

JAN 21 2026

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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

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 promote  
2 governmental transparency and strengthen public confidence in  
3 the State's appointments process by requiring that nominees to  
4 certain state positions requiring senate confirmation file  
5 financial disclosure statements prior to their confirmation  
6 hearings.

7        Under existing law, individuals appointed to certain state  
8 positions must file financial disclosure statements within  
9 thirty days of their appointment. However, this deadline often  
10 results in disclosure statements becoming publicly available  
11 only after the senate conducts its confirmation hearings,  
12 limiting the ability of senators and the public to review  
13 potential conflicts of interest in advance.

14        This Act ensures that financial disclosure statements for  
15 nominees subject to senate confirmation are filed in a timely  
16 manner, facilitating meaningful public review. In addition,  
17 this Act modernizes existing statutory financial disclosure



1 requirements by aligning legislative disclosures with  
2 information already provided in lobbyist expenditure statements.

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

5 **§84-17 Requirements of disclosure.** (a) For the purposes  
6 of this section, "disclosure period" refers to the period from  
7 January 1 of the preceding calendar year to the time of the  
8 filing of the employee's or legislator's disclosure of financial  
9 interests.

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

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

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

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

20 (4) Within thirty days of separation from a state position  
21 if a prior financial disclosure statement for the



1 position was not filed within the one hundred eighty  
2 days preceding the date of separation;  
3 provided that candidates for state elective offices or the  
4 constitutional convention shall file the required statements no  
5 later than ten days after the nomination filing deadline  
6 established pursuant to section 12-6[.]; provided further that  
7 persons nominated to a position subject to senate confirmation,  
8 excluding state court justices and judges, shall file the  
9 required statements no later than five days after being  
10 nominated or five days before the first confirmation hearing,  
11 whichever occurs first.

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

14 (1) The governor, lieutenant governor, members of the  
15 legislature, and delegates to the constitutional  
16 convention; provided that delegates to the  
17 constitutional convention shall only be required to  
18 file initial disclosures;

19 (2) The directors and their deputies, the division chiefs,  
20 the executive directors and the executive secretaries  
21 and their deputies, the purchasing agents, and the



fiscal officers, regardless of the titles by which the foregoing persons are designated, of every state agency and department;

- (3) The permanent employees of the legislature and its service agencies, other than persons employed in clerical, secretarial, or similar positions;
- (4) The administrative director of the State, and the assistants in the office of the governor and lieutenant governor, other than persons employed in clerical, secretarial, or similar positions;
- (5) The hearings officers of every state agency and department;
- (6) The president, vice presidents, assistant vice presidents, chancellors, and provosts of the University of Hawaii and its community colleges;
- (7) The superintendent, deputy superintendent, assistant superintendents, complex area superintendents, state librarian, and deputy state librarian of the department of education;
- (8) The administrative director and deputy director of the courts;





1           (1) The governor, lieutenant governor, members of the  
2           legislature, candidates for and delegates to the  
3           constitutional convention, trustees of the office of  
4           Hawaiian affairs, [and] candidates for state elective  
5           offices[+], and nominees for state positions subject  
6           to senate confirmation, excluding state court justices  
7           and judges;

8           (2) The directors of the state departments and their  
9           deputies, regardless of the titles by which the  
10           foregoing persons are designated; provided that with  
11           respect to the department of the attorney general, the  
12           foregoing shall apply only to the attorney general and  
13           the first deputy attorney general;

14           (3) The administrative director of the State;

15           (4) The president, vice presidents, assistant vice  
16           presidents, chancellors, members of the board of  
17           regents, and provosts of the University of Hawaii;

18           (5) The members of the board of education, superintendent,  
19           deputy superintendent, state librarian, and deputy  
20           state librarian of the department of education;



- (6) The administrative director and deputy director of the courts;
- (7) The administrator and assistant administrator of the office of Hawaiian affairs; and
- (8) The 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;
- (H) The state land use commission established under section 205-1;
- (I) The legacy land conservation commission established under section 173A-2.4;
- (J) The natural area reserves system commission established under section 195-6;
- (K) The board of directors of the natural energy laboratory of Hawaii authority established under section 227D-2;
- (L) The board of directors of the Hawaii public housing authority established under section 356D-3;
- (M) The public utilities commission established under section 269-2;
- (N) The commission on water resource management established under section 174C-7; and
- (O) The stadium authority established under section 109-1.



