



Season's Greetings!!

During the holiday season, questions often arise about soliciting and accepting gifts. The main thing to remember is: You may not solicit or accept a gift if a reasonable City taxpayer would think that the gift was intended to influence or reward you for doing your City job, no matter how much the gift is worth.

For your reading enjoyment, here is an excerpt from a holiday gift poem, courtesy of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics.

The holiday season is a time for good cheer!
For egg nog, for parties, for friends to be near.
But I must be careful, lest I accept free
A gift not permitted, not matter how wee.

I can pay market value if the gift I do like,
Or I can at my option say "Eh - I no like!"
I can always say no, but I need not decline

If I get approval from the Commission, then the gift can be mine.

For gifts that a family or friend might send,
The rules recognize I don't want to offend.
Regardless of value, it only must be,
That their motive to give wasn't business but me!

I always look forward to my office party.
We're all in good moods and the food is so hearty.
If no arm is twisted, collecting is OK
To make sure that everyone has a good day.

So go forth with good cheer and know there's no reason
To think that the gift rules will ruin your season!

Please review our Gift Guidelines for additional
details: [http://www.honolulu.gov/rep/site/ethics/publicationsandguidelines/Revised
_Guidelines_on_Gifts.pdf](http://www.honolulu.gov/rep/site/ethics/publicationsandguidelines/Revised_Guidelines_on_Gifts.pdf)

If you have any questions please email the Ethics Commission
at: ethics@honolulu.gov

Happy Holidays,
Jan K. Yamane
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Honolulu Ethics Commission