

# **SUNSHINE LAW MEETING**

## Sunshine Law Attachments

- Attachment 1: News Release 2025-7 (Announcing the Appointment of Moya Tiare Davenport Gray)
- Attachment 2: Memo Regarding Election of Officers for 2026
- Attachment 3: Sunshine Law Meeting Minutes of the November 19, 2025, Hawai'i State Ethics Commission Meeting
- Attachment 4: Sunshine Executive Session Minutes of the November 19, 2025, Hawai'i State Ethics Commission Meeting (*Not Publicly Provided*)
- Attachment 5: 2025 Training Statistics
- Attachment 6: 2025 Guidance and Assignment Statistics
- Attachment 7: Q2 Financial Report
- Attachment 8: Proposed Legislative Delegation Policy



# HAWAI'I STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

*Komikina Ho'opono Kulekele o Hawai'i Moku'āina*

## NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE HAWAI'I STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

Commissioners:

Wesley Fong, Chair

Robert Hong • Cynthia Thielen • Roderick Becker • Moya Gray

Date: January 21, 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: Zoom Videoconference or Phone:

Videoconference: [Join Zoom Meeting](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84011153483?pwd=abapkUOEFxG4a6dPRG5dhlqsdLir7M.1)  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84011153483?pwd=abapkUOEFxG4a6dPRG5dhlqsdLir7M.1>

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

Phone passcode: 914545

Meeting ID: 840 1115 3483

Passcode: 32WhD7

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 attend the meeting in person at the public meeting location above or participate remotely via the Zoom meeting information above. If participating remotely, please mute your phone/device except while testifying. If the Commission's videoconference connection is lost during the meeting, please visit the Commission's website ([ethics.hawaii.gov](https://ethics.hawaii.gov)) for more information, including reconnection information.

Public meeting materials for this meeting are available on the Commission's website at [ethics.hawaii.gov](https://ethics.hawaii.gov).

A G E N D A

CALL TO ORDER

I. Introduction of Commissioner Moya T. D. Gray

*Attachment 1: News Release 2025-7*

II. Election of Officers for 2026

*Attachment 2: Election of Officers for 2026*

III. Consideration and Approval of the Minutes of the November 19, 2025 Meeting

*Attachment 3: Sunshine Law Meeting Minutes of the November 19, 2025,  
Hawai'i State Ethics Commission Meeting*

IV. Consideration and Approval of the Sunshine Executive Session Minutes of the November 19, 2025 Meeting

*Attachment 4: Sunshine Executive Session Minutes of the November 19, 2025,  
Hawai'i State Ethics Commission Meeting*

V. Directors' Report

1. Education & Disclosures – Report/Updates

*Attachment 5: 2026 Training Schedule*

2. Guidance and Assignment Statistics – November and December 2025

*Attachment 6: 2025 Guidance and Assignment Statistics/Website Traffic*

3. Miscellaneous Office Projects/Updates

*Attachment 7: Q2 Financial Report*

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

*Description:* The Commission will discuss recent media coverage related to ethics in government or the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission. The discussion may include consideration of potential responses, clarification of public information, or other appropriate actions.

VII. Summary and Discussion of the 2025 Council on Governmental Ethics Laws Conference

VIII. Discussion of Possible Legislative Proposals within the Commission's Jurisdiction

*Description:* The Commission will discuss potential legislative proposals for the upcoming legislative session, including possible amendments to the State Ethics Code (Haw. Rev. Stat. Chapter 84), the Lobbyists Law (Haw. Rev. Stat. Chapter 97), or other matters within the Commission's jurisdiction. The Commission may provide direction to staff regarding research, drafting, and consultation with stakeholders.

IX. Consideration and Adoption of Legislative Delegation Policy

*Attachment 8: Proposed Legislative Delegation Policy*

X. Adjournment

Disruption of Interactive Technology:

If the Commission loses internet or Zoom connection, the meeting will be automatically recessed for up to 30 minutes to restore communication. **Audio-Only Communication:** If audio-only communication is available, all Commissioners, staff, members of the public, and other interested individuals may continue to participate in the meeting via teleconference by dialing the telephone number and Meeting ID number noted above. If communication cannot be restored within thirty minutes, the meeting will be automatically continued to a date and time to be posted on the Commission's website at [ethics.hawaii.gov](https://ethics.hawaii.gov). Alternatively, if a decision is made to terminate the meeting, the termination will be posted on the Commission's website.

