



HAWAI'I STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

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

NEWS RELEASE

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HAWAI'I STATE ETHICS COMMISSION RELEASES 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

HONOLULU – Today, the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission released its 2025 Annual Report, showcasing a year of remarkable progress in ethics education and enforcement. The full report is available at <https://ethics.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025HSECAnnualReport.pdf>.

The Commission's 2025 efforts led to a record-setting level of ethics training participation, with over 90% of state employees participating. some of the highest administrative fines ever issued for ethics violations, and significant advancements in financial disclosure and lobbying oversight.

"Ethics are the cornerstone of good and honest government," said Wesley Fong, Chair of the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission. "This year's record-breaking training participation and strong enforcement of our state ethics laws demonstrate our commitment to ensuring the highest ethical standards for the people of Hawai'i."

As a result of the Commission's new case and file management system, the Commission published an unprecedented level of detail into its advice and enforcement process, including the ability to show the types of advice and complaints received and the median number of days it took to resolve a complaint.

Among the Commission's key accomplishments:

- Training Expansion: Nearly 88% of state employees and 95% of board and commission members completed mandatory ethics training.

- **Enforcement Actions:** The Commission imposed some of the highest-ever administrative fines for ethics violations, reinforcing its commitment to accountability.
- **Legislative Reforms:** The Commission successfully advocated for new laws that strengthened oversight over lobbyists, expedited the administrative fine process, and incorporated procurement interactions into the lobbying law.

“Our mission is not just to enforce ethics laws but to create a culture of ethical responsibility in Hawai‘i,” said Robert D. Harris, Executive Director & General Counsel. “From expanding education programs to modernizing compliance efforts, our focus remains on ensuring that ethics are not just rules to follow but values that guide public service.”

For a detailed overview of these initiatives and others, visit the Hawai‘i State Ethics Commission’s website at ethics.hawaii.gov.

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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 integrity, transparency, and accountability in government. The Commission administers the State Ethics Code and Lobbyists Law, ensuring ethical conduct in state government to foster public trust.