



*“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*

# The High Road

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

Issue 2015-1

June 2015

## WE'RE BACK!

After a long absence, *The High Road* is back!

*The High Road* is a publication of the Hawaii State Ethics Commission to inform readers about the State Ethics Code and the State Lobbyists Laws.

*The High Road* will be published monthly and is distributed via email to state agencies and registered lobbyists. If you would like to be placed on our



email distribution list, email us at [ethics@hawaiiethics.org](mailto:ethics@hawaiiethics.org).

*The High Road* is also accessible through the Commission's website

at <http://ethics.hawaii.gov>.

We are excited to be back and hope you find *The High Road* informative.

## STATE ETHICS CODE: THE BASICS

**What is the Ethics Code?** The State Ethics Code establishes mandatory standards of conduct for state government officers and employees.

**Where is it found?** Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 84.

**To whom does it apply?** State legislators, state officials and employees, including members of state boards and commissions.

**Why do we have it?** Article XIV of the State Constitution requires the adoption of a code of ethics for state officers and em-

ployees to uphold the highest standards of ethical conduct in government.

**What are the major provisions?** Ethics laws regarding the acceptance and reporting of gifts; the prohibited use of confidential information for personal gain; the prohibited use of official

**Commissioners:**

Edward Broglio,  
Chair

David O’Neal,  
Vice Chair

Susan DeGuzman

Ruth Tschumy

Melinda Wood

**Executive Director:**

Leslie H. Kondo

**Address:**

1001 Bishop Street  
Suite 970  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**Telephone:**

(808) 587-0460

**Fax:**

(808) 587-0470

**Email:**

[ethics@hawaiiethics.org](mailto:ethics@hawaiiethics.org)

**Next Public Meeting:**

July 15, 2015  
10:00 a.m.

**NEW ELECTRONIC  
FINANCIAL  
DISCLOSURE  
FORMS**

The Commission’s new web-based financial disclosure forms allow users to file completed forms electronically: (Long Form) [http://ethics.hawaii.gov/disclosures\\_forms/](http://ethics.hawaii.gov/disclosures_forms/) (Short Form) [http://ethics.hawaii.gov/findisc\\_d-103intro/](http://ethics.hawaii.gov/findisc_d-103intro/).

**STATE ETHICS CODE: THE BASICS (cont’d from page 1)**

position to obtain unwarranted advantages or benefits; conflicts of interests; the award of state contracts to legislators and employees; ethics restrictions after leaving state employment; and financial interests reporting requirements for elected state officials and other employees.



contracts and favorable state action may be voided; and fees, compensation, gifts, or profits may be recovered by the State.

**How do I learn more?** Visit the State Ethics Commission’s website; attend an ethics class; and contact the Commission’s office for information and guidance.

**What are the penalties for violations of the law?** Penalties include monetary fines; disciplinary action (which may include reprimand, probation, demotion, suspension or discharge); state

**GIFTS DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS DUE  
JUNE 30, 2015**

The deadline to file a gifts disclosure statement with the State Ethics Commission is **June 30, 2015**, to report gifts that you received from June 1, 2014, through June 1, 2015.

on a gifts disclosure statement include, but are not limited to, meals, receptions, conference fees, and travel (airfare and hotel expenses).

Legislators and state employees, including members of state boards and commissions, must file a gifts disclosure statement if they, their spouse, or their dependent child received from one source any gift or gifts whose combined value is greater than \$200 and the gift is not exempt under the statute from the reporting requirements. Gifts that may have to be reported

If you did not receive any reportable gifts, you are not required to file a gifts disclosure statement.

Gifts disclosure forms, instructions, and additional information about the gifts reporting requirement are available on the Commission’s website at [http://ethics.hawaii.gov/gifts\\_form/](http://ethics.hawaii.gov/gifts_form/).