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 Savings Bank Tower, Suite 970, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813). Public testimony must be related to an item on the agenda, and the testifier must identify the 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 Hawai'i State Ethics Commission as soon as possible. You may:

- Call (808) 587-0460 and press 1# to leave a message; or
- Email the Commission at [info.ethics@hawaii.gov](mailto:info.ethics@hawaii.gov)

We encourage requests at least 48 hours before the meeting to allow us time to assist you. We will accept requests made closer to the meeting, but please note that last-minute accommodations may be difficult to provide.

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

SUNSHINE LAW MEETING  
AGENDA ITEM I

INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONER MOYA T. D. GRAY

Attachment 1: News Release 2025-7



# HAWAI'I STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

*Komikina Ho'opono Kulekele o Hawai'i Moku'āina*

## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 26, 2025

NO. 2025-7

For Additional Information

Contact: Robert Harris, Executive Director  
and General Counsel  
Hawai'i State Ethics Commission  
(808) 587-0460 (Office)  
(808) 220-4306 (Mobile)

### GOVERNOR APPOINTS MOYA TIARE DAVENPORT GRAY TO HAWAI'I STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

Governor Josh Green has appointed Moya Tiare Davenport Gray to a four-year term on the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission, filling the seat vacated by outgoing Commissioner Beverley D. Tobias. The appointment is effective immediately.

Gray brings more than three decades of public service, legal expertise, and leadership in state government to the Commission. She has served the Hawai'i State Senate across multiple legislative sessions — including as Senate Session Attorney to the Chair of the Judiciary Committee; Senate Research Attorney for the Committee on Ways and Means; and Committee Attorney for Judiciary and Labor — where she drafted, reviewed, and monitored complex legislation and advised committee leadership on policy impacts. She previously directed the State Office of Information Practices, overseeing Hawai'i's open records and open meetings laws, and has held roles ranging from Hearings Officer in the Judiciary to research attorney and solo practitioner. Her career also includes executive nonprofit leadership and extensive community service, including service on the Supreme Court's Access to Justice Commission and participation in numerous privacy, transparency, and open-government initiatives. Her background reflects a deep commitment to ethics, good governance, and public trust.

"On behalf of the Commission, I am happy to welcome Commissioner Gray as a member of our Commission with all of her wealth of knowledge and dedicated public service," said Wesley Fong, Chair of the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission. "She will be a



definite asset to our Commission's ethics team.”

“Moya’s years of service to Hawai‘i -- across the courts, the Legislature, and state agencies --demonstrate the depth of her dedication to ethical governance. She will be an invaluable resource to the Commission,” said Robert D. Harris, Executive Director and General Counsel of the Hawai‘i State Ethics Commission.

The Hawai‘i State Ethics Commission administers and enforces the state ethics code and lobbyists law. Commissioners are appointed by the Governor from nominations submitted by the Judicial Council and serve four-year terms without compensation. Commissioners must be U.S. citizens, residents of Hawai‘i, and may not hold any other public office. More information on the Ethics Commission and its work is available at [ethics.hawaii.gov](https://ethics.hawaii.gov) or by following the Commission on X at [@HawaiiEthics](https://twitter.com/HawaiiEthics).

[PAU] ###

**About the Hawai‘i State Ethics Commission:**

The Hawai‘i State Ethics Commission is an independent state agency committed to promoting and ensuring ethical conduct in state government. Established to foster public trust, the Commission administers the state’s ethics code and lobbyists law. For more information, visit [ethics.hawaii.gov](https://ethics.hawaii.gov).

SUNSHINE LAW MEETING  
AGENDA ITEM II

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2026

Attachment 2: Election of Officers for 2026

SUNSHINE LAW MEETING  
AGENDA ITEM II

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2026

The Commission's administrative rules provide for the annual election of a chair and vice chair whose terms will commence on January 1 of each year. Hawai'i Administrative Rules § 21-1-10 states as follows:

§ 21-1-10 Chairperson and vice-chairperson. (a) A chairperson shall be elected by a majority of all the members to which the commission is entitled, who shall serve for a term of one year or until a successor is elected, with such term to commence on January 1 of each year.

(b) A vice-chairperson, who shall call and chair meetings in the incapacity or absence of the chairperson, shall be elected by a majority of all the members to which the commission is entitled, and shall serve for a term of one year or until a successor is elected, with such term to commence on January 1 of each year.

The Commission has previously scheduled the election of officers in January. However, in some years, the Commission has deferred the election of officers to July and kept the current officers in place until that time.

