



HAWAII STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

State of Hawaii • Bishop Square, 1001 Bishop Street, ASB Tower 970 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

ETHICS ADVISORY 2014-01

PROHIBITED USE OF STATE RESOURCES FOR CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES BY STATE LEGISLATORS AND EMPLOYEES

April 10, 2014

In this election year, the Hawaii State Ethics Commission reminds all state legislators and employees that the State Ethics Code prohibits the use of state time, equipment, facilities, and other state resources for campaign purposes. Examples of prohibited activities by state legislators and employees include:

- Using state work time to conduct campaign activities, such as planning campaign events or sign waving.
- Using state computers and state email to send campaign solicitations or to announce campaign events.
- Using state office conference rooms or meeting rooms for campaign meetings or other campaign activities.
- Directing state employees to perform campaign activities at work.
- Selling campaign fundraiser tickets or soliciting campaign contributions in state offices.
- Allowing candidates or political parties to campaign in state offices.

The State Ethics Code also prohibits state legislators and employees from using their official positions to give unwarranted advantages to candidates. For example, the State Ethics Code prohibits using one's official position to coerce campaign contributions or campaign assistance from anyone.

More information about campaign restrictions may be found in the Hawaii State Ethics Commission's publications: *Campaign Restrictions for State Officials and State Employees* (<http://ethics.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/camprestrict.pdf>) and *Prohibited Use of State E-Mail for Campaign Purposes* (<http://ethics.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/prohibitStateEmail.pdf>).

If you have questions about prohibited campaign activities and the State Ethics Code, please contact the Commission's office at (808) 587-0460.