state, in addition to the  
16 financial interests of the person disclosing, the financial  
17 interests of the person's spouse and dependent children. All  
18 disclosures shall include:

19           (1) The source and amount of all income of \$1,000 or more  
20               received, for services rendered, by the person in the  
21               person's own name or by any other person for the



1 person's use or benefit during the preceding calendar  
2 year and the nature of the services rendered; provided  
3 that required disclosure under this paragraph for the  
4 income source of the spouse or dependent child of a  
5 person subject to subsection (d) shall be limited to  
6 the name of the business or other qualifying source of  
7 income, and need not include the income source's  
8 address; provided further that other information that  
9 may be privileged by law or individual items of  
10 compensation that constitute a portion of the gross  
11 income of the business or profession from which the  
12 person derives income need not be disclosed;

13 (2) The amount and identity of every ownership or  
14 beneficial interest held during the disclosure period  
15 in any business having a value of \$5,000 or more or  
16 equal to ten per cent of the ownership of the business  
17 and, if the interest was transferred during the  
18 disclosure period, the date of the transfer; provided  
19 that an interest in the form of an account in a  
20 federal or state regulated financial institution, an  
21 interest in the form of a policy in a mutual insurance



1 company, or individual items in a mutual fund or a  
2 blind trust, if the mutual fund or blind trust has  
3 been disclosed pursuant to this paragraph, need not be  
4 disclosed;

5 (3) Every officership, directorship, trusteeship, or other  
6 fiduciary relationship held in a business during the  
7 disclosure period, the term of office and the annual  
8 compensation;

9 (4) The name of each creditor to whom the value of \$3,000  
10 or more was owed during the disclosure period and the  
11 original amount and amount outstanding; provided that  
12 debts arising out of retail installment transactions  
13 for the purchase of consumer goods need not be  
14 disclosed;

15 (5) The street address and, if available, the tax map key  
16 number, and the value of any real property in which  
17 the person holds an interest whose value is \$10,000 or  
18 more, and, if the interest was transferred or obtained  
19 during the disclosure period, a statement of the  
20 amount and nature of the consideration received or  
21 paid in exchange for such interest, and the name of



1 the person furnishing or receiving the consideration;  
2 provided that disclosure shall not be required of the  
3 street address and tax map key number of the person's  
4 residence;

5 (6) The names of clients assisted or represented before  
6 state agencies, except in ministerial matters, for a  
7 fee or compensation during the disclosure period and  
8 the names of the state agencies involved; and

9 (7) The amount and identity of every creditor interest in  
10 an insolvent business held during the disclosure  
11 period having a value of \$5,000 or more.

12 (g) In addition to the disclosures required under  
13 subsection (f), each member of the legislature shall also  
14 disclose the name of any person that is subject to section 97-3  
15 and that is:

16 (1) A business partner of the member;

17 (2) An employer of the member;

18 (3) An officer or director of the member's employer; or

19 (4) A client of the member, member's partner, or member's  
20 employer, who is on the lobbyist list and not just a  
21 client with a lobbyist, where the client provided at



1           least \$5,000 of income during the preceding calendar  
2           year.

3           As used in this subsection:

4           "Member" means a member of the legislature.

5           "Member's partner" means a member's spouse under  
6 chapter 572, civil union partner under chapter 572B, or  
7 reciprocal beneficiary under chapter 572C.

8           (h) Where an amount is required to be reported, the person  
9 disclosing may indicate whether the amount is at least \$1,000  
10 but less than \$10,000; at least \$10,000 but less than \$25,000;  
11 at least \$25,000 but less than \$50,000; at least \$50,000 but  
12 less than \$100,000; at least \$100,000 but less than \$150,000; at  
13 least \$150,000 but less than \$250,000; at least \$250,000 but  
14 less than \$500,000; at least \$500,000 but less than \$750,000; at  
15 least \$750,000 but less than \$1,000,000; or \$1,000,000 or more.  
16 An amount of stock may be reported by number of shares.

17           (i) The state ethics commission shall provide a method for  
18 filing financial disclosure statements. The commission may  
19 require that financial disclosure statements be filed  
20 electronically.



1           (j) Failure of a legislator, a delegate to the  
2 constitutional convention, or an employee to file a disclosure  
3 of financial interests as required by this section shall be a  
4 violation of this chapter. Any legislator, delegate to a  
5 constitutional convention, or employee who fails to file a  
6 disclosure of financial interests when due may be assessed an  
7 administrative fine of \$50. The state ethics commission, upon  
8 the expiration of the time allowed for filing, may post on its  
9 website for public inspection a list of all persons who have  
10 failed to file financial disclosure statements. The state  
11 ethics commission shall notify a person, by in-person service,  
12 electronic mail to the person's state electronic mail address,  
13 or first-class mail, of the failure to file, and, if applicable,  
14 the administrative fine. If a disclosure of financial interests  
15 has not been filed within thirty days after the original  
16 deadline, in addition to any initial administrative fine that  
17 may have been assessed, an administrative fine of \$250 may be  
18 assessed.

19           (k) The chief election officer, upon receipt of the  
20 nomination paper of any person seeking a state elective office,  
21 including the office of delegate to the constitutional



1 convention, shall notify the state ethics commission of the name  
2 of the candidate for state office and the date on which the  
3 person filed the nomination paper. Any candidate who fails to  
4 file a disclosure of financial interests when due may be  
5 assessed an administrative fine of \$50. The state ethics  
6 commission, upon the expiration of the time allowed for filing,  
7 may post on its website for public inspection a list of all  
8 candidates who have failed to file financial disclosure  
9 statements. The state ethics commission shall notify a  
10 candidate, by in-person service, electronic mail to the  
11 candidate's electronic mail address listed with the office of  
12 elections, or first-class mail, of the failure to file and, if  
13 applicable, the administrative fine. If a disclosure of  
14 financial interests has not been filed within thirty days after  
15 the original deadline, in addition to any initial administrative  
16 fine that may have been assessed, an administrative fine of \$250  
17 may be assessed.

18 (1) Administrative fines assessed pursuant to this section  
19 may be enforced using the procedure provided in  
20 section 84-31(g).



[+](m)[+] All administrative fines collected under this section shall be deposited into the general fund. Any administrative fine for the late filing of a disclosure of financial interests shall be in addition to any other action the state ethics commission may take pursuant to this chapter. The state ethics commission may waive any administrative fines authorized pursuant to this section for good cause shown.

[+](n)[+] The state ethics commission may investigate, initiate, or receive charges on whether a candidate's financial disclosure statement discloses the financial interests required to be disclosed. After proceeding in conformance with section 84-31, the state ethics commission may issue a decision on whether a candidate has complied with subsection (f). This decision shall be a matter of public record."

SECTION 3. This Act shall apply only to financial disclosure statements filed on or after July 1, 2027. Financial disclosure statements that were confidential at the time of filing shall remain confidential notwithstanding any amendments made by this Act.

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



1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2027.

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INTRODUCED BY:   
By Request



# S.B. NO. 2246

**Report Title:**

State Ethics Commission Package; Financial Disclosures;  
Requirements

**Description:**

Expands the scope of persons who are subject to public financial disclosure requirements.

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