At the Commission's meeting on January 15, 2025, the Commission deferred the election of officers until the July, 2025 meeting. Its Vice Chair's term ended on June 30, 2025. At the Commission's meeting on July 16, 2025, the Commission deferred the election of officers until a new Commissioner was appointed.

The following table is provided for your information.

Commissioner	Date Appointed	Term End	Date of Reappointment	Term End
Wesley Fong*	7/01/2018	6/30/2022	7/01/2022	6/30/2026
Beverley Tobias**	7/22/2021	6/30/2025		
Robert Hong	7/01/2022	6/30/2026		
Cynthia Thielen	7/28/2023	6/30/2027		
Roderick Becker	9/16/2024	6/30/2028		
Moya Gray	11/25/2025	6/30/2029		

\* Commissioner Fong served as Vice Chair from July 2021 to July 2022, and has served as Chair from July 2022 to present.

\*\*Commissioner Tobias served as Vice Chair from January 2024 to June 2025 and from July 2025 to October 2025 as a holdover member.

(Note: Commissioners may be appointed to two consecutive four-year terms.)

SUNSHINE LAW MEETING  
AGENDA ITEM III

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE  
NOVEMBER 19, 2025 MEETING

Attachment 3: Sunshine Law Meeting Minutes of the November 19, 2025  
Hawai'i State Ethics Commission Meeting

SUNSHINE LAW MEETING  
MINUTES OF THE HAWAII STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

STATE OF HAWAII

Date: November 19, 2025

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: Hybrid meeting held via Zoom video and audio conference

Recorded video available at

[https://ethics.hawaii.gov/category/commissionmeetings/comm\\_videos/](https://ethics.hawaii.gov/category/commissionmeetings/comm_videos/)

Public Meeting Location

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

Attendance: State Ethics Commission Members

Wesley F. Fong, Chair (in person)  
Robert Hong, Commissioner (via Zoom)  
Cynthia Thielen, Commissioner (in person)  
Roderick Becker, Commissioner (in person)

State Ethics Commission Staff

Robert D. Harris, Executive Director (in person)  
Bonita Y.M. Chang, Compliance Director (via Zoom)  
Kee Campbell, Enforcement Director (via Zoom)  
Nancy C. Neuffer, Staff Attorney (via Zoom)  
Jennifer M. Yamanuha, Staff Attorney (via Zoom)  
Jodi L. K. Yi, Staff Attorney (via Zoom)  
Jared Elster, Investigator (via Zoom)  
Patrick Lui, Computer Specialist (via Zoom)  
Melissa Vomvoris, Administrative Assistant (in person)

Guests and Members of the Public

Candace Park, Deputy Attorney General (via Zoom – joined at 9:22am)  
Judith Mills-Wong, League of Women Voters (via Zoom)  
Nancy L. (Zoom profile name)  
Richard Wiens (Zoom profile name)  
Fritz (Zoom profile name – joined at 9:14am)

1 **CALL TO ORDER (0:05)**

2  
3 Chair Fong called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Chair Fong, Commissioners Thielen and  
4 Becker attended in person, and Commissioner Hong participated via Zoom. All  
5 Commissioners participating remotely confirmed that no one else was present at their  
6 respective locations. Executive Director Harris reminded participants that the meeting was  
7 being recorded for the official record and would be posted online.  
8

9 Chair Fong asked if any guests would like to identify themselves. Public Member Judith  
10 Mills-Wong, representing the League of Women Voters, introduced herself.  
11  
12

13 **Agenda Item No. I: Consideration and Approval of the Minutes of the October 15, 2025,**  
14 **Meeting (2:33)**

15  
16 Upon a motion by Commissioner Thielen, seconded by Commissioner Hong, the  
17 Commission unanimously approved the minutes of the October 15, 2025 meeting. All  
18 Commissioners present (Fong, Thielen, Hong, and Becker) voted in the affirmative.  
19  
20

21 **Agenda Item No. II: Directors' Report (3:24)**

22  
23 **1. Education & Disclosures – Report/Updates (3:32)**

24  
25 Compliance Director Bonita Chang reported that one final MCLE webinar for government  
26 attorneys is scheduled for early December. Updates to self-guided training modules are  
27 underway to ensure ADA compliance with newly adopted accessibility standards.  
28

29 Executive Director Harris pointed out that Attachment 2 reflects the proposed Training  
30 Schedule for the 2026 calendar year.  
31

