



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

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STATE OF HAWAII
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

May 20, 2006

Daniel Mollway
Executive Director and General Counsel
Hawaii State Ethics Commission
1001 Bishop Street, ASB Tower 970
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Request for advisory opinion and definition of Legislative Intern
Request for advisory opinion and definition of "Embedded Lobbyist"

Dear Mr. Mollway:

Pursuant to your memorandum dated April 5, 2006, I would like to request clarity how the Ethics Commission would define "an intern" As you may be aware, during the 2006 legislative session there were allegations that certain highly-paid executives were being paid their salaries by their employers while being placed in key committees as "interns."

I suggest that the public and elected officials would benefit from guidelines that define an intern. Most of the descriptions I have seen define an intern as:

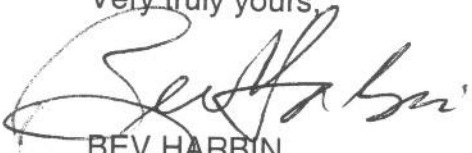
somebody who works as a low-level assistant or trainee in an occupation in order to gain practical experience

I also am enclosing a House Resolution (HR 286) that was filed at the 2006 Legislature. This resolution attempts to set a procedure that House members would register any interns, thereby encouraging transparency. Would the commission have any comments or suggestions regarding internal rule guidelines and definitions for the members of the Legislature when making a decision of what is an intern? I will be working with House Leadership during the interim to develop rules for adoption for the 2007 Legislature.

I would also like clarification as to the requirement that interns of the 2006 legislature would be required to file an ethics disclosure with your office. If this is

a requirement, would you advise me if Mark L. Forman -- as an intern or "embedded lobbyist" -- has filed the required forms.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bev Harbin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "B".

BEV HARBIN
Representative
House of Representatives