



The HIGH ROAD

"Preserving public confidence in public servants."

No. 99-5

Hawaii State Ethics Commission

December 1999

Desmond Byrne Recognized For Outstanding Contribution To Ethics In Government

The Hawaii State Ethics Commission recently recognized the late Desmond J. Byrne for his outstanding contribution to ethics in government. Mr. Byrne was the Chairman of Common Cause Hawaii from 1993 to 1998. He passed away in August of this year.

Mr. Byrne has been described as the "conscience of the community" because of his efforts to focus public attention on important issues regarding ethics and open government. He was very supportive of the Commission's work and often lobbied the Legislature to advocate for stronger ethics laws.

On September 22, 1999, the Commission issued a resolution in recognition of Mr. Byrne's many years of community service as a citizen advocate for the highest ethical standards in government. The Commission's resolution commended Mr. Byrne's "valuable contribution to the State of Hawaii and its citizens through his tireless efforts to ensure the integrity of government and public confidence in government." In a brief ceremony on November 24, 1999, the Commission presented its resolution to Mr. Byrne's wife, Jo Kamae Byrne.

When Private Business Activities Creep Into State Offices

A state employee owns a boat and goes fishing on weekends. Every Monday, the employee sells fresh ahi to the other employees in his state office.

A state employee makes jewelry for craft fairs. The employee brings jewelry samples to her state office to display and sell to other employees during the holidays.

A state employee operates a small private business selling home cleaning products. The employee uses a state telephone to take sales orders at work.

Sound familiar? These are all examples of how private business activities can creep into state offices. To some employees, these activities may seem harmless. But to other employees, they are intrusive and annoying. Private business activities that are transacted in state offices disrupt state business and consume state resources. Employees have reported feeling "pressured" when solicited for private business transactions by co-workers or supervisors in the office. Some employees even have been asked to assist supervisors with private business activities at work during state time.

Because these situations present ethics concerns, the State Ethics Code prohibits the use of state resources for private business purposes. These prohibitions are based on the "Fair Treatment" provision of the ethics code, HRS section 84-13. This section prohibits the use of one's official position to obtain an unwarranted privilege or advantage.



This section of the ethics code also specifically prohibits the use of state time, equipment, and facilities for private business purposes.

Employees should be aware of the following prohibitions:

- The State Ethics Code prohibits the use of **state time** for private business purposes.
- The State Ethics Code prohibits the use of **state equipment** for private business purposes. State equipment includes state telephones, fax machines, copiers, computers, and state vehicles.
- The State Ethics Code prohibits the use of **state facilities** for private business purposes. State facilities include state offices and work areas, conference rooms, and employee lunch rooms.
- The State Ethics Code prohibits the use of **state e-mail** and the **state messenger service** for private business purposes.
- The State Ethics Code prohibits the use of **state personnel** for private business purposes. For example, the ethics code prohibits a supervisor from using subordinate employees to perform private business activities at work.

In limited situations, state resources may be used for private business activities if the activities further a state purpose. These situations should be cleared in advance with the Commission to ensure that no ethics problems arise.

If you have a question or concern about private business activities in your state office, do not hesitate to contact the Commission for advice.

2000 ETHICS WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

The Hawaii State Ethics Commission will continue to offer ethics workshops for state employees on Oahu and the neighbor islands next year. The workshops will cover the

major provisions of the State Ethics Code. Topics will include gifts to state employees, the misuse of state office, and conflicts of interests. Dates and locations for ethics workshops are as follows:

Oahu Workshops

(830 Punchbowl Street, Keelikolani Bldg.)

January 14	June 23
February 11	July 14
March 24	August 25
April 14	September 15
May 26	October 27
	November 17

Neighbor Island Workshops

Big Island

Hilo (Hilo Airport)	February 29
	June 20
Kona (Keahole Airport)	May 2
	September 12

Kauai (4398A Pualoke St., Dept. of Agriculture)	April 11
	August 1

Maui (Maui Memorial Hospital)	March 21
	July 11

Molokai (Kulana O 'Iwi Complex)	October 24
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The ethics workshops run from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. The workshops are open to all state officials and employees. There is no registration fee, but seating is limited. To register for an ethics workshop, contact your department personnel office.

The High Road is a publication of the Hawaii State Ethics Commission.

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