



The High Road is a publication of the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission

State Ethics Commission Welcomes Executive Director Robert Harris



On January 3, 2022, the State Ethics Commission and its staff welcomed Robert D. Harris as the Commission's new Executive Director and General Counsel. Mr. Harris is a graduate of the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, where he earned a B.A. degree in Chemistry/Environmental Science and a law degree, with honors, from the William S. Richardson School of Law.

After obtaining his law degree, Mr. Harris served as a law clerk to Associate Justice Simeon R. Acoba, Jr. (ret.) of the Hawai'i Supreme Court.

Mr. Harris then worked in private practice with Damon Key Leong Kupchak Hastert. He also taught appellate writing and advocacy as an adjunct professor at the William S. Richardson School of Law. He later served as the Director of the Sierra Club of Hawai'i. For the past eight years, he has been the Director of Public Policy at Sunrun, where he oversaw legal proceedings and public policy advocacy for the solar provider.

Mr. Harris looks forward to his new role as the Commission's Executive Director, in which he will serve as the Commission's administrator and chief legal counsel. "I am proud and humbled to have been given this opportunity," he said. "I fully realize the responsibilities and importance of this position, and embrace the opportunity to serve."

"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."

— Hawai'i State Constitution Article XIV

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State Ethics Commission Recognizes Daniel Gluck for Outstanding Public Service



On December 15, 2021, the State Ethics Commission presented Daniel M. Gluck with a Resolution in recognition of his outstanding service to the State of Hawai'i as the Commission's Executive Director and General Counsel. Mr. Gluck left his position at the end of December, after having served as the

Commission's Executive Director since 2016. The Commission commended Mr. Gluck for his exemplary abilities as an attorney and advocate, and for performing his duties to administer and enforce the ethics laws with exceptional professionalism.

Aloha and best wishes, Dan!

Proposed Legislation Would Require Ethics Training For All State Employees

The State Ethics Commission offers training sessions – led by a Commission attorney – to state employees throughout the year. The Commission also has on-demand training modules for employees and board/commission members (available at <https://ethics.hawaii.gov/ethicsonline/training/>). However, only a small handful of state officials are required by law to attend ethics training; furthermore, these individuals are only required to attend

ethics training once, regardless of how long they stay in office. No other state employees are required by law to take ethics training. Unfortunately, some employees claim to learn about their obligations under the Ethics Code only after they have violated the law and are facing an investigation by the Commission.

In the 2022 legislative session, the Commission will ask the Legislature to pass a law that would require ethics training

for all state employees. The measure would require certain high-level officials to take training with a live instructor once every four years. For all other employees, the measure would require completion of a 30-minute on-demand class once every four years. The Commission believes that requiring ethics training will help state employees avoid ethics violations and will promote public trust throughout state government.

Filing Deadlines Reminder!

January 31, 2022

- 2022 Financial Disclosure Statements for State Legislators
File your financial disclosure at https://ethics.hawaii.gov/financialdisclosure_efiling/
- Lobbying Expenditures and Contributions Report for May 1 – December 31, 2021
File your forms at <https://hawaiiethics.force.com/disclosures/s/>



"The purpose of this chapter is to ... establish an ethics commission which will ... render advisory opinions and enforce the provisions of this law so that public confidence in public servants will be preserved."

Preamble, Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter 84 (State Ethics Code)

New Post-Employment Prohibition on Lobbying for State Officials

The post-employment law provides that, for one year after leaving state service, state employees may not represent their new private employers before their former agencies. Act 189, which took effect on January 1, 2022, adds another restriction for certain high-level state employees: for one year after leaving state

service, those employees may not be paid to lobby the Legislature or executive branch agencies. The prohibition on post-employment lobbying applies to the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, legislators, department directors and other heads of executive and legislative agencies, all permanent

legislative employees other than administrative staff, and other designated state officials. “Lobbying” has the same definition as in the Lobbyists Law, Hawaii Revised Statutes chapter 97, and includes attempting to influence matters before the Legislature, as well as executive branch action on administrative rulemaking.

New “Quick Guide” on Lobbying

The 2022 Legislature opens on January 19. Not sure whether you need to register as a lobbyist? As a first stop, check out our new Quick Guide on Lobbying, available at <https://bit.ly/hawaiiethics-lobbying>, which provides a general overview of the requirements for registering as a lobbyist. Need more information? Call the Commission’s office if you would like guidance regarding your lobbying activities.



Still Time to Register for Lobbyists Law Training

There is still time to register for the Commission’s Zoom training class on the Lobbyists Law, to be held on January 11, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. The class will cover the registration and reporting requirements for lobbyists and organizations that hire lobbyists, and will also demonstrate how to use the Commission’s e-filing system for lobbying forms. Register for the class here: https://ethics.hawaii.gov/ethicstraining_schedule/



QUESTION: I registered as a lobbyist in 2021. Do I need to renew my registration for 2022?

Answer: You are not required to renew your lobbyist registration if you will be representing the same client/organization as last year; your 2021 registration will be valid through December 31, 2022. However, if you are lobbying on behalf of a new or different client/organization in 2022, then you must file a new registration as a lobbyist for that client/organization this year.

QUESTION: I registered as a lobbyist for an organization in 2021, but am no longer lobbying on behalf of that organization. What should I do?

Answer: You should terminate your lobbyist registration for that organization. You can do this online through your lobbyist e-filing account here: <https://hawaiiethics.force.com/lobbying/s/>