32 **2. Guidance and Assignment Statistics – October 2025 (5:00)**

33  
34 Enforcement Director Kee Campbell reported the following:  
35

- 36 • 31 complaints were opened and 26 were closed in October.
  - 37 • Year-to-date, 330 complaints have been opened, with 299 closed.
  - 38 • The Enforcement team worked on closing out consolidated assignments, which
  - 39 consist of groups of related complaints that often involve multiple submissions
  - 40 regarding the same issue or individual.
  - 41 • Enhanced statistical reporting is currently in development.
- 42

43 **3. Miscellaneous Office Projects/Updates (7:40)**

44  
45 None reported.  
46

1 **Agenda Item No. III: Discussion of Media Reports Concerning Ethics or the Ethics**  
2 **Commission Since the Last Meeting (7:50)**

3  
4 Executive Director Harris reported on several media articles:

- 5  
6 • November 17, 2025, Hoodline article titled "Hawaii Ethics Cops Take Aim at Pay-to-  
7 Paly and Political Family Perks" [https://hoodline.com/2025/11/hawaii-ethics-](https://hoodline.com/2025/11/hawaii-ethics-cops-take-aim-at-pay-to-play-and-political-family-perks/)  
8 [cops-take-aim-at-pay-to-play-and-political-family-perks/](https://hoodline.com/2025/11/hawaii-ethics-cops-take-aim-at-pay-to-play-and-political-family-perks/)
- 9 • November 16, 2025, Civil Beat article titled "From Fundraisers To Favors, Ethics  
10 Panel Wants To Crack Down On State Workers"  
11 [https://www.civilbeat.org/2025/11/from-fundraisers-to-favors-ethics-panel-](https://www.civilbeat.org/2025/11/from-fundraisers-to-favors-ethics-panel-wants-to-crack-down-on-state-workers/)  
12 [wants-to-crack-down-on-state-workers/](https://www.civilbeat.org/2025/11/from-fundraisers-to-favors-ethics-panel-wants-to-crack-down-on-state-workers/)
- 13 • November 11, 2025, Hawaii Free Press article titled "EXPOSED: How AG Lopez  
14 Stalling Bribery Investigation Until Statute of Limitations Runs Out"  
15 [https://www.hawaiifreepress.com/Articles-Daily-News/ID/46356/November-11-](https://www.hawaiifreepress.com/Articles-Daily-News/ID/46356/November-11-2025-News-Read)  
16 [2025-News-Read](https://www.hawaiifreepress.com/Articles-Daily-News/ID/46356/November-11-2025-News-Read)
- 17 • November 10, 2025, Hawaii News Now article titled "State agencies declined to  
18 investigate third legislator in bribery case, internal letters show"  
19 [https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2025/11/11/state-agencies-declined-](https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2025/11/11/state-agencies-declined-investigate-third-legislator-bribery-case-internal-letters-show/)  
20 [investigate-third-legislator-bribery-case-internal-letters-show/](https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2025/11/11/state-agencies-declined-investigate-third-legislator-bribery-case-internal-letters-show/)
- 21 • November 9, 2025, Civil Beat article titled "The Sunshine Blog: Charter Commission  
22 Gets Slammed With More Than 200 Proposals"  
23 [https://www.civilbeat.org/2025/11/the-sunshine-blog-charter-commission-gets-](https://www.civilbeat.org/2025/11/the-sunshine-blog-charter-commission-gets-slammed-with-more-than-200-proposals/)  
24 [slammed-with-more-than-200-proposals/](https://www.civilbeat.org/2025/11/the-sunshine-blog-charter-commission-gets-slammed-with-more-than-200-proposals/)
- 25 • November 9, 2025, Honolulu Star-Advertiser "Longtime OHA trustee was outspoken  
26 advocate for Hawaiians" [https://www.staradvertiser.com/2025/11/09/hawaii-](https://www.staradvertiser.com/2025/11/09/hawaii-news/longtime-oha-trustee-was-outspoken-advocate-for-hawaiians/)  
27 [news/longtime-oha-trustee-was-outspoken-advocate-for-hawaiians/](https://www.staradvertiser.com/2025/11/09/hawaii-news/longtime-oha-trustee-was-outspoken-advocate-for-hawaiians/)
- 28 • November 7, 2025, Hawaii News Now article titled "Office of Hawaiian Affairs issues  
29 statement on death of former trustee"  
30 [https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2025/11/07/office-hawaiian-affairs-issues-](https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2025/11/07/office-hawaiian-affairs-issues-statement-death-former-trustee/)  
31 [statement-death-former-trustee/](https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2025/11/07/office-hawaiian-affairs-issues-statement-death-former-trustee/)
- 32 • November 5, 2025, HPR article titled "State Sen. Awa contests election ethics  
33 violation over social media video" [https://www.hawaiipublicradio.org/local-](https://www.hawaiipublicradio.org/local-news/2025-11-04/state-sen-awa-contests-election-ethics-violation-social-media)  
34 [news/2025-11-04/state-sen-awa-contests-election-ethics-violation-social-media](https://www.hawaiipublicradio.org/local-news/2025-11-04/state-sen-awa-contests-election-ethics-violation-social-media)
- 35 • October 30, 2025, Rollingout.com article titled "Efforts intensify in Hawaii bribery  
36 investigation" [https://rollingout.com/2025/10/30/efforts-reveals-bribed-hawaii-](https://rollingout.com/2025/10/30/efforts-reveals-bribed-hawaii-lawmaker/)  
37 [lawmaker/](https://rollingout.com/2025/10/30/efforts-reveals-bribed-hawaii-lawmaker/)
- 38 • October 27, 2025, iLind.net article titled "Prior Hawaii 'gag orders' have been struck  
39 down as unconstitutional" [https://www.ilind.net/2025/10/26/prior-hawai-gag-](https://www.ilind.net/2025/10/26/prior-hawai-gag-orders-have-been-struck-down-as-unconstitutional/)  
40 [orders-have-been-struck-down-as-unconstitutional/](https://www.ilind.net/2025/10/26/prior-hawai-gag-orders-have-been-struck-down-as-unconstitutional/)

