



# HAWAI‘I STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

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

## **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 2, 2024

NO. 2024-2

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## **HAWAI‘I STATE ETHICS COMMISSION 2023 ANNUAL REPORT**

The Hawai‘i State Ethics Commission is delighted to present its 2023 Annual Report, celebrating the Commission's 55th-year milestone. Access the comprehensive report at <https://ethics.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023HSECAnnualReport.pdf> or <http://tinyurl.com/mwbj76zx>.

“As we mark our 55th-year milestone, the Hawai‘i State Ethics Commission proudly reflects on a year of unprecedented achievements, from record-breaking ethics training participation to the successful advocacy for substantive, new ethics laws,” said Robert D. Harris, Executive Director & General Counsel, Hawai‘i State Ethics Commission. “Training and enforcement of the Hawai‘i State Ethics Code have been the Commission’s priority and we thank our Commission staff and the state employees for helping us continue to achieve this task in 2023,” said Wesley Fong, Chair, Hawai‘i State Ethics Commission.

A noteworthy achievement in 2023 was the impressive participation of 35,977 individuals in ethics training. Commencing January 1, 2023, a new law mandated all state employees to undergo either live or online ethics training within ninety days of employment and subsequently, at least once every four years. Remarkably, around 70% of state employees met this mandatory requirement by the close of 2023, a testament to the dedicated efforts of both state employees and Commission staff. Notably, these significant accomplishments were realized without an increase in the Commission's budget or staffing.

Additional highlights feature the successful advocacy for the enactment of 8 new laws fortifying ethics in Hawai'i. These laws include measures such as the prohibition of nepotism and restricting lobbyists from offering gifts to state employees or legislators.

For a more detailed account of these achievements and more, explore the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission's 2023 Annual Report, marking a momentous year in the Commission's history.

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

The Hawai'i State Ethics Commission is an independent 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).