

Honolulu Ethics Commission

The Ethics Commission was established in 1962 and has seven commissioners who are appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the city council for five-year staggered terms. The commission renders advice on ethics questions to city personnel, the public and the media; investigates complaints of violations of the ethics laws; and recommends discipline to appointing authorities for ethics laws violations.

The commission also develops and implements education programs, including mandatory ethics training and re-training for all city personnel. It also recommends legislation before the council and the Legislature; develops guidelines explaining the standards of conduct; reviews and maintains financial disclosure statements of city officials with significant discretionary authority; and regulates lobbying and lobbyists. The commission is authorized to impose civil fines for ethics violations by elected and appointed officers and employees.

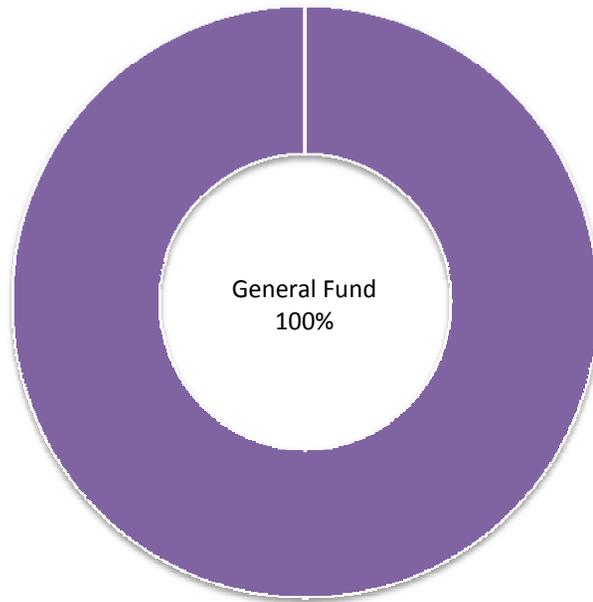
The commission has three permanent full-time positions, including the Executive Director/Legal Counsel, Associate Legal Counsel, and a legal clerk.

The commission is administratively attached to the Department of the Corporation Counsel.

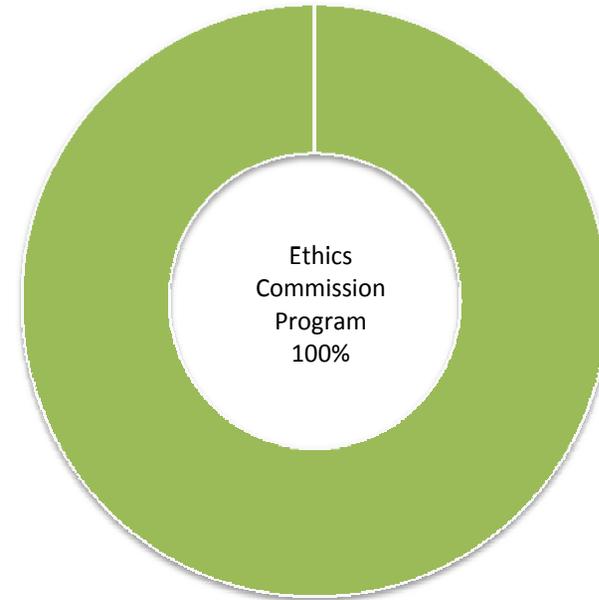
To ensure that city officers and employees understand and follow the ethical standards of conduct governing their work for the public.

- Mission Statement

Funding Sources



Funding Uses



	Total Operating Expenditures	Staffing		Cost per FTE ¹
		Total Authorized FTE	Total Vacant FTE	
FY 2009	\$207,188	2.0	0.0	\$103,594
FY 2010	\$180,388	2.0	0.0	\$90,194
FY 2011	\$187,871	3.0	0.0	\$62,624
FY 2012	\$254,234	3.0	0.0	\$84,745
FY 2013	\$265,987	3.0	0.0	\$88,662
Change from last year	5%	0%	-	5%
Change over last 5 years	28%	50%	-	-14%

Source: Executive Operating Program and Budget (FY 2010-FY 2015), Department of Budget and Fiscal Services, and Honolulu Ethics Commission. ¹Cost Per FTE = Total Operating Expenditures/Total Authorized FTE.

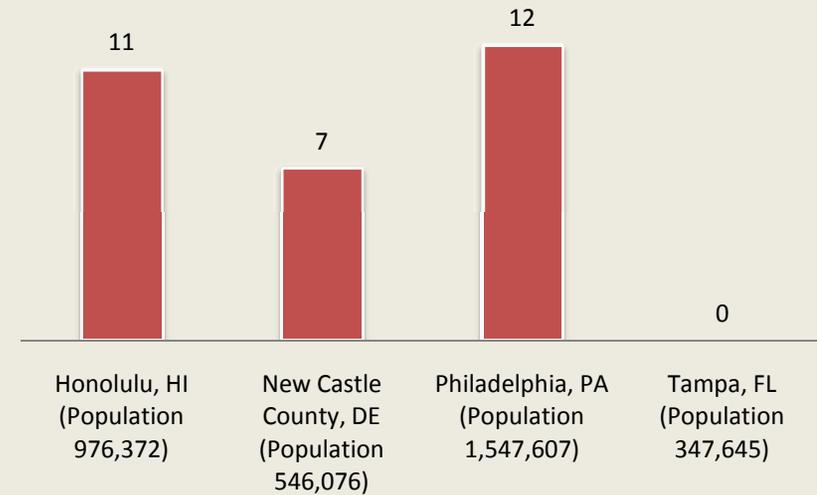
Highlights

Over the last five years, the commission's operating expenditures increased by 28%. The commission explained that the increase was due to adding a new Associate Legal Counsel position in FY 2010. The additional attorney processed a backlog of complaint investigations and helped meet the increasing number of misconduct complaint investigations.

In June 2012, a new law was enacted that requires all city officers and employees to attend ethics training over the next two years. During 2013, the commission provided ethics training to all employees and supervisors who did not previously attend ethics training. As a result, mandatory training and re-training increased by 174% and 361% over the last 5 years, respectively. At the end of FY 2013, the commission trained 2,937 officers and employees.

In FY 2013, the commission responded to 403 requests for advice, an increase of 33 requests, or 9%, from the previous year. According to the commission, the increase was largely due to the greater use of the commission as a resource for investigations. More trained employees have also contributed to increased requests for advice and complaints.

National Comparison of Annual Formal Advisory Opinions Rendered (FY 2012)



Source: Honolulu Ethics Commission; City of Philadelphia, 2012 Annual Report; New Castle County, 2012 Annual Report; City of Tampa, 2012 Annual Report

Ethics Training

	Mandatory Training	Mandatory Re-Training	New Employee Orientation	Total Ethics Training ¹	Advice Requests & Complaints	Complaints Opened for Investigation	Requests for Advice Answered
FY 2009	258	232	446	1,078	367	77	290
FY 2010	350	206	309	967	360	91	267
FY 2011	137	313	336	887	473	81	392
FY 2012	121	368	446	1,127	440	70	370
FY 2013	706	1,070	461	2,937	414	86	403
Change from last year	483%	191%	3%	161%	-6%	23%	9%
Change over last 5 years	174%	361%	3%	172%	13%	12%	39%

Source: Honolulu Ethics Commission. ¹FY 2009-FY 2012 includes specialized training hours. This training category was discontinued in FY 2013.