

THE HIGH ROAD

"Preserving public confidence in public servants."

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Hawaii State Ethics Commission

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Aloha and Mahalo, Commissioner Robert Bean!

The Hawaii State Ethics Commission and its staff extend their fondest aloha to Commissioner Robert Bean, who completed his term on June 30, 2008. Mr. Bean is the president and CEO of Alert Alarm of Hawaii. He was appointed to the Commission in 2004 and served as the Commission's chairperson from 2006 until the end of his term in 2008. Mahalo, Mr. Bean, for your exceptional service and leadership of the Hawaii State Ethics Commission. We will miss you!



Governor Appoints Kathleen Pahinui to the State Ethics Commission

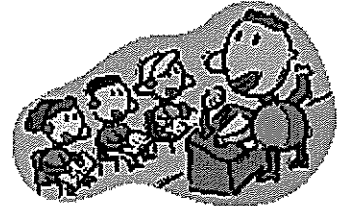
Governor Lingle appointed Kathleen M. Pahinui to a four-year term on the Hawaii State Ethics Commission, effective July 1, 2008. Ms. Pahinui currently is the vice president of account services for Laird Christianson Advertising and has a strong business background in marketing and advertising. Welcome aboard, Commissioner Pahinui!

State Ethics Commission Elects New Chair and Vice Chair

The Hawaii State Ethics Commission has elected a new chairperson. She is Maria J. Sullivan, Esq. The Commission also has elected Jerrold A. Fuller as its vice-chairperson. Current members of the Commission are:

Maria J. Sullivan, Esq., Chair
Jerrold A. Fuller, Vice-Chair
Mark E. Brasher, Ph.D.
David J. Randell, M.D.
Kathleen M. Pahinui

Summer Ethics Training Workshops A Success; More To Come!



The Hawaii State Ethics Commission completed a series of ethics training workshops this past summer: *Ethics for State Employees*, a general ethics workshop; *Ethics for State Procurement Personnel*, a workshop for employees who procure goods and services for the State; and *Ethics for State Supervisors*, a workshop for state supervisors and managers who oversee other employees. Each workshop consisted of a PowerPoint presentation, hypothetical case studies, and a packet of handout materials to supplement a discussion of the ethics laws. Employees from over twenty-nine state agencies attended the workshops.

Due to high interest, we plan to repeat this series of workshops later this year. Information regarding future workshops will be posted on our Web site at www.hawaii.gov/ethics.



Pop Quiz: Campaign Activities and the State Ethics Code

The November 2008 election is rapidly approaching and campaign activities are in full swing. Have you reviewed the State Ethics Commission's flyer, *Campaign Restrictions for State Officials and State Employees*? If not, you should do so now. The flyer is posted on our Web site at www.hawaii.gov/ethics. If you have already reviewed the flyer, test your knowledge by taking the following quiz:

1. Can a candidate be allowed to walk through a state agency to meet with state employees for campaign purposes?
 - A. Yes, provided all candidates for the same elective office are given the same opportunity to walk through an agency.

B. No, candidate "walk-throughs" are prohibited.

Answer: B. The State Ethics Code prohibits the use of state facilities for campaign purposes; therefore, candidate "walk-throughs" in state offices are prohibited.

2. Employees at a state agency are planning to sign wave after work. Can the employees store their campaign signs and other campaign materials in the office?

A. Yes, so long as the campaign signs and other materials are kept out of view of the general public.

B. No, campaign signs and other campaign materials may not be stored in state offices.

Answer: B. Because the ethics code prohibits the use of state facilities for campaign purposes, state offices may not be used to receive or store items for campaign activities.

3. Can a candidate hold a fundraiser in the cafeteria of a state public school?

A. Yes, so long as the candidate is allowed to use the cafeteria in accordance with Department of Education rules.

B. No, because state facilities cannot be used for campaign purposes.

Answer: A. State facilities that are available for use by the public may be used for campaign activities on the same basis as the facilities are available to the public. The DOE has administrative rules that provide for the rental of school cafeterias to public groups. Candidates may use these facilities in accordance with the DOE rules.

4. Can an employee distribute complimentary campaign fundraiser tickets to other employees in a state office?

A. Yes, so long as the employee does not solicit any campaign contributions in return for the tickets.

B. No, complimentary fundraiser tickets may not be distributed in a state office.

Answer: B. The distribution of campaign fundraiser tickets, including complimentary tickets, in a state office is prohibited.

6. Can employees use their state e-mail accounts to send and receive campaign-related messages?

A. Yes, so long as the employees receive permission from their IT administrators.

B. No, state e-mail accounts cannot be used for campaign purposes.

Answer: B. State e-mail accounts cannot be used for campaign purposes.



What About Campaign T-Shirts and Buttons?

The State Ethics Code generally prohibits the use of state resources for campaign activities. However, not all forms of political expression in the workplace are prohibited. The Commission is occasionally asked whether a state employee may wear a political t-shirt or button to work. In general, the State Ethics Code does not prohibit this. Much depends upon the particular facts, however. For example, issues may arise if the wearing of a political t-shirt or button is part of an attempt to engage in campaign activities at work. State employees should also be aware that their agencies may have dress code restrictions or other restrictions that might apply to this situation.

Contact the Hawaii State Ethics Commission if you have questions about what activities are prohibited by the State Ethics Code.

The High Road is a publication of the
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