

SUNSHINE LAW MEETING  
MINUTES OF THE HAWAII STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

STATE OF HAWAII

Date: May 18, 2022

Time: 9:01 a.m.

Location: Held via Zoom video and audio conference

Present: State Ethics Commission Members

Melinda S. Wood, Chair (via video conference)  
Wesley F. Fong, Vice Chair (via video conference)  
Reynard D. Gaulty, Commissioner (via video conference)  
Harry J. McCarthy, Commissioner (via video conference)  
Beverley Tobias, Commissioner (via video conference)

State Ethics Commission Staff

Robert D. Harris, Executive Director (via video conference)  
Susan D. Yoza, Associate Director (via video conference)  
Nancy C. Neuffer, Staff Attorney (via video conference)  
Bonita Y.M. Chang, Staff Attorney (via video conference)  
Kee M. Campbell, Staff Attorney (via video conference)  
Jennifer M. Yamanuha, Staff Attorney (via video conference)  
Patrick W.C. Lui, Computer Specialist (via audio conference)  
William Aana, Intern (via video conference)

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Wood called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. and noted that, in addition to herself, Vice Chair Fong, Commissioners Gaulty, McCarthy and Tobias, and all staff were present. Each Commissioner individually confirmed they were participating remotely and no one was in the room with them.

Chair Wood announced that if the Commission's video conference connection was lost during the meeting, the meeting would be recessed and reconvened after the connection was restored; members of the public were asked to check the Commission's website ([www.ethics.hawaii.gov](http://www.ethics.hawaii.gov)) for information about reconnecting to the meeting. Chair Wood also announced that if the meeting was continued to a later date or terminated, information about this would be posted on the Commission's website.

Sandy Ma, from Common Cause Hawai'i, introduced herself as a public participant.

**Agenda Item No. I: Consideration and Approval of the Minutes of the April 20, 2022 Meeting**

Commissioner Fong made and Commissioner Graulty seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2022 meeting. The motion carried (Wood, Fong, Graulty, and McCarthy voting aye; Tobias abstaining).

**Agenda Item No. II: Consideration and Approval of the Minutes of the April 20, 2022 Executive Session Meeting**

Commissioner McCarthy made and Commissioner Fong seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2022 executive session meeting. The motion carried (Wood, Fong, Graulty, and McCarthy voting aye; Tobias abstaining).

**Agenda Item No. III: Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Harris reviewed the training, guidance, and assignment statistics. He noted trainings have been scheduled for the rest of the year and posted online to make it easier for participants to schedule/participate. With the upcoming mandatory ethics training bill being considered by the Governor, it is likely the Commission will see a significant increase in training requests. Trying to encourage participants to sign up for an existing session will reduce pressure on staff capacity.

Executive Director Harris asked the Commission if the next meeting could be moved to June 16, 2022. No objections were raised.

Executive Director Harris asked the Commission to recognize the Commission's intern, William Aana, for the work he had put in over the summer. He noted Mr. Aana helped create a database of all persons who had taken the ethics training courses and had been an extremely positive presence in the office.

Commissioner Tobias made and Commissioner Fong seconded a motion to support a Resolution recognizing William Aana for his service and support of the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission. The motion carried unanimously (Wood, Fong, Graulty, McCarthy, and Tobias voting).

Commissioner Graulty proposed to make the June 16, 2022 meeting "in-person," with a goal of signing the Resolution in-person. Executive Director Harris agreed to look into it.

#### **Agenda Item No. IV: 2022 Legislative Session**

Executive Director Harris updated the Commission about the status of legislation that staff have been tracking. The Commission's budget had been signed by the Governor as Act 001, and a supplemental funding bill (SB 2794 SD1 HD1 CD1) was currently before the Governor. In addition, the Commission's mandatory ethics training bill (HB 1475 HD1 SD1 CD1) was currently before the Governor.

Executive Director Harris also presented Attachment 1: Draft Presentation Titled Commission on Improving Standards of Conduct – Ethics Discussion. This draft presentation summarized recommendations and discussions to be presented to the Commission on Improving Standards of Conduct at its June 1, 2022 meeting.

#### **Agenda Item No. V: *Akana v. Hawaii State Ethics Commission and Daniel Gluck, Civil No. 18-1-1019-06 (JHA); Akana v. Hawaii State Ethics Commission, Civil No. 19-1-0379-03 (JHA); State of Hawaii, Ethics Commission v. Rowena Akana, Civil No. 20-1-0453 (BIA)***

Executive Director Harris said there were no significant updates to report.

#### **ADJOURNMENT OF SUNSHINE LAW MEETING**

At approximately 10:03 a.m., Commissioner Fong made and Commissioner Graulty seconded a motion to adjourn the Sunshine Law Meeting. The motion carried unanimously (Wood, Fong, Graulty, McCarthy, and Tobias voting).

The meeting was adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

Minutes approved on June 16, 2022.