



# The HIGH ROAD

*"Preserving public confidence in public servants."*

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Hawaii State Ethics Commission

March 2000

## GOVERNOR APPOINTS ELOISE LEE TO HAWAII STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

Governor Cayetano recently appointed Eloise Lee to the Hawaii State Ethics Commission. Ms. Lee has a long and distinguished career in public service as an educator. Her professional credentials include having served as a member of the Board of Trustees for The College Board. She worked in Colorado for many years as a teacher, counselor, vice principal, and principal at various schools. She also worked in Hawaii for the Department of Education as a state and district educational specialist. Ms. Lee is now retired from the Department of Education.

The Commission extends its warmest Aloha to Eloise Lee.

## ETHICS LEGISLATION 2000

The Hawaii State Ethics Commission's legislative package for the 2000 Legislature includes several measures that are intended to strengthen Hawaii's ethics laws. The following bills were introduced at the Commission's request:

- Conflicts of Interests (S.B. No. 2672, H.B. No. 2637). Currently, the conflicts-of-interests section of the ethics code requires state officials and employees to recuse themselves from taking official action affecting a business in which they, their spouses, or their dependent children have a substantial financial interest. This bill would expand the law by also requiring state officials and employees to recuse themselves

from official action affecting a business in which a parent, brother or sister, emancipated child, or household member holds a substantial financial interest.

- Campaign Activities of State Legislators and State Employees (S.B. No. 2676, H.B. No. 2636). The ethics code prohibits the misuse of official position by a state official or employee. The Commission has long held that it is a misuse of official position to use state time, equipment, and facilities for campaign purposes. Unfortunately, abuses in this area continue, and the Commission believes that a comprehensive ethics code with respect to campaigning is needed to clarify the ethics restrictions and to emphasize the importance of these restrictions. This bill would add a special section to the ethics code that specifically prohibits the use of state time, equipment, facilities, and other resources for campaign purposes. This bill also establishes clear prohibitions against the misuse of state office to coerce campaign contributions or campaign support.
- Use of Washington Place for Campaign Activities (S.B. No. 2673, H.B. No. 2638). This bill would add a new section to the ethics code that specifically prohibits the use of Washington Place for campaign events.
- Governmental Employee Organization Meetings Held During State Working Hours (S.B. No. 2674, H.B. No. 2639). This bill would prohibit governmental employee organizations (unions) from using meetings

conducted during state working hours for campaign activities unless the organizations reimburse the State for the cost of state employee salaries and benefits for any state time used.

- Salary of the Executive Director of the State Ethics Commission (S.B. No. 2675). This bill would increase the salary range for the Commission's executive director. The bill is needed to bring the executive director's salary in step with the salaries of other employees in comparable state positions.
- Resolution Requesting a Study to Ascertain What Laws, Rules, or Other Measures May Be Put in Place to Address Possible Conflicts of Interests of the Members of the Legislature (S.C.R. No. 11, H.C.R. No. 14). Because our State Constitution bars other tribunals from interfering with legislative functions, the State Ethics Code's conflicts-of-interests laws cannot and do not apply to legislators. However, legislative conflicts do undermine public confidence in the legislative process. This resolution will ask the Legislature to undertake a study to ascertain what measures the Legislature may adopt to address the conflicts of interests of its members. The Legislature itself is the only body with the authority to adopt conflict-of-interests rules.

## LOBBYISTS REMINDER

March 31, 2000 is the filing deadline for lobbying expenditures statements covering the period from January 1, 2000 through February 29, 2000. Expenditures statements must be filed by paid lobbyists, persons who spend \$750 or more (excluding travel costs) in a six-month period lobbying, and organizations that employ or contract for the services of lobbyists.

## LIST OF REGISTERED LOBBYISTS FOR 2000 LEGISLATIVE SESSION AVAILABLE

A list of all registered lobbyists and the organizations that they represent for the 2000 Legislative Session is available on our web site at [www.state.hi.us/ethics](http://www.state.hi.us/ethics). Copies of the list can also be obtained by contacting the Hawaii State Ethics Commission's office at 587-0460.

## SPONSOR AN ETHICS WORKSHOP IN YOUR AGENCY

*First, the bad news:* Due to unforeseen problems with our meeting rooms, we have cancelled all ethics workshops that were scheduled to be held this year on Oahu at the Keelikolani Building (830 Punchbowl Street) in Honolulu.

*Now, the good news:* We are still offering ethics workshops for state employees on Oahu! If your agency has a meeting room or conference room that we can use, please consider sponsoring an ethics workshop for the employees in your office. You provide the room and the employees, and we'll provide one of our experienced attorney instructors and all workshop materials. Please contact us at 587-0460 to schedule an ethics workshop in your agency. (If you are interested in sponsoring an ethics workshop but do not have access to a suitable meeting room, call us anyway. We will work something out for your agency.)

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

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