41  
42 Discussion included the Commissions response to legislative inquiries and the importance  
43 of not interfering with ongoing federal investigations. (10:30)  
44  
45

1 **Agenda Item No. IV: Discussion of Possible Legislative Proposals within the**  
2 **Commission's Jurisdiction (12:50)**

- 3  
4 1. *Proposed Bill: Restricting State Employees from Taking Official Action on Pre-*  
5 *Employment Matters and Amending the Post-Employment Law (13:42)*  
6

7 Executive Director Harris explained that the proposed bill would restrict state employees  
8 from taking official action on pre-employment matters and would amend the post-  
9 employment law to include certain employees in the Governor and Lt. Governor's office.  
10

11 Commissioner Thielen moved to approve the proposed legislation, seconded by  
12 Commissioner Hong. The motion passed unanimously with all Commissioners present  
13 (Fong, Thielen, Hong, and Becker) voting in the affirmative.  
14

- 15 2. *Proposed Bill: Expanding Categories of Board and Commission Members Required to File*  
16 *Public Financial Disclosure Statements (20:08)*  
17

18 Executive Director Harris explained that the proposed bill would expand the number of  
19 boards and commissions whose members are required to file public financial disclosure  
20 statements, based on their substantive fiscal or policy decision making responsibilities.  
21

22 Commissioner Thielen moved to approve the proposed legislation, seconded by  
23 Commissioner Hong. The motion passed unanimously with all Commissioners present  
24 (Fong, Thielen, Hong, and Becker) voting in the affirmative.  
25

- 26 3. *Proposed Bill: Requiring Nominees to Positions Subject to Senate Confirmation to File*  
27 *Financial Disclosures before their Confirmation Hearings (21:50)*  
28

29 Executive Director Harris explained that the proposed bill would require all nominees  
30 subject to Senate confirmation to file a public disclosure statement prior to their  
31 confirmation hearing. He noted that the intent is to provide the public with an opportunity  
32 to review the filings and to ensure that any potential conflicts of interest are discussed  
33 openly before the nominee is confirmed.  
34

35 Commissioner Becker moved to approve the proposed legislation, seconded by  
36 Commissioner Thielen. The motion passed unanimously with all Commissioners present  
37 (Fong, Thielen, Hong, and Becker) voting in the affirmative.  
38  
39

40 **Agenda Item V: Proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget (25:27)**  
41

42 Executive Director Harris presented the proposed budget, noting that there were no  
43 significant changes from prior years. He explained that the largest increase was for  
44 computer consulting services to support accessibility compliance and the development of  
45 an internal AI bot to assist with legal inquiries.



Commissioner Hong moved to approve the proposed legislation, seconded by Commissioner Thielen. The motion passed unanimously with all Commissioners present (Fong, Thielen, Hong, and Becker) voting in the affirmative.

**Agenda Item VI: Consideration and Adoption of Legislative Delegation Policy (31:02)**

Executive Director Harris presented a draft policy aimed at formalizing staff authority to submit testimony on legislation that aligns with existing Commission policy. Commissioners reviewed and discussed the proposed language and scope. Commissioner Thielen expressed concern about delegating too much authority to staff. After further discussion, the Commission agreed to defer the item to the January meeting to allow for further revisions and consideration.

