



HAWAII STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

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

Committee: Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Bill Number: S.B. 240
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 2, 2017, 9:00 a.m.
Re: Testimony of the Hawaii State Ethics Commission with
COMMENTS on S.B. 240, Relating to the Public Utilities
Commission

Dear Chair Baker and Committee Members:

The Hawaii State Ethics Commission (“Commission”) hereby submits **comments** on S.B. 240, which seeks to add the chief counsel and chief legal and regulatory advisor to the Public Utilities Commission (“PUC”) to the list of state officials required to file an annual financial disclosure.

As a general rule, the Commission supports efforts to increase transparency in government by requiring high-level government officials to submit financial disclosures. Should the Legislature add PUC officials to this list, the Commission is, of course, capable of overseeing those filings.

As currently drafted, this bill would require the designated PUC officials to file financial disclosures; however, those financial disclosures would not be available to the public. Only those officials designated in Hawaii Revised Statutes § 84-17(d) – a total of approximately 300 officials state-wide – have financial disclosure filings that are made available to the public.

Thank you for considering the Commission’s testimony on S.B. 240.

Very truly yours,

Daniel Gluck
Executive Director and General Counsel