



HAWAI'I STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

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

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATE ETHICS COMMISSION ISSUES INFORMAL ADVISORY OPINION REGARDING HIRING PROCESSES

Today, the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission published an Informal Advisory Opinion on whether a state agency director violated the State Ethics Code by allegedly giving preferential treatment to a civil service candidate during the hiring process.

The Informal Advisory Opinion concludes that there was insufficient evidence to establish a violation of the State Ethics Code. After reviewing the complaint, the respondent's reply, and conducting interviews with agency staff and contractors, the Commission found no indication that the director provided an unwarranted benefit or advantage in violation of the Fair Treatment law, Haw. Rev. Stat. § 84-13(a).

The Commission also concluded that it would defer complaints involving human resources procedures or personnel matters to the appropriate agencies where specific legal remedies exist, unless there is clear evidence of misconduct under the State Ethics Code.

Informal Advisory Opinion No. 2025-1 can be found at

<https://files.hawaii.gov/ethics/advice/IAO2025-01.pdf>

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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.