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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO INCREASING FINES TO \$5000 FOR EACH VIOLATION OF LAW  
OR RULE THAT FALL WITHIN THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION'S  
JURISDICTION.

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

1       SECTION 1.   The State Ethics Commission (Commission) was  
2   established in January 1968 to promote and enforce high  
3   standards of ethical conduct in state government and to preserve  
4   public confidence in public servants.   The Commission's  
5   responsibilities are to:

6       (1)   Administer and enforce standards of conduct provisions of  
7           the State Ethics Code (relating to matters such as  
8           conflicts of interests, misuse of confidential  
9           information, acceptance and reporting of gifts, misuse of  
10          official position, misuse of state resources,  
11          representation of clients before state and county  
12          agencies, and post-employment restrictions);

13       (2)   Administer and enforce the financial disclosure  
14           requirements of the State Ethics Code for state  
15           officials, employees, board and commission members, and  
16           candidates for state elective office; and

17       (3)   Administer and enforce the State Lobbyists Law.

1       The Silver Legislature finds that while civil or criminal  
2 violations of the State Ethics Code and State Lobbyists Law are  
3 handled by the Office of the Attorney General or the County  
4 Prosecutor offices, the Commission has limited enforcement  
5 capabilities.

6       The purpose of this Act is to maintain high standards of  
7 ethical conduct and further discourage behaviors that erode  
8 public confidence in government by increasing fines for  
9 violators of laws or rules that fall within the Commission's  
10 jurisdiction.

11       SECTION 2. The State Ethics Commission shall increase  
12 fines by \$5000 for each incident for individuals or entities  
13 found in violation of laws or rules within the Commission's  
14 jurisdiction.

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