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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the integrity of the  
2 State's government and democratic process rests upon the  
3 public's confidence in institutions that provide robust and  
4 independent oversight of the political landscape. Government  
5 agencies such as the campaign spending commission, state ethics  
6 commission, auditor's office, office of the ombudsman, and  
7 legislative reference bureau are vital watchdogs, each charged  
8 with independent oversight to ensure that state operations  
9 remain free from impropriety and are conducted with transparency  
10 and accountability.

11           The legislature further finds that while the campaign  
12 spending commission is administratively placed within the  
13 executive branch, like its legislative-branch counterparts it  
14 shares the common public purpose of protecting against  
15 corruption, holding officials and state employees accountable,  
16 and maintaining the public's trust. To this end, it is critical  
17 that the campaign spending commission have the necessary



1 resources to effectively fulfill its mission. However, unlike  
2 its legislative-branch counterparts, the campaign spending  
3 commission's compensation structure is disparate. To recruit  
4 and retain experienced staff of the campaign spending  
5 commission, it is in the public's interest to provide a similar  
6 compensation structure that acknowledges the equally critical  
7 responsibilities, functions, independence, and professional  
8 demands to ensure that public trust and the integrity of state  
9 government is safeguarded uniformly and consistently.

10 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to increase the  
11 salaries of the campaign spending commission's staff to align  
12 with the compensation levels of similar legislative-branch  
13 agencies having compliance and enforcement duties, thereby  
14 securing the highest standards of public oversight for the  
15 people of Hawaii.

16 SECTION 2. Section 11-314, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
17 amended to read as follows:

18 "**§11-314 Duties of the commission.** The duties of the  
19 commission under this part are to:

20 (1) Develop and adopt forms required by this part;



- 1           (2) Adopt and publish a manual for all candidates,  
2           candidate committees, and noncandidate committees,  
3           describing the requirements of this part, including  
4           uniform and simple methods of recordkeeping;
- 5           (3) Preserve all reports required by this part for at  
6           least ten years from the date of receipt by the  
7           commission;
- 8           (4) Permit the inspection, copying, or duplication of any  
9           report required by this part pursuant to rules adopted  
10          by the commission under chapter 91; provided that this  
11          paragraph shall not apply to the sale or use of  
12          information under section 11-344;
- 13          (5) Ascertain whether any person has failed to file a  
14          report required by this part or has filed a  
15          substantially defective or deficient report. The  
16          commission shall notify the person by first class mail  
17          that a fine may be assessed for the failure to file or  
18          the filing of a substantially defective or deficient  
19          report, and the defective or deficient report shall be  
20          corrected and explained. All fines collected under  
21          this section as authorized by sections 11-340 and



1           11-410 shall be deposited in the general fund of the  
2           State;  
3           (6) Hold public hearings;  
4           (7) Investigate and hold hearings for receiving evidence  
5           of any violations pursuant to subpart I of this part;  
6           (8) Adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91;  
7           (9) Request the initiation of prosecution for the  
8           violation of this part pursuant to section 11-411;  
9           (10) Administer and monitor the distribution of public  
10          funds under this part;  
11          (11) Suggest accounting methods for candidates, candidate  
12          committees, or noncandidate committees in connection  
13          with reports and records required by this part;  
14          (12) Employ or contract with, without regard to chapters  
15          76, 78, and 89, persons it finds necessary for the  
16          performance of its functions, including a full-time  
17          executive director~~[, and to fix their compensation]~~;  
18          provided that the commission shall have the authority,  
19          at its discretion, to dismiss persons employed by or  
20          contracted with the commission~~[+]~~. The salary of the  
21          executive director shall be the same as the salary of



1           the executive director of the ethics commission. The  
2           executive director shall appoint an associate director  
3           and other officers and employees as may be necessary  
4           to carry out the functions of the commission. The  
5           salary of the associate director shall be not more  
6           than eighty-seven per cent of the salary of the  
7           executive director. The executive director shall fix  
8           the compensation of the employees within the amounts  
9           appropriated by the legislature. The executive  
10          director, associate director, and commission's full-  
11          time staff shall be entitled to participate in any  
12          employee benefit program or privilege;

13          (13) Conduct random audits and field investigations, as  
14              necessary; and

15          (14) File for injunctive relief when indicated."

16          SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                      or so  
18 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for  
19 salary increases and other cost adjustments authorized by  
20 chapter 89C, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for the executive



1 director, associate director, and employees of the campaign  
2 spending commission excluded from collective bargaining.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the campaign  
4 spending commission for the purposes of this Act.

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

7 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

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S.B. NO. 2533  
S.D. 1

**Report Title:**

Campaign Spending Commission Package; Salaries; Appropriation

**Description:**

Adjusts the salaries of the Campaign Spending Commission's Executive Director and Associate Director to align with similar government officials who have compliance and enforcement responsibilities. Appropriates funds. (SD1)

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

