



HAWAII STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

State of Hawaii • Bishop Square, 1001 Bishop Street, ASB Tower 970 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

March 27, 2014

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 306
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: **Testimony on S.B. No. 2629, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, Relating to Lobbyists**

Hearing: March 27, 2014, 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

Testimony From: Hawaii State Ethics Commission

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair; The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair;
The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair; and The Honorable Members of the
House Committee on Finance:

This bill amends Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS") chapter 97, the Lobbyists Law, to require lobbyists to report expenditures and contributions relating to an issue considered during a special session of the legislature within 30 days of the close (or sine die) of that special session. The Commission agrees that more timely reporting of expenditures and contributions is in the public interest and, therefore, supports the bill.

Currently, the Lobbyists Law requires lobbyists and lobbying organizations that meet threshold criteria¹ to file lobbying expenditures and contributions statements

¹ HRS section 97-3(a) requires the following individuals and organizations to file a statement of lobbying expenditures and contributions:

- (1) Each lobbyist.
- (2) Each person who spends \$750 or more of the person's or any other person's money in any six-month period for the purpose of attempting to influence legislative or administrative action or a ballot issue by communicating or urging others to communicate with public officials; provided that any amounts expended for travel costs, including incidental meals and lodging, shall not be included in the tallying of the \$750.
- (3) Each person who employs or contracts for the services of one or more lobbyists, whether independently or jointly with other persons. If the person is an industry, trade, or professional association, only the association is the employer of the lobbyist.

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three times per year: the first reports expenditures made and contributions received from January 1 through the end of February; a second reports expenditures made and contributions received from March 1 through April 30; and a third reports expenditures made and contributions received from May 1 through December 31.² The deadline for reporting expenditures and contributions relating to an issue considered as part of a special session is January 31 following the special session. All of the reports filed by lobbyists and lobbying organizations are available through the Commission's website.

The Commission agrees that the filing of this additional report will provide more timely information regarding the lobbying expenditures and contributions relating to an issue considered as part of a special session.

Thank you for considering the Commission's comments on S.B. No. 2629, S.D. 1, H.D. 1.

² The reports are due 30 days after the end of the respective reporting period.