



HAWAI'I STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

State of Hawai'i · Bishop Square, 1001 Bishop Street, ASB Tower 970 · Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE HAWAI'I STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

Commissioners:

Wesley Fong, Chair
Beverley Tobias, Vice-Chair • Robert Hong • Cynthia Thielen

Date: February 21, 2024

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: Zoom Videoconference or Phone:

Videoconference: [Join Zoom Meeting](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86127187837?pwd=KdUjW3cqJ2yf0heoYyZTRbuPWI8ZN.1)
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86127187837?pwd=KdUjW3cqJ2yf0heoYyZTRbuPWI8ZN.1>

Phone: +1 (346) 248-7799 or +1 (408) 638-0968

Meeting ID: 861 2718 7837

Passcode: YmnMh8

Public Meeting Location:

Hawai'i State Ethics Commission Conference Room
1001 Bishop Street
American Savings Bank Tower, Suite 970
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes section 92-3.7, the State Ethics Commission will meet remotely using interactive conference technology. The public may either attend the meeting in person, at the public meeting location above, or participate remotely by using the above Zoom meeting information. If participating remotely, please mute your phone/device except while testifying. If the Commission's videoconference connection is lost during the meeting, please go to the Commission's website (www.ethics.hawaii.gov) for more information, including reconnection information.

Public meeting materials for this meeting are available on the Commission's website at: www.ethics.hawaii.gov.

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

I. Consideration and Approval of the Minutes of the January 17, 2024 Meeting

*Attachment 1: Sunshine Law Meeting Minutes of the January 17, 2024
Hawai'i State Ethics Commission Meeting*

II. Directors' Report

1. Education / Training Report

Attachment 1: 2024 Training Schedule

Attachment 2: Online Training Completions by Department and Board

2. Guidance and Assignment Statistics – January 2024

Attachment 3: 2024 Guidance and Assignment Statistics / Website Traffic

3. Miscellaneous Office Projects / Updates

III. Discussion of Media Reports Concerning Ethics or the Ethics Commission
Since the Last Meeting

IV. 2024 Legislative Matters

New bills of interest, introduced in 2024, are described briefly below. The blue house or senate bill number is a clickable hyperlink that goes directly to the bill language online. If the hyperlink does not work, bills can be looked up at "capitol.hawaii.gov" and the bill number can be looked up in a box in the upper right-hand corner.

- **Budget**

- [HB 2520](#) (Ethics Commission budget). Passed the State House of Representatives. Pending before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means ("WAM").

- [HB 2655](#) (Funds legislative agency Hawai'i employer-union health benefits trust fund costs). Pending before the House Committee on Finance ("FIN"), no other referrals.
- **Commission Procedures**
 - [HB 1881](#) (Maximum administrative fine). Passed House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs ("JHA") pending before FIN.
 - [SB 2215](#) (Maximum administrative fine). Passed Senate Committee on Judiciary ("JDC"). Pending before WAM.
 - [HB 1882](#) (Advice & investigation procedures). Pending before JHA, no other referrals.
 - [SB 2216 SD1](#) (Advice & investigation procedures). Passed the Senate. Pending referral in the House.
- **Disclosure Reporting**
 - [HB 1883](#) (Fiscal reporting periods). Pending before JHA. Also referred to FIN.
 - [SB 2217](#) (Fiscal reporting periods). Passed the Senate. Pending referral in the House.
 - [HB 1884](#) (Legislator disclosures). Pending before JHA, no other referrals.
 - [SB 2218](#) (Legislator disclosures). Pending before JDC, no other referrals.
 - [SB 3221](#) (Decreases the gift value amount required to be disclosed). Referred to JDC.
 - [SB 3350](#) (Requires judges, justices, and nominees for judicial vacancies to file financial disclosures with the Commission). Hearing set on February 15, 2024 before JDC. No other referrals.
- **Lobbyist Law**
 - [HB 1885](#) (Expanding definition of lobbying and creating new presumptions of lobbying activity). Pending before JHA, no other referrals.
 - [SB 2219](#) (Expanding definition of lobbying and creating new presumptions of lobbying activity). JDC scheduled a public hearing on February 12, 2024, for a proposed SD1. No other referrals.

- **Campaign Finance**
 - [HB 2184](#) (Campaign Spending Commission bill that prohibits campaign contributions from persons convicted of campaign finance, lobbying, or ethical offenses). Pending before JHA, no other referrals.

- **University of Hawaii Technology Transfer**
 - [HB 2502](#) (Eliminates sunset provision of the technology transfer exemption). Passed the House Committee on Higher Education & Technology and pending before FIN.
 - [SB 3191](#) (Eliminates sunset provision of the technology transfer exemption). Hearing scheduled before Senate Committee on Higher Education. Also referred to JDC.

- **Fair Treatment**
 - [SB 2623](#) (Allows legislators to use state equipment for bona fide community initiatives within their respective districts). Referred to Senate Committee on Government Operations, JDC/WAM.

- **County Ethics Commissions**
 - [SB 2989](#) (Allows Judicial Council to nominate persons for appointment to a county ethics commission, provided that the charter or ordinance allows it). Referred to Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs and JDC.

V. Discussion of Ethics Oversight over the Judicial Branch

- VI. *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)

Discussion of case status.

The Hawai'i State Ethics Commission may convene an executive session pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes section 92-5(a)(4) to consult with the Commission's attorneys and/or the Department of the Attorney General on

questions and issues pertaining to the Commission's powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities.

Attachment 1: News Release 2024-1

VII. Adjournment

Public Testimony

Anyone wishing to testify may do so during the meeting or may submit written testimony in advance of the meeting by email (info.ethics@hawaii.gov), facsimile (fax) (808-587-0470), or U.S. postal mail (State Ethics Commission, 1001 Bishop Street, American Savngs Bank Tower, Suite 970, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813). Public testimony must be related to an item that is on the agenda and the testifier must identify the agenda item to be addressed by the testimony. Pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes section 92-3 and Hawai'i Administrative Rules section 21-1-6(c), oral testimony is limited to three minutes per testifier per agenda item, subject to the reasonable discretion of the Chair.

Auxiliary Aid or Accommodation Due to a Disability

If you require an auxiliary aid or accommodation due to a disability, please contact the State Ethics Commission at (808) 587-0460 or email the Commission at info.ethics@hawaii.gov as soon as possible, preferably at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. Last-minute requests will be accepted but may be impossible to fill.

Upon request, this notice is available in alternate/accessible formats.