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

15 (1) The source and amount of all income of \$1,000 or more  
16 received, for services rendered, by the person in the  
17 person's own name or by any other person for the  
18 person's use or benefit during the preceding calendar  
19 year and the nature of the services rendered; provided  
20 that required disclosure under this paragraph for the  
21 income source of the spouse or dependent child of a

1                   person subject to subsection (d) shall be limited to  
2                   the name of the business or other qualifying source of  
3                   income, and need not include the income source's  
4                   address; provided further that other information that  
5                   may be privileged by law or individual items of  
6                   compensation that constitute a portion of the gross  
7                   income of the business or profession from which the  
8                   person derives income need not be disclosed;

9                   (2) The amount and identity of every ownership or  
10                  beneficial interest held during the disclosure period  
11                  in any business having a value of \$5,000 or more or  
12                  equal to ten per cent of the ownership of the business  
13                  and, if the interest was transferred during the  
14                  disclosure period, the date of the transfer; provided  
15                  that an interest in the form of an account in a  
16                  federal or state regulated financial institution, an  
17                  interest in the form of a policy in a mutual insurance  
18                  company, or individual items in a mutual fund or a  
19                  blind trust, if the mutual fund or blind trust has  
20                  been disclosed pursuant to this paragraph, need not be  
21                  disclosed;





1 (6) The names of clients assisted or represented before  
2 state agencies, except in ministerial matters, for a  
3 fee or compensation during the disclosure period and  
4 the names of the state agencies involved; and  
5 (7) The amount and identity of every creditor interest in  
6 an insolvent business held during the disclosure  
7 period having a value of \$5,000 or more.

8 (g) In addition to the disclosures required under  
9 subsection (f), each [member of the legislature] legislator  
10 shall also disclose the name of any person that is subject to  
11 section 97-3 and that is:

12 (1) A business partner of the [member,] legislator;  
13 (2) An employer of the [member,] legislator;  
14 (3) An officer or director of the [member's] legislator's  
15 employer; or  
16 (4) A client of the [member, member's partner,]  
17 legislator, legislator's spouse, or [member's] the  
18 legislator's employer, [who is on the lobbyist list  
19 and not just a client with a lobbyist, where the  
20 client] who filed a statement of expenditures pursuant

1           to section 97-3 and provided at least \$5,000 of income  
2           during the preceding calendar year.

3           As used in this subsection [+

4           "Member" means a member of the legislature.

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

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

17          An amount of stock may be reported by number of shares.

18          (i) The state ethics commission shall provide a method for  
19          filing financial disclosure statements. The commission may  
20          require that financial disclosure statements be filed  
21          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 section  
20 84-31(g).



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

8           [f] (n) [f] The state ethics commission may investigate,  
9 initiate, or receive charges on whether a candidate's financial  
10 disclosure statement discloses the financial interests required  
11 to be disclosed. After proceeding in conformance with section  
12 84-31, the state ethics commission may issue a decision on  
13 whether a candidate has complied with subsection (f). This  
14 decision shall be a matter of public record."

15           SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that  
16 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were  
17 begun before its effective date.

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



S.B. NO. 2248

1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

2

INTRODUCED BY:

  
By Request



# S.B. NO. 2248

**Report Title:**

State Ethics Commission Package; Financial Disclosures; Requirements

**Description:**

Expands the scope of persons who are required to file financial disclosures to include certain gubernatorial nominees subject to Senate confirmation. Makes technical amendments relating to legislators.

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

