



# 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: March 20, 2024

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: Zoom Videoconference or Phone:

Videoconference: [Join Zoom Meeting](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85054560092?pwd=3uATbJbJUqM4ORlhSIX1O9gv41njE.1)  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85054560092?pwd=3uATbJbJUqM4ORlhSIX1O9gv41njE.1>

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

Phone passcode: 850443

Meeting ID: 850 5456 0092

Passcode: 6VfyTR

### 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](http://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](http://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. Consideration and Approval of the Minutes of the February 21, 2024 Meeting

*Attachment 1: Sunshine Law Meeting Minutes of the February 21, 2024  
Hawai'i State Ethics Commission Meeting*

III. 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 – February 2024

*Attachment 3: 2024 Guidance and Assignment Statistics / Website Traffic*

3. Miscellaneous Office Projects / Updates

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

V. 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.

Bills that have not yet “crossed over” are generally considered dead for this legislative session.

- **Budget**
  - [HB 2520](#) (Ethics Commission budget). Transmitted to the Governor
  - [HB 2655](#) (Funds legislative agency Hawai'i employer-union health benefits trust fund costs). Crossed over to the Senate and referred to the Senate Committee on Labor and Technology and the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (“WAM”).
  
- **Commission Procedures**
  - [HB 1881](#) (Maximum administrative fine). Crossed over to the Senate. Referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary (“JDC”) and WAM. Passed JDC, waiting for a hearing by WAM.
  - [SB 2215](#) (Maximum administrative fine). Failed to crossover.
  - [HB 1882](#) (Advice & investigation procedures). Failed to crossover.
  - [SB 2216 SD1](#) (Advice & investigation procedures). Crossed over to the House. Referred to House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs (“JHA”) and House Committee on Finance (“FIN”).
  
- **Disclosure Reporting**
  - [HB 1883](#) (Fiscal reporting periods). Pending before JHA. Also referred to FIN. Failed to cross over.
  - [SB 2217](#) (Fiscal reporting periods). Passed the Senate. Referred to JHA and FIN.
  - [HB 1884](#) (Legislator disclosures). Crossed over to the Senate. Referred to JDC.
  - [SB 2218](#) (Legislator disclosures). Referred to JDC. Failed to cross over.
  - [SB 3221](#) (Decreases the gift value amount required to be disclosed). Referred to JDC. Failed to cross over.
  - [SB 3350](#) (Requires judges, justices, and nominees for judicial vacancies to file financial disclosures with the Commission). Crossed over to the House. Referred to the

Committee on Labor & Government Operations, JHA, and FIN.

- **Lobbyist Law**
  - [HB 1885](#) (Expanding definition of lobbying and creating new presumptions of lobbying activity). Referred to JHA. Failed to cross over.
  - [SB 2219](#) (Expanding definition of lobbying and creating new presumptions of lobbying activity). Crossed over. Referred to JHA.
- **Campaign Finance**
  - [HB 2184](#) (Campaign Spending Commission bill that prohibits campaign contributions from persons convicted of campaign finance, lobbying, or ethical offenses). Crossed over to the Senate. Referred to JDC.
- **University of Hawaii Technology Transfer**
  - [HB 2502](#) (Eliminates sunset provision of the technology transfer exemption). Crossed over to the Senate. Referred to the Senate Committee on Higher Education and JDC.
  - [SB 3191](#) (Eliminates sunset provision of the technology transfer exemption). Crossed over to the House. Referred to the House Committee on Higher Education & Technology, JHA, and FIN.
- **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. Failed to cross over.
- **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. Failed to cross over.

VI. Proposed 2024 Goals

*Attachment 1: Commission Staff Proposed 2024 Goals*

VII. Discussion of Ethics Oversight over the Judicial Branch

VIII. *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.

IX. Evaluation of Executive Director Robert Harris

The Hawai'i State Ethics Commission may convene an executive session pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes section 92-5(a)(2) to discuss matters relating to the evaluation of an employee where consideration of matters affecting privacy will be involved, and/or under section 92-5(a)(4), to consult with the Commission's attorneys on questions and issues pertaining to the Commission's powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities.

X. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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/accessibile formats.