**Agenda Item VII: Meeting Calendar (50:33)**

The Commission discussed the proposed 2026 meeting calendar. Chair Fong noted that meetings are typically held on the third Wednesday of each month. The Commission agreed to maintain the current schedule and to cancel the December 2025 meeting unless urgent business requires otherwise.

**Agenda Item No. VIII: Akana v. Hawai'i State Ethics Commission and Daniel Gluck, Civil No. 18-1-1019-06 (JHA); Akana v. Hawai'i State Ethics Commission, Civil No. 19-1-0379-03 (JHA); State of Hawai'i, Ethics Commission v. Rowena Akana, Civil No. 20-1-0453 (BIA) (52:51)**

Executive Director Harris reported that two civil cases involving former OHA Trustee Rowena Akana remain pending. One is an appeal of a lawsuit against the Commission, and the other is a collection action by the Attorney General's office.

The commission entered executive session pursuant to Haw. Rev. Stat. § 92-5(4) to consult with its attorneys regarding the Akana litigation.

**RECESS OF SUNSHINE LAW MEETING AND CONVENING OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At approximately 9:54 a.m. Chair Fong requested a motion to recess the public meeting and convene in executive session pursuant to Haw. Rev. Stat. § 92-5 (4) to consult with the Commission's attorneys and/or the Department of Attorney General on questions and issues pertaining to the board's powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities regarding the pending litigation. The motion was brought by Commissioner Thielen and seconded by Commissioner Becker. The motion passed unanimously, with all Commissioners voting in the affirmative. (Fong, Thielen, Tobias, Hong, and Becker).

1 All members of the public were excused to the Zoom waiting room. The Commission met in  
2 executive session to discuss the two civil cases involving former OHA Trustee Rowena  
3 Akana.

4  
5 **ADJOURNMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RECONVENING OF SUNSHINE LAW**  
6 **MEETING**

7  
8 At approximately 10:08 a.m., the Commission reconvened the Sunshine Law meeting.

9  
10 Chair Fong summarized the Commission's discussion regarding the pending lawsuit *Akana*  
11 *v. Hawai'i State Ethics Commission and Daniel Gluck*, including the Attorney General's  
12 planned actions and the issue of attorney's fees received by Akana from a private source.

13  
14  
15 **Agenda Item No. IX: Adjournment of Sunshine Law Meeting (56.44)**

16  
17 At approximately 10:09 a.m., Commissioner Hong moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded  
18 by Commissioner Thielen. The motion passed unanimously, with all Commissioners  
19 present (Fong, Thielen, Hong, and Becker) voting in the affirmative.

20  
21 The meeting was adjourned at 10:09 a.m.

22  
23 Minutes approved on \_\_\_\_\_.

SUNSHINE LAW MEETING  
AGENDA ITEM IV

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE  
NOVEMBER 19, 2025 EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING

Attachment 4: Sunshine Law Meeting Executive Session Minutes of the November 19,  
2025, Hawai'i State Ethics Commission Meeting

\*\*\*Executive Session Meeting Minutes not provided to the public\*\*\*

SUNSHINE MEETING  
AGENDA ITEM V

DIRECTORS' REPORT  
January 21, 2026

**1. Education & Disclosures – Report/Updates**

*Attachment 5: 2026 Training Statistics*

**2. Guidance and Assignment Statistics – November and December 2025**

*Attachment 6: 2025 Guidance and Assignment Statistics*

**3. Miscellaneous Office Projects / Updates**

*Attachment 7: Q2 Financial Report*

<b>HAWAII STATE ETHICS COMMISSION</b> <b>2025 EDUCATION PROGRAM</b> <b>(Ethics Workshops and Presentations)</b>			
<b>DATE</b>	<b>PRESENTATIONS</b>	<b>IN PERSON PARTICIPANTS</b>	<b>WEBINAR PARTICIPANTS</b>
1/2/2025	WEBINAR: Lobbyists Law Training	0	25
1/10/2025	WEBINAR: Lobbyists Law Training	0	22
1/17/2025	IN PERSON: Ethics Refresher, Capitol House Members	46	0
1/23/2025	WEBINAR: General Ethics Training	0	18
2/10/2025	WEBINAR: Universal Access Advisory Council, Custom Advisory	0	24
3/5/2025	WEBINAR: General Ethics Training	0	3
4/17/2025	WEBINAR: General Ethics Training, Charter Schools	0	34
5/8/2025	WEBINAR: General Ethics Training	0	15
7/18/2025	WEBINAR: Ethics for State Board & Commission members	0	13
8/6/2025	WEBINAR: General Ethics Training	0	11
9/25/2025	WEBINAR: Ethics for State Board & Commission members	0	3
10/22/2025	WEBINAR: General Ethics Training	0	18
11/7/2025	<del>WEBINAR: Ethics for State Board &amp; Commission members</del> (CANCELED)	0	0
12/4/2025	WEBINAR: Ethics for State Government Attorneys	0	72
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13 Presentations</b>	<b>46 participants</b>	<b>258 participants</b>

