

JAN 21 2026

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO BRIBERY.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 710-1040, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 **"§710-1040 Bribery.** (1) A person commits the offense of  
4 bribery if:

5 (a) The person confers, or offers or agrees to confer,  
6 directly or indirectly, any pecuniary benefit upon a  
7 public servant with the intent to influence the public  
8 servant's vote, opinion, judgment, exercise of  
9 discretion, or other action in the public servant's  
10 official capacity; or

11 (b) While a public servant, the person solicits, accepts,  
12 or agrees to accept, directly or indirectly, any  
13 pecuniary benefit with the intent that the person's  
14 vote, opinion, judgment, exercise of discretion, or  
15 other action as a public servant will thereby be  
16 influenced.



(2) It is a defense to a prosecution under subsection (1) that the accused conferred or agreed to confer the pecuniary benefit as a result of extortion or coercion.

4 (3) For purposes of this section, "public servant"  
5 includes in addition to persons who occupy the position of  
6 public servant as defined in section [+]710-1000[+], persons who  
7 have been elected, appointed, or designated to become a public  
8 servant although not yet occupying that position.

9 (4) Bribery is a class B felony. [A person convicted of  
10 violating this section, notwithstanding any law to the contrary,  
11 shall not be eligible for a deferred acceptance of guilty plea  
12 or nolo contendere plea under chapter 853.]

13        (5) Notwithstanding subsection (4), bribery is a class A  
14        felony without the possibility of probation or suspension of  
15        sentence if:

16 (a) The public servant is an elected or appointed  
17 official:

18                   (b) The value, or aggregate value, of the pecuniary  
19                   benefit described in subsections (1) (a) and (1) (b)  
20                   exceeds \$20,000; or



1       (c) The person commits three or more acts of bribery as  
2       described in subsections 1(a) or 1(b) in any  
3       three-year period.

4       (6) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a person  
5       convicted under this section shall not be eligible for deferred  
6       acceptance of guilty plea or nolo contendere plea under  
7       chapter 853."

8           SECTION 2. This Act does not affect rights and duties that  
9       matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were  
10      begun, before the effective date of this Act.

11          SECTION 3. If any provision of this Act, or the  
12       application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held  
13       invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or  
14       applications of the Act that can be given effect without the  
15       invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions  
16       of this Act are severable.

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



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

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INTRODUCED BY:

PMO.M  
By Request

By Request



S.B. NO. 2249

**Report Title:**

Honolulu Prosecuting Attorney Package; Criminal Offense; Bribery

**Description:**

Establishes heightened penalties for the offense of bribery under certain circumstances.

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

