

# The High Road

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

Issue 2016-2

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*“The people of Hawaii believe that public officers and employees must exhibit the highest standards of ethical conduct and that these standards come from the personal integrity of each individual in government.”*

*- Hawaii State Constitution, Art. XIV*

## State Ethics Commission Accepting Applications for Executive Director Position

The Hawaii State Ethics Commission is now accepting applications for the position of Executive Director of the Commission. The Executive Director functions as the administrator and chief legal counsel for the Commission, overseeing the administration and enforcement of the State Ethics Code for state officials and employees and the State Lobbyists Law.

*“We are looking for someone who is committed to maintaining high ethical standards . . .”*

The executive director provides overall leadership in guiding all aspects of

the Commission’s programs and activities which include, among other things: issuing advisory opinions about the ethics laws; investigating complaints of ethics violations; administering financial disclosure and gifts disclosure laws; administering lobbyist registration and reporting laws; and educating state officials and the public about ethics in government.

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## REMINDER: Annual Financial Disclosure Statements are due on Tuesday, May 31, 2016



Annual financial disclosure statements are due for state employees and state board members who are required to file.

For **continuing filers**, the deadline to file is **May 31<sup>st</sup>**.

For **new employee filers and newly confirmed board members**, you will receive an initial notice from the Commission and will have

thirty (30) days thereafter to file your initial disclosure with the Commission.

Check out the NEW on-line [Financial Disclosure Long Form \(D-201\)](#)! Instructions on how to complete the form are available on the Commission’s website.

For more information, please see [Financial Disclosure FAQs for State Employees and Board Members](#) and [Who Must File?](#)

**Commissioners:**  
Susan DeGuzman,  
Chair  
David O'Neal,  
Vice Chair  
Ruth Tschumy  
Melinda Wood  
Reynaldo Grauly

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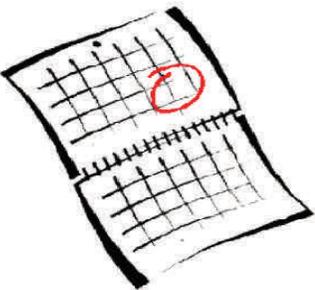
**Fax:**  
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**Next Public Meeting:**  
May 19, 2016  
10:00 am

## Lobbying Reminder:

Lobbyists, organizations with a registered lobbyist, and organizations that spend more than \$750 lobbying must file Expenditure and Contribution Reports with the Commission on or before May 31, 2016, covering the period March 1, 2016 through April 30, 2016.



## Executive Director (cont'd from page 1)

"It's a challenging job, but one that provides an opportunity to make an important contribution to ethics in state government," said Commission Chairperson Susan DeGuzman. "We are looking for someone who is committed to maintaining high ethical standards for state elected officials and other state employees."

Application information is available on the Commission's website at <http://ethics.hawaii.gov>. The application deadline is **May 31, 2016**.

## Aloha Les Kondo!

The Commission bids Aloha to Leslie H. Kondo. Mr. Kondo served as Executive Director of the Commission from 2011 until his appointment, effective May 1, 2016, to the position of Auditor of the State of Hawaii. The Commission extends its appreciation and best wishes to Mr. Kondo.

## 2016 Legislation Update

The State Ethics Commission advocated on a number of bills this session to strengthen and clarify the State Ethics Code and the State Lobbyists Law. As the legislative session came to a close, only a few bills remained alive. Among the bills supported by the Commission were the following:

- S.B. No. 3024, which would have appropriated funds to establish a task force to review and recommend amendments to the Lobbyists Law. Unfortunately, this bill died this session.
- H.B. No. 813, which would have clarified and strengthened the State Ethics Code's fair treatment law. Consistent with the State Constitution, this bill would have made it clear that the law, which prohibits the misuse

of official position, does not apply to legislators when performing their legislative functions. This bill also died this session.



The Commission also opposed a number of bills that would have weakened or created overly broad exemptions to the State Ethics

Code. This included H.B. No. 1713, which exempted certain "extracurricular" activities by state employees from the State Ethics Code. This bill appeared to respond to the issue of teachers receiving free travel from tour companies the teachers select to organize student trips. The Commission testified that the bill was unnecessary. This bill died in the closing days of the session. The legislature instead adjusted the state budget to provide \$400,000 in student travel program funds.