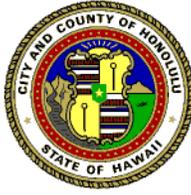


ETHICS COMMISSION
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**HONOLULU ETHICS COMMISSION FINDS FORMER DEPUTY
POLICE CHIEF GAVE PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT FOR
SCOUT EVENT; ACCEPTS REPAYMENT OF OVERTIME**

In response to complaints, the Honolulu Ethics Commission found that former Deputy Police Chief Delbert Tatsuyama used his official City position to obtain special treatment from Honolulu Police Department for a Scouting event. Deputy Chief Tatsuyama's son was a member of the affected Scout group. Almost 30 police officers worked the event, 10 of whom were on overtime. The overtime expense was \$2,673.49 and Mr. Tatsuyama has agreed to reimburse the City.

Deputy Chief Tatsuyama went outside normal procedures to have HPD sponsor the "Say Hi" event. He directly contacted the commands of divisions, including the Ke Kula Makai Training Facility and asked for the academy to be opened on a Sunday, when it was normally closed. He actively oversaw and arranged for HPD to feature some of its most sophisticated and interesting services and equipment – helicopter, armored vehicle, bomb robots, bomb truck, and Canine unit – along with two Bicycle Details for the 28 scouts present during the two and a half hour presentation that was conducted by 26 HPD officers.

During the planning of the event, Deputy Chief Tatsuyama was warned that the event would require significant overtime and that other small Scout groups had been denied when they asked for weekend events with similar police demonstrations. Although he did not explicitly order his subordinates to participate, the Commission stated that "when the Chief or Deputy Chief of Police makes a work-related request to a subordinate officer there is a real concern that the request will be treated tantamount to an order. In other words, high rank brings with it the possibility of inherent coercion of the lower ranks." HPD has a strict requirement in its standards of conduct for a high level of cooperation among the ranks and units. "With the greater authority of command, comes higher responsibility to know the ethics laws and greater consequences for failing to follow them."

In setting the fine the Commission weighs several factors stated in the ethics laws. The Commission noted that the misconduct related to one event and that Mr. Tatsuyama had been

cooperative and truthful during the investigation. He offered to pay for the overtime expense. The Commission did not believe that he intended to abuse his authority and had no intent to conceal or mislead the investigation.

A copy of Advisory Opinion No. 2012-7 is available at:
<http://www1.honolulu.gov/ethics/advisoryopinions.htm>

The Commission speaks through its advisory opinions and staff is not allowed to comment on an opinion. Questions about the Commission or its process may be directed to Chuck Totto at ctotto@honolulu.gov or 768-7786.