



CITY COUNCIL

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COUNCILMEMBER DJOU: STRONGER CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST RULE PASSES COUNCIL OVER HANNEMANN OPPOSITION

Today, the Honolulu City Council unanimously passed out a key charter amendment measure strengthening the city's conflict-of-interest rules. The proposed charter amendment, Resolution 07-391, CD2, introduced by City Councilmember Charles K. Djou (Waikiki, East Honolulu), bars newly-hired City officials from making decisions relating to their immediate private employer for one year.

"I am continuing my long and hard push to strengthen Honolulu's ethics rules," stated Djou. "We strengthen the City's conflict-of-interest rules by preventing newly-hired City officials from reviewing their own work submitted while in private employment or benefiting their previous private employer when assuming a public position. It is my hope that the Mayor understands the importance of a strong ethics code and reconsiders his veto threat on my measure."

Currently, to avoid conflicts of interest, City officials are barred from lobbying the city for one year after leaving City government. The reverse, however, is currently legal. A new employee in City government can immediately make decisions on the matters he or she may have just submitted while previously in private employment. Djou's charter amendment will fix this loophole by placing the same conflict-of-interest ban on City officials entering City government as those leaving the government. Djou hopes to prevent unscrupulous individuals from taking public positions with the goal of helping a specific private entity. Unless vetoed by the Mayor, Resolution 07-391, CD2, will be placed on the election ballot for approval by the voters this fall.

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