
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PROHIBITING FUNDRAISING DURING THE LEGISLATIVE
SESSION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE SILVER LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The public perception that law making is
2 influenced by Legislators' campaign fundraising should be
3 eliminated. During the Legislative session, many individuals,
4 businesses, and groups seek from Legislators favorable action on
5 bills. When Legislators solicit campaign donations from these
6 stakeholders while legislation is pending, the public has reason
7 to mistrust the law making process. As a result, the public
8 becomes leery that legislative votes are affected by fundraising
9 activity. Even with pure motives, public perception of the
10 Legislature is lowered, along with public trust and confidence
11 in elected leaders.

12 In the past, bills to prohibit legislative fundraisers
13 during the session have been introduced. For example, in 2003,
14 a bill to require public disclosure of fundraising events while
15 the Legislature is in session passed the Senate, but failed in
16 the House.

17 The Silver Legislature believes that moving fundraisers to
18 after the legislative session will reduce public suspicion, and
19 result in increased public trust and confidence in our elected
20 leaders.

21 SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by adding
22 new language to read: "No fundraiser or fundraising activity
23 shall be held during the regular legislative session."

24 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.