2025	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year to date
<b>Training statistics</b>													
# of In-Person Trainings	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
# of People Trained In Person	46	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	46
# of On-Line Trainings (Self-Directed)	698	511	411	419	441	421	2,815	5,095	857	1,153	1,698	854	15,373
# of Lobbyists Law Trainings	180	62	117	11	8	2	3	6	14	9	8	25	445
# of Training Webinars	3	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	12
# of Participants in Training Webinars	65	24	3	34	15	0	13	11	3	18	0	72	258
<b>Attorney of the Day</b>													
	97	89	86	88	87	64	74	82	81	83	38	78	947
<b>New assignments</b>													
Advisory Opinion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Anti-Fraud	6	2	3	6	11	7	6	2	1	9	7	11	71
Complaint	22	20	37	25	31	37	34	39	53	31	36	29	394
Gifts/Invitations/Travel	46	33	31	49	32	53	39	54	49	32	17	10	445
Guidance	2	5	1	2	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	14
Judicial Selection Comm'n	2	4	4	1	2	3	3	3	3	1	4	1	31
Nepotism	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Training Request	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	10	2	0	0	15
Record Request	0	0	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	1	1	2	9
Project/Other	9	3	2	6	7	3	6	3	3	7	3	1	53
Total	88	67	81	89	85	103	92	102	119	84	69	54	1033
<b>Closed Assignments</b>													
Advisory Opinion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Anti-Fraud	2	5	13	3	5	11	9	2	3	2	10	11	76
Complaint	25	26	29	28	21	30	39	39	48	28	6	73	392
Gifts/Invitations/Travel	46	35	26	43	43	52	36	55	51	31	16	13	447
Guidance	1	5	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	12
Judicial Selection Comm'n	2	4	4	1	2	3	3	3	3	1	4	1	31
Nepotism	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Training Request	4	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	2	3	0	1	16
Record Request	0	0	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	1	1	2	9
Project/Other	5	3	1	0	4	2	1	1	2	4	2	2	27
Total	85	79	76	79	78	99	92	101	109	71	39	103	1011

HAWAII STATE ETHICS COMMISSION FINANCIAL REPORT  
FY 2026 (MONTH ENDING: December 31, 2025)  
Appropriation Symbol: G-26-393-Y6

	Amount Appropriated FY 2025-2026	Expenditures for Qtr. End 9/30/2025	Expenditures for Qtr. End 12/31/2025	Expenditures for Qtr. End 3/31/2026	Expenditures for Qtr. End 6/30/2026	Expenditure: Year-To-Date Expenditures Totals	% of Budget Expended
<b>A. PERSONNEL SERVICES</b>							
Staff Salaries	\$ 1,459,710.00	\$ 342,399.25	\$ 357,594.02	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	699,993.27	48.0%
Total Personnel Services	<b>\$ 1,459,710.00</b>	<b>\$ 342,399.25</b>	<b>\$ 357,594.02</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 699,993.27</b>	<b>48.0%</b>
<b>B. OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES</b>							
Office Expenses	5,600.00	720.79	1,779.50	0.00	0.00	2,500.29	44.6%
Intrastate Transportation and Travel	9,250.00	0.00	24.00	0.00	0.00	24.00	0.3%
Out-of-State Travel	16,887.00	2,083.47	7,207.69	0.00	0.00	9,291.16	55.0%
Equipment Rental and Maintenance	36,212.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Dues, Subscriptions, Training	23,494.00	8,591.54	3,986.21	0.00	0.00	12,577.75	53.5%
Newspaper Advertisements	1,100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Comm'n Mtgs, Investigations, Hrgs	12,400.00	50.34	2,531.77	0.00	0.00	2,582.11	20.8%
Consulting Services	33,000.00	3,140.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,140.98	9.5%
Office Rent	131,785.00	20,109.34	32,121.96	0.00	0.00	52,231.30	39.6%
Total Other Current Expenses	<b>\$ 269,728.00</b>	<b>\$ 34,696.46</b>	<b>\$ 47,651.13</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 82,347.59</b>	<b>30.5%</b>
<b>C. CAPITAL OUTLAY</b>							
Office Furniture and Equipment	15,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Total Capital Outlay	<b>\$ 15,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL (A+B+C)</b>	<b>\$ 1,744,438.00 <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$ 377,095.71</b>	<b>\$ 405,245.15</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 782,340.86</b>	<b>44.8%</b>

