

ACT 46

H.B. NO. 2431-74

A Bill for an Act Relating to the Office of the Ombudsman.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. Section 96-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) ‘Agency’ includes any permanent governmental entity, department, organization, or institution, and any officer, employee, or member thereof acting or purporting to act in the exercise of his official duties, except:

- (1) The judiciary and its staff;
- (2) The legislature, its committees, and its staff;
- (3) An entity of the federal government;
- (4) A multistate governmental entity;
- (5) The governor and his personal staff;
- (6) The lieutenant governor and his personal staff;
- (7) The mayors of the various counties; and
- (8) The councils of the various counties.”

SECTION 2. Section 96-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 96-2 Ombudsman; office established, appointment, tenure, removal, qualifications, compensation, vacancy. The office of ombudsman is established. The legislature, by a majority vote of each house in joint session, shall appoint an ombudsman who shall serve for a period of six years and thereafter until a successor shall have been appointed. An ombudsman may be reappointed but may not serve for more than three terms. The legislature, by two-thirds vote of the members in joint session, may remove or suspend the ombudsman from office, but only for neglect of duty, misconduct, or disability.

No person may serve as ombudsman within two years of the last day on which he served as a member of the legislature, or while he is a candidate for or holds any other state office, or while he is engaged in any other occupation for reward or profit.

For the period beginning on July 1, 1969 and ending June 30, 1970, the salary of the ombudsman shall be the same as the salary of the circuit court judges. Effective July 1, 1970, the salary of the ombudsman shall be the same as the salary of the circuit court judges. The compensation of the ombudsman shall not be diminished during his term of office, unless by general law applying to all salaried officers of the State.

If the ombudsman dies, resigns, becomes ineligible to serve, or is removed or suspended from office, the first assistant to the ombudsman becomes the acting ombudsman until a new ombudsman is appointed for a full term.”

SECTION 3. Section 96-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 96-3 Assistance, staff, delegation, funding. The ombudsman shall appoint a first assistant and such other officers and employees as may be necessary to carry out this chapter. All employees, including the first assistant, shall be hired by the ombudsman and shall serve at his pleasure. In determining the salary of each such employee, the ombudsman shall consult with the department of personnel services and shall follow as closely as possible the recommendations of the department. The first assistant’s salary shall not exceed the percentage limitation established by law for a deputy director of a department. The ombudsman and his full-time staff shall be entitled to participate in any employee benefit plan.

The ombudsman may delegate to his appointees any of his duties except those specified in sections 96-12 and 96-13; provided that during the absence of the ombudsman from the island of Oahu, or his temporary inability to exercise and discharge the powers and duties of his office, such powers and duties as contained in sections 96-12 and 96-13 shall devolve upon the first assistant during such absence or inability.

The funds for the support of the office of the ombudsman shall be provided for in the act providing for the expenses of the legislature.”

SECTION 4. Section 96-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by

amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) The ombudsman may investigate any complaint which he determines to be an appropriate subject of investigation under section 96-8.”

SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed. New material is underscored. In printing this Act, the revisor of statutes need not include the brackets, the bracketed material, or the underscoring.*

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved May 24, 1974.)

*Edited accordingly.