

The Compass: Navigating Ethics for the City and County of Honolulu

Honolulu Ethics Commission News Bulletin

December 2017

“To give real service, you must add something which cannot be bought or measured with money, and that is sincerity and integrity.”

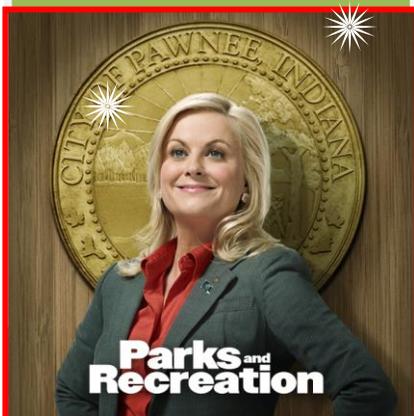
-Douglas Adams



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Season's Greetings!

During the holiday season, questions often arise about accepting gifts. Just remember: You may not accept a gift if it appears that the gift is intended to influence or reward you for doing your City job, no matter what the value.

For guidance on gifts, enjoy our annual Christmas gifts mele, courtesy of the US Office of Government Ethics—local style.

The holiday season—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, no matter how wee.

I can pay market value if the gift I do like,

Or at my option say "Eh—I no like!"

I can always say no,

But I need not decline

If the Commission approves, then the gift can be mine.

*For gifts that a friend or my family 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's okay*

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 gifts rules will ruin your season!

New! Ethics Training

The Commission launched online all-employee ethics training with new content. Ethics elearning provides a convenient, self-paced, and cost-effective way to learn about city ethics. Our goal is to train all city officers and employees by the end of FY2018.

The online course includes clips from *Parks and Recreation* with comedian Amy Poehler to illustrate ethical issues in city government.

Board and commission member training has also moved to an online platform. A separate course highlights issues unique to these volunteer officers.

Mahalo to our partners—the Managing Director, DIT, DHR, and departmental training coordinators—for their on-going assistance and support.



The Society of Corporate Compliance & Ethics 16th Annual

Compliance & Ethics Institute

October 15-18, 2017 · Caesars Palace · Las Vegas, NV



Ethics Conference

The Hon. Victoria Marks (ret.), Chair, Hon. Riki May Amano (ret.), Commissioner, and Jan K. Yamane, Executive Director and Legal Counsel, attended the Society for Corporate Compliance and Ethics 16th Annual Conference held in October in Las Vegas. Each attendee paid their own way to train in ethics and compliance, expose the Commission to fresh ideas and new technology, and bring back learning and resources to benefit the Commission and City.

The conference included sessions on ethics hot topics, ethics legal updates, leadership, ethics and compliance best practices, ethics emerging

trends, and state of the art techniques, tools, and ethics management solutions.

Attendance at this and other ethics conferences is vital for continued growth of both Commissioners and staff. The need for ethics training was recently identified by the Commission during strategic planning as one of its strategic objectives. The Commission intends to pursue more ethics training opportunities.

Mahalo to Chair Marks, Commissioner Amano, and Executive Director Yamane for their time and financial commitment to refreshing and enhancing the City's ethics program.

New! Ethics Commission Strategic Plan - 2027

The Commission has been working on a 10-year Strategic Plan. The draft plan was circulated to all city departments and public worker unions, posted online, and discussed during public meetings to encourage transparency and feedback. The plan identifies the Commission's priorities, objectives, and direction until 2027. View the draft plan on the Commission's website and send us your comments!

http://www.honolulu.gov/rep/site/ethics/Ethics_Commission_2027_-_D-4.pdf

Fun Fact: Honolulu Ethics Commission is 50 Years Old!!



Did you know that in January 1967, Mayor Neal S. Blaisdell appointed Honolulu's very first ethics commissioners and Chief Justice William S. Richardson administered the oath of office? The commissioners were: Lawrence B.C. Lau, John W. Anderson Jr., Mrs. Mildred Briner, Rev. Hiro Higuchi, Harold Ohama, Robert Lewis Stevenson, and Andrew J. Salz.

Mahalo to Robin Ballentyne, Municipal Reference Center Librarian, and our Po'okela Fellow Joseph Pagkalinawan for assisting with historical research on the Honolulu Ethics Commission.

REMINDER! Annual Financial Disclosures Due January 31, 2018

All full-time exempt employees in the Executive and Legislative Branches, as well as division chiefs and board and commission members, must file annual financial disclosure forms with the Ethics Commission.

Elected officials and department directors and deputies must file annual financial disclosures with the City Clerk.

Deadline: January 31, 2018

