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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 as follows:

5 1. By amending subsections (b) through (d) to read:

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

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

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

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

16 (4) Within thirty days of separation from a state position  
17 if a prior financial disclosure statement for the  
18 position was not filed within the one hundred eighty  
19 days preceding the date of separation;

20 provided that candidates for state elective offices or the  
21 constitutional convention shall file the required statements no



1 later than ten days after the nomination filing deadline  
2 established pursuant to section 12-6[-]; provided further that  
3 persons nominated to a position subject to senate confirmation,  
4 excluding state court justices and judges, shall file the  
5 required statements no later than five days after being  
6 nominated or five days before the first confirmation hearing,  
7 whichever occurs first.

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

- 10 (1) The governor, lieutenant governor, members of the  
11 legislature, and delegates to the constitutional  
12 convention; provided that delegates to the  
13 constitutional convention shall only be required to  
14 file initial disclosures;
- 15 (2) The directors and their deputies, the division chiefs,  
16 the executive directors and the executive secretaries  
17 and their deputies, the purchasing agents, and the  
18 fiscal officers, regardless of the titles by which the  
19 foregoing persons are designated, of every state  
20 agency and department;



- 1           (3) The permanent employees of the legislature and its  
2           service agencies, other than persons employed in  
3           clerical, secretarial, or similar positions;
- 4           (4) The administrative director of the State, and the  
5           assistants in the office of the governor and  
6           lieutenant governor, other than persons employed in  
7           clerical, secretarial, or similar positions;
- 8           (5) The hearings officers of every state agency and  
9           department;
- 10          (6) The president, vice presidents, assistant vice  
11          presidents, chancellors, and provosts of the  
12          [University] university of Hawaii and its community  
13          colleges;
- 14          (7) The superintendent, deputy superintendent, assistant  
15          superintendents, complex area superintendents, state  
16          librarian, and deputy state librarian of the  
17          department of education;
- 18          (8) The administrative director and deputy director of the  
19          courts;



- 1 (9) The members of every state board or commission whose  
2 original terms of office are for periods exceeding one  
3 year and whose functions are not solely advisory;
- 4 (10) Candidates for state elective offices, including  
5 candidates for election to the constitutional  
6 convention; provided that candidates shall only be  
7 required to file initial disclosures;
- 8 (11) The administrator and assistant administrator of the  
9 office of Hawaiian affairs;
- 10 (12) The Hawaii unmanned aerial systems test site chief  
11 operating officer; ~~and~~
- 12 (13) The members of the school facilities board appointed  
13 by the governor[-]; and
- 14 (14) Persons nominated to a position subject to senate  
15 confirmation, excluding state court justices and  
16 judges; provided that nominees shall only be required  
17 to file initial disclosures in advance of their  
18 confirmation hearings.
- 19 (d) The financial disclosure statements of the following  
20 persons shall be public records and available for inspection and  
21 duplication:



- 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~~] university  
18          of Hawaii;
- 19          (5) The members of the board of education, superintendent,  
20          deputy superintendent, state librarian, and deputy  
21          state librarian of the department of education;



- 1 (6) The administrative director and deputy director of the  
2 courts;
- 3 (7) The administrator and assistant administrator of the  
4 office of Hawaiian affairs; and
- 5 (8) The members of the following state boards,  
6 commissions, and agencies:
- 7 (A) The board of directors of the agribusiness  
8 development corporation established under section  
9 163D-3;
- 10 (B) The board of agriculture and biosecurity  
11 established under section 26-16;
- 12 (C) The state ethics commission established under  
13 section 84-21;
- 14 (D) The Hawaii community development authority  
15 established under section 206E-3;
- 16 (E) The Hawaiian homes commission established under  
17 the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, as  
18 amended, and section 26-17;
- 19 (F) The board of directors of the Hawaii housing  
20 finance and development corporation established  
21 under section 201H-3;



- 1 (G) The board of land and natural resources
- 2 established under section 171-4;
- 3 (H) The state land use commission established under
- 4 section 205-1;
- 5 (I) The legacy land conservation commission
- 6 established under section 173A-2.4;
- 7 (J) The natural area reserves system commission
- 8 established under section 195-6;
- 9 (K) The board of directors of the natural energy
- 10 laboratory of Hawaii authority established under
- 11 section 227D-2;
- 12 (L) The board of directors of the Hawaii public
- 13 housing authority established under section
- 14 356D-3;
- 15 (M) The public utilities commission established under
- 16 section 269-2;
- 17 (N) The commission on water resource management
- 18 established under section 174C-7; and
- 19 (O) The stadium authority established under section
- 20 109-1."

21 2. By amending subsection (g) to read:



1           "(g) In addition to the disclosures required under  
2 subsection (f), each [~~member of the legislature~~] legislator  
3 shall also disclose the name of any person that is subject to  
4 section 97-3 and that is:

- 5           (1) A business partner of the [~~member,~~] legislator;  
6           (2) An employer of the [~~member,~~] legislator;  
7           (3) An officer or director of the [~~member's~~] legislator's  
8           employer; or  
9           (4) A client of the [~~member, member's partner,~~  
10           legislator, legislator's spouse, or [member's] the  
11           legislator's employer, [who is on the lobbyist list  
12           and not just a client with a lobbyist, where the  
13           client] who filed a statement of expenditures pursuant  
14           to section 97-3 and provided at least \$5,000 of income  
15           during the preceding calendar year.

16           As used in this subsection[+]

17           ~~"Member" means a member of the legislature.~~

18           ~~"Member's partner" means a member's], "legislator's spouse"~~  
19           means a legislator's spouse under chapter 572, civil union  
20           partner under chapter 572B, or reciprocal beneficiary under  
21           chapter 572C."



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

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

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



S.B. NO. 2248  
S.D. 1

**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. Effective 1/1/2027. (SD1)

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

