

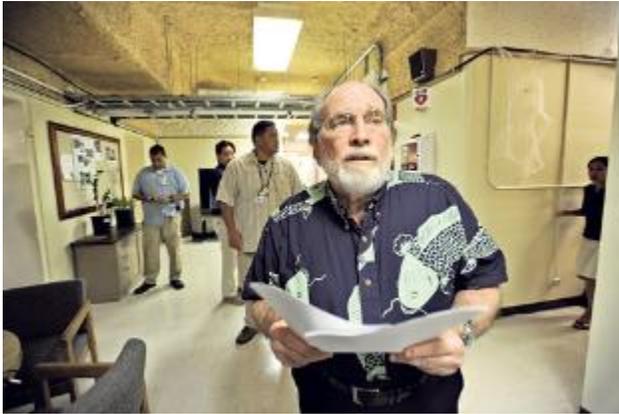
Governor approves 2 bills on super PAC disclosures - Hawaii News - Honolulu Star-Advertiser

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Governor approves 2 bills on super PAC disclosures

By B.J. Reyes

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Gov. Neil Abercrombie has approved a pair of bills imposing new regulations on campaign super PACs.

Abercrombie also gave final approval Tuesday to the two-year state budget of \$11.8 billion for fiscal year 2014 and \$11.9 billion for fiscal year 2015.

The bills were among several the governor signed ahead of Monday's deadline to inform lawmakers about bills he may consider for vetoes. He has until July 9 to sign or veto bills, or let them become law without his signature.

Components of the state's financial plan still pending include proposals to place \$50 million in the hurricane relief fund and \$50 million in the rainy day fund to replenish the state's cash reserves.

Another measure would put the state and counties on an annual payment schedule to deal with the unfunded liability in the health insurance fund for public workers.

The super PAC bills, signed Friday, were a source of contention between the House and Senate in the closing days of the legislative session over whether one or both should be sent to the governor.

A spokeswoman for the governor said the Attorney General's Office advised that both could be made law without conflict because they have different effective dates.

“Although the two bills amend the same section of the Hawaii Revised Statutes, they do not see a legal problem in both bills being signed into law,” spokeswoman Christine Hirasa said in an email Wednesday. “The bills operate in sequence, not simultaneously.”

Senate Bill 31 imposes new reporting requirements on campaign super PACs, while House Bill 1147 requires super PACs to disclose top donors in political advertisements.

House leaders felt the Legislature should decide on a single measure while Senate leadership recommended both be approved and to have the attorney general advise on which measure would be more beneficial.

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