



# HAWAII STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

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

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Honolulu, Hawai'i

### **For more information:**

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## **GOVERNOR IGE TO SIGN THREE BILLS STRENGTHENING HAWAII'S ETHICS AND LOBBYING LAWS**

On Thursday, June 22, 2017, in a signing ceremony at the State Capitol at 9:30 a.m., Governor Ige will sign three ethics bills into law: HB508 (Relating to Ethics), HB511 (Relating to Lobbyists), and HB852 (Relating to Ethics). Among other things, these bills double the maximum fines for violations of the Ethics Code and Lobbyists Laws; clarify and strengthen the Lobbyists Law; and give the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission additional tools to carry out its mission to promote integrity within state government. Additional information on each bill is below, and can be found on the Commission's website at <http://www.ethics.hawaii.gov>.

Commission Chair Rey Grauly explained, "The Commission applauds the Legislature and the Governor for their strong support of governmental ethics in this past legislative session. These bills send a clear message that the people of Hawai'i – and their elected representatives – expect Hawai'i's public officials to act with the utmost integrity."

House Judiciary Chair Scott Nishimoto (Kapahulu, McCully, Moiliili) introduced all three measures, and – together with Senate Judiciary & Labor Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran (Wailuku, Waihe'e, Kahului) and House Labor & Public Employment Chair Aaron Johanson (Moanalua, Red Hill, Foster Village, Aiea, Fort Shafter, Moanalua Gardens, Aliamanu, Lower Pearlridge) – was instrumental in enacting this legislation.

The three bills to be signed are as follows:

**HB508** (Relating to Ethics): Doubles the maximum administrative fine that the Commission may impose for violations of the State Ethics Code – from \$500 to \$1,000 per violation – and

clarifies that the Commission may assess an administrative fine and/or require restitution in a settlement agreement with a respondent to resolve an ethics charge.

[HB511](#) (Relating to Lobbyists): Doubles the maximum administrative fine that the Commission may impose for violations of the Lobbyists Law, from \$500 to \$1,000 per violation; clarifies the statutory definitions of “expenditure,” “lobbying,” and “lobbyist”; excludes from the definition of “lobbying” the preparation of grant-in-aid applications by nonprofit organizations; allows a former employer of a lobbyist to file a notice of termination with the Commission when the lobbyist fails to do so; clarifies the reporting requirements for lobbying activities during special sessions of the legislature; and requires that lobbyist registration statements be posted on the Commission’s website.

[HB852](#) (Relating to Ethics): Increases the administrative fines for state officials and candidates who fail to file financial disclosure statements when due; allows the Commission to use e-mail or first-class mail to notify state officials who fail to file financial disclosure statements when due; and allows the Commission to post on its website a list of all persons who have failed to file financial disclosure statements by the statutory deadline.

The Hawai‘i State Ethics Commission’s mission is to preserve the public’s confidence in our government by promoting high ethical standards among public servants. More information on the Ethics Commission and its work – including information on seeking confidential ethics advice or filing a complaint about unethical conduct in state government – can be found at <http://ethics.hawaii.gov> or by following the Commission on Twitter [@HawaiiEthics](#).