



RESOLUTION

URGING THE HONOLULU ETHICS COMMISSION TO REVIEW AND REVISE CURRENT LAWS AND RULES RAISING THE STANDARDS OF ETHICAL CONDUCT IN CITY GOVERNMENT.

WHEREAS, the Honolulu Ethics Commission ("Commission") works diligently to advance the standards of ethical conduct in government as expressed in the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu ("RCH"), the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu ("ROH"), and the Rules of Procedure of the Ethics Commission; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the ethic laws and the Commission's work is to improve and maintain public confidence in city government officials and employees; and

WHEREAS, the Commission plays an important role to ensure that government officials and employees adhere to the highest standards of ethical conduct by:

- (1) Advising and making recommendations to city employees and officials as well as the public regarding conflicts of interest, acceptance of gifts, misuse of city resources, misuse of official position, representation of clients before city agencies, political activities, and post-employment restrictions;
- (2) Educating city officers and employees to perform their duties in an ethical manner;
- (3) Administering and enforcing the financial disclosure requirements for city officials, employees, board and commission members, Council members, and candidates for city elective office;
- (4) Enforcing the ethics laws by recommending discipline for violations;
- (5) Administering the city's lobbying laws;

and

WHEREAS, Section 11-101 of the Charter provides that elected and appointed officers and employees shall demonstrate by their example the highest standards of ethical conduct so the public may justifiably have trust and confidence in the integrity of government; and



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WHEREAS, the Council finds that the current ethic laws could be strengthened, clarified, or expanded to make city government more transparent to the public and less subject to corruption; and

WHEREAS, the Council would like the Commission to carefully do a comprehensive review of all ethics issues and laws and to propose legislation that will improve ethics standards and enforcement; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it requests the Honolulu Ethics Commission to review and revise the current laws and rules relating to standards of ethical conduct in city government and submit proposed legislation to the Council no later than June 6, 2011 to accomplish the following:

- (1) Expand mandatory ethics training for city officers and employees;
- (2) Require recusal from voting of Councilmembers who declare a conflict of interest;
- (3) Make Councilmembers full-time;
- (4) Prohibit Councilmembers from having outside employment;
- (5) Broaden application of civil fines for ethics violations to city officers and employees;
- (6) Prohibit solicitation of political campaign assistance or contributions from those doing business with the city or from other city officers and employees;
- (7) Reduce the monetary value limits of the gift cap law;
- (8) Broaden application of the financial disclosure law;
- (9) Broaden interpretation of conflicts of interest based on family or personal relationships;
- (10) Prohibit misuse of city resources;
- (11) Establish anti-retaliation policy for officers and employees of the Council and Administration;



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- (12) Impose civil fines on lobbyists who violate lobbying laws;
- (13) Post annual financial disclosures, ethics disclosures, and disclosure of interest statements on city websites; and
- (14) Any other issues that the Commission deems worthy to address;

and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Executive Director of the Honolulu Ethics Commission.

INTRODUCED BY:

Tom Borch

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

MAY 04 2011

Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers

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 OFFICE OF THE
 CLERK OF THE
 CITY COUNCIL