

DOWNTOWN-CHINATOWN NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 13
RESOLUTION 2024-05

URGING LEGISLATURE TO ADOPT GOOD-GOVERNMENT REFORMS

WHEREAS the Downtown-Chinatown Neighborhood Board No. 13 ("Board") is a citizens' advisory board whose purpose is to "increase and assure effective citizen participation in the decisions of government"; and

WHEREAS although the Hawaii State Legislature convened the [Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct](#) (CISC) in 2022 "for the purpose of reforming basic underpinnings of our state governance, specifically the laws surrounding corruption, lobbying, ethics, and campaign spending" during the legislative sessions that followed the CISC's issuance of its final report legislators failed to act on its most impactful proposals, including, increasing safeguards on campaign contributions, prohibiting unilateral power to kill bills, allowing public immediate viewing of testimony, improving public financing of elections and allowing the public to vote on term limits for legislators; and

WHEREAS bills that do not create or expend funds (non-fiscal bills) are often needlessly referred to the House and Senate finance committees, creating an insurmountable backlog of bills in those committees; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Downtown-Chinatown Neighborhood Board No. 13 respectfully urges the legislature to pass the following five amendments to the House and Senate Rules before the 2025 Legislative Session:

1. Each committee shall make all testimony it receives immediately available for public review – at least 22 hours before the hearing, and at least 2 hours before hearing for "late" testimony,
2. Each committee shall vote on the disposition of all bills referred to the committee,
3. Bills that do not create or expend funds (non-fiscal bills) shall not be referred to finance committees,
4. All bills shall be circulated for co-sponsorship to all legislators in their respective chamber, and any house bill with at least 25 co-introducers and any senate bill with at least 12 co-introducers shall be scheduled for at least one hearing,
5. Amendments to bills must be in written form in the possession of legislators before the amended version of the bill can be voted on; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Downtown-Chinatown Neighborhood Board No. 13 respectfully urges the legislature to pass the following three statutory amendments during the upcoming 2025 legislative session:

1. Prohibit campaign contributions from state contractors, grantees, lessees, their owners, board members, staff, consultants, and those persons' immediate family members,
2. Enact a viable, comprehensive public financing option for candidates,
3. Prohibit laundering campaign contributions through other candidate campaigns, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Downtown-Chinatown Neighborhood Board No. 13 respectfully urges the legislature to pass a bill during the upcoming 2025 legislative session that would put a constitutional amendment question on the ballot to allow the electorate to vote on term-limits for state legislators; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of Hawai'i, members of the 2025 Hawai'i State Legislature, and all Neighborhood Boards.

INTRODUCED BY: Ernest Carvalho - By Request
DATE OF INTRODUCTION: October 3, 2024