

## THE BEAT

# Compromise Reached on Bill to Require More Boards to Disclose Financial Interests

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In the spirit of the evolving romance between the House and Senate, as state Rep. **Angus McKelvey** put it, a compromise was reached Wednesday afternoon on a bill to add 15 more boards and commissions to the list of those required to file **public financial disclosure statements**.

If the agreement on [Senate Bill 2682](#) holds and the full Legislature approves the measure before session ends May 1, it would mark a significant milestone on the path toward improving **government transparency** in Hawaii.

But it's unclear what the administration intends to do if it reaches Gov. **Neil Abercrombie**'s desk. There's concern among lawmakers and others that he will veto the measure because the new requirement would apply to current board members as opposed to future ones.

The draft the Senate passed last month would only add the three members of the **Public Utilities Commission** to the list of state employees who have to disclose their financial ties.

The House draft added 16 more agencies, including the **University of Hawaii**

## **Board of Regents, Board of Land and Natural Resources and Hawaii Community Development Authority.**

The conference draft approved Wednesday, which Sen. **Clayton Hee** introduced, snipped two boards from that list — the **Hawaii Labor Relations Board** and the **Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board**.

Members of the LIRA board wrote lawmakers a letter in March that went so far as to suggest that passing the bill might somehow lead to **suicide or murder** because their decisions are so controversial at times.

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— *Nathan Eagle*



*Photo: Rep. Angus McKelvey (Civil Beat file)*

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