

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE, 2008
STATE OF HAWAII

H.B. NO.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EVIDENCE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 621, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§621- Limitation on compellable testimony from
5 professional journalists and newscasters; exception. (a) A
6 professional journalist or newscaster presently or previously
7 employed or otherwise associated with any newspaper, magazine,
8 news agency, press association, wire service, or radio or
9 television transmission station or network shall not be required
10 by a legislative, executive, or judicial officer or body, or any
11 other authority having the power to compel testimony or the
12 production of evidence, to disclose, by subpoena or otherwise:

13 (1) The source of any published or unpublished information
14 obtained by the person in the course of gathering,
15 receiving, or processing of information for
16 communication to the public; or

17 (2) Any unpublished information obtained or prepared by
18 the person in the course of gathering, receiving, or



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1 processing information for communication to the
2 public.

3 (b) This section shall not apply where probable cause
4 exists to believe that the professional journalist or newscaster
5 has committed, is committing, or is about to commit a crime.

6 (c) No fine or imprisonment shall be imposed against a
7 professional journalist or newscaster for refusal to disclose
8 information privileged pursuant to this section."

9 SECTION 2. New statutory material is underscored.

10 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

11

INTRODUCED BY: _____



H.B. NO.

Report Title:

Professional Journalists and Newscasters; Disclosure

Description:

Protects the disclosure of sources for professional journalists and newscasters. Establishes an exception.

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