General Fund Allocation .....	<b>\$ 1,744,438.00</b>
Total Expenditures as of December 31, 2025 .....	\$ 782,340.86
Balance as of December 31, 2025 .....	\$962,097.14

<sup>1</sup> \$1,679,759 awarded by Act 1, SLH 2025 - Appropriation 393.

<sup>2</sup> \$64,679 awarded by Act 127, SLH 2025 - Appropriation 395.

HAWAII STATE ETHICS COMMISSION FINANCIAL REPORT  
FY 2026 (QUARTER ENDING: December 31, 2025)  
Appropriation Symbol: G-25-396-Y6

	Amount Appropriated FY 2025-2026	Expenditures for Qtr. End 9/30/2025	Expenditures for Qtr. End 12/31/2025	Expenditures for Qtr. End 3/31/2026	Expenditures for Qtr. End 6/30/2026	Year-To-Date Expenditures Totals	% of Budget Expended
A. ACCRUED VACATION/VACATION TRANSFERS							
Vacation Payout	\$ 16,553.00 <sup>1</sup>	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	0.0%
Total Accrued Vacation/Vacation Transfe	<b>\$ 16,553.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 16,553.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

Appropriation for Accrued Vacation/Vacation Transfer Payments .....	<b>\$ 16,553.00</b>
Total Expenditures as of December 31, 2025. ....	\$ 0.00
Balance as of December 31, 2025 .....	\$ 16,553.00

<sup>1</sup> Funds for accrued vacation and vacation transfer payments appropriated by Act 1, SLH 2025, for \$16,553.00.



SUNSHINE LAW MEETING  
AGENDA ITEM VI

DISCUSSION OF MEDIA REPORTS CONCERNING ETHICS OR THE ETHICS COMMISSION  
SINCE THE LAST MEETING

*Description:* The Commission will discuss recent media coverage related to ethics in government or the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission. The discussion may include consideration of potential responses, clarification of public information, or other appropriate actions.

No Attachments.

ADJUDICATORY MEETING  
AGENDA ITEM VII

SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION OF THE 2025 COUNCIL ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS LAWS  
CONFERENCE

No attachments.

SUNSHINE LAW MEETING  
AGENDA ITEM VIII

DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS WITHIN THE COMMISSION'S  
JURISDICTION

*Description:* The Commission will discuss potential legislative proposals for the upcoming legislative session, including possible amendments to the State Ethics Code (Haw. Rev. Stat. Chapter 84), the Lobbyists Law (Haw. Rev. Stat. Chapter 97), or other matters within the Commission's jurisdiction. The Commission may provide direction to staff regarding research, drafting, and consultation with stakeholders.

No attachments.

SUNSHINE LAW MEETING  
AGENDA ITEM IX

CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION POLICY

Attachment 8: Proposed Legislative Delegation Policy



# HAWAI'I STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

*Komikina Ho'opono Kulekele o Hawai'i Moku'āina*

## Legislative Delegation Policy

### Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to delegate to the Executive Director the authority to act on behalf of the Commission in legislative matters, while ensuring that the Commission remains informed and retains ultimate oversight.

### Delegation of Authority

#### 1. Authority to Represent Commission Positions

The Executive Director is authorized to submit testimony and otherwise advocate on legislation that is consistent with the Commission's prior advocacy, established positions, and policies.

#### 2. Matters Without a Prior Commission Position

When proposed legislation raises issues on which the Commission has not previously taken a specific position:

- The Executive Director may submit testimony that provides information or comments aligned with the Commission's general position on such matters; and
- The matter will be placed on the agenda for the Commission's next meeting for consideration and possible action.

### Reporting to the Commission

The Executive Director will keep the Commission informed of significant legislative matters, including the status of key bills and any testimony submitted on behalf of the Commission or staff.

### Retention of Authority

Nothing in this policy limits the Commission's authority to review, amend, approve, or rescind positions taken by the Executive Director under this delegation.