

Holding office with accountability and transparency Vicky Cayetano's Ethics Plan as Governor

The people of Hawai'i deserve a transparent and ethical state government; one that serves the people, not special interests and large corporations. Despite Hawai'i's existing [State Ethics Code](#), elected officials continue to operate with impunity through conflicts of interest and corruption. We must stop the influx and influence of outside/special interest money in our government. The government should serve the people, small businesses, and not special interests.

Accountability is at the core of my values as a businesswoman and citizen, and I will operate with that same standard as Governor. I propose the following improvements to the existing state law:

- Require disclosure for Introduction of bills: The legislator who introduces a bill should disclose the name(s) of the individual or organization who made the request. Currently, bills are introduced and often noted as "by request" without revealing the parties behind the requested bill. The people of Hawai'i deserve to know who/what is asking for this change in our laws.
- Outlaw the infamous practice of "gut and replace": This practice was routinely used to slip in new legislation by replacing the contents of one bill after its public hearings with a completely different proposal. This flies in the face of Open Records and Sunshine laws. Despite the court's ruling against the act, the legislature apparently continues to find ways around it. This must stop.
- Enact term limits for the Legislature - Representatives (four 2-year terms) and Senators (two 4-year terms): This is currently the only statewide elected office without them. The current laws enable officials to make careers out of serving in office, feed corruption, and generate unwillingness to act to address our pressing problems. It's time these offices be made consistent with the Governor, Lt. Governor, Mayors and County Councils.
- Restrict Lobbying: Currently, the State Ethics code prohibits those who leave political office from lobbying for one year. I propose changing HRS 84-18 to require that no legislator, governor, or

lieutenant governor shall be a paid lobbyist for a period of four years after leaving office.

- Reform Campaign Finance: We must level the playing field, especially for new candidates wishing to enter public service as an elected official. Proposals I would champion include disallowing corporate and union contributions; lowering the percentage of out of state contributions from 30% of total raised to 20% or lower; prohibiting political campaign fundraising during the legislative session; putting a limit on the ongoing accrual of campaign accounts and eliminating the ability to carry these amounts over from one election to another.

Finally, we must enforce the existing laws on the books. They are already in place and they are good. What is needed is strengthening the enforcement by enabling the Ethics Commission to fully perform its duties. I would support raising the Commission's budget, adding investigative staff, and increasing penalties for violations.

For many people in Hawai'i, their trust in our elected officials is broken. I want to restore this trust by putting in place a culture of transparency and accountability.

Leading by example from the top, I will dedicate every ounce of my being as your Governor. The people of Hawai'i deserve no less. Being a leader is not only about making promises but about making and fulfilling those promises.

I am not tied to special interest groups or beholden to anyone. I have 34 years of proven results experience to getting the job done. Action and less talk is what we need now.

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