

BOARD OF ETHICS

COUNTY OF HAWAI'I

In the Matter of the Petition by

██████████

Petitioner.

PETITION NO. 2025-15

INFORMAL ADVISORY OPINION

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The County of Hawai'i Board of Ethics (Board), having reviewed the petition for an informal advisory opinion dated June 24, 2025 (Petition) from ██████████ (Petitioner) and having obtained all the information deemed necessary by the Board to make a proper determination regarding the subject petition, the Board renders this informal advisory opinion pursuant to the Charter of the County of Hawai'i (CCH) § 14-5(b), Hawai'i County Code (HCC) § 2-86, and Rule 4 of the Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Board of Ethics (BOE Rules).

I. FACTS

Petitioner is employed by the County of Hawai'i ██████████ ██████████ as a ██████████, which includes the evaluation and award of certain County of Hawai'i grants. Petitioner filed the Petition dated June 24, 2025, requesting an informal advisory opinion as to whether ██████ service as Board President of ██████████ outside of her County employment would violate HCC § 2-83(b). In the Petition, Petitioner declared that ██████ does not assist ██████████ in applying for County grants, and in ██████

capacity as the [REDACTED], does not review, award, or manage County grants to [REDACTED].

Petitioner elected to have the Petition heard in executive session pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes § 92-5(a)(2), HCC § 2-86(a), and BOE Rule 4.13(b). The Board, therefore, considered the Petition in executive session with Petitioner in attendance at its July 16, 2025, and August 13, 2025, meetings. At the July 16, 2025, meeting, the Board initially voted on the Petition, but upon request of the Petitioner, reconsidered its decision to provide additional guidance and to allow the Board, with Petitioner's consent, to request information from [REDACTED], Petitioner's appointing authority. The requested information was received and reviewed by the Board at its August 13, 2025, meeting, prior to deciding the Petition as stated herein.

II. OPINION

The Petitioner is an "employee" subject to the County Code of Ethics, CCH Article XIV and HCC Chapter 2, Article 15 (collectively, County Code of Ethics). See CCH §§ 14-2 to 14-4; HCC §§ 2-81, 2-82. The Petition is a petition for an informal advisory opinion concerning Petitioner's own conduct pursuant to HCC § 2-86(a) and BOE Rule 4.1(a) and substantially complies with the filing requirements of HCC § 2-86(c) and BOE Rule 4.1(c). Based on the Petition, the Petitioner's testimony, the information provided by [REDACTED], and the Board's review of the County Code of Ethics, the Board determines that the Petitioner's service as Board President of [REDACTED] while an employee of the County, specifically a [REDACTED] with [REDACTED], does not constitute a probable violation of the County Code of Ethics, to the extent that Petitioner does not prepare, review, award, or manage County grants to [REDACTED], and does not participate in grant evaluations for any category in which [REDACTED] is an applicant.

Adopted by the Board on 10-15-25, 2025.

BOARD OF ETHICS, COUNTY OF HAWAI'I

By 
LISA FUKUMITSU, Vice Chair