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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE PROHIBITION OF FUNDRAISERS OR FUNDRAISING  
ACTIVITY WHILE THE LEGISLATURE IS IN SESSION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the public  
2 perception that lawmaking is influenced by a legislator's  
3 campaign fundraising should be addressed and eliminated. During  
4 the legislative session, many individuals, businesses, and other  
5 groups seek favorable action from legislators on measures  
6 introduced and heard throughout the session. When legislators  
7 solicit campaign donations from similar stakeholders while  
8 legislation is pending, the public has reason to mistrust the  
9 lawmaking process. As a result, the public becomes leery that  
10 legislative votes are affected by fundraising activity. Even  
11 with pure motives, public perception of the legislature is  
12 lowered, along with public trust and confidence in elected  
13 leaders.

14           In the past, bills to scrutinize legislative fundraisers  
15 during the session have been introduced. For example, in 2003,  
16 a bill requiring public disclosure of fundraising events while



1 the legislature is in session passed the senate, but failed in  
2 the house of representatives.

3 The legislature believes that banning fundraisers during  
4 regular sessions of the legislature will reduce public suspicion  
5 and result in increased public trust and confidence in our  
6 elected leaders.

7 The purpose of this Act is to prohibit fundraising activity  
8 during regular sessions of the legislature.

9 SECTION 2. Section 11-203, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
10 amended to read as follows:

11 **"§11-203 Fundraisers and fundraising activities.** (a) As  
12 used in this section, "fundraiser" means any function held for  
13 the benefit of a person that is intended or designed, directly  
14 or indirectly, to raise funds for political purposes for which  
15 the price or suggested contribution for attending the function  
16 is more than \$25 per person.

17 (b) There shall be no more than two fundraisers held for a  
18 person prior to a general or special election in which that  
19 person is either elected or defeated.

20 (c) No fundraiser or fundraising activity shall be held  
21 unless a notice of intent to hold the function is filed by the  
22 person in charge of the function with the commission prior to



1 the date of the function setting forth the name and address of  
2 the person in charge, the price per person, the date, hour, and  
3 place of the affair and the method thereof.

4 (d) Fundraisers sponsored by a candidate for a statewide  
5 office are exempt from the \$25 limit of subsection (a) and the  
6 restrictions of subsection (b), and fundraisers sponsored by a  
7 party for a political purpose for the general benefit of the  
8 party are exempt from the restrictions of subsection (b).

9 (e) No fundraiser or fundraising activity shall be held by  
10 any state legislator during the period in which the legislature  
11 is in regular session."

12 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

13 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

*Yes Dean*  
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**Report Title:**

Elections; Fundraisers or Fundraising Activity

**Description:**

Prohibits state legislators from conducting a fundraiser or fundraising activity during regular sessions of the legislature.

