

# Hawaii's "Sunshine Law"

Chapter 92,  
Hawaii Revised Statutes

# Sunshine Law applies to

- Boards, commissions, authorities, task forces, committees
- If they are created by
  - State constitution
  - Statute
  - County charter
  - Rule
  - Executive order
- If they have
  - Supervision
  - Control
  - Jurisdiction
  - Advisory power

# Meetings (few exceptions) are open to the public

- Agenda posted with Lt Gov 6 days prior to the meeting
- Agenda posted at meeting site
- Agenda mailed to whomever requests notification of meetings
- Site inspections are meetings
- No member participation by telephone

# Testimony

- Task force must accept public testimony (oral and written) on any item on the agenda.
- Written testimony must be distributed to each task force member and to any member of the public who requests it.
- Written communication to one task force member, if it appears to be testimony, must be treated as testimony.
- Task force may limit oral testimony (1-3 minutes)

# Discussion among task force members outside of a meeting

- Generally a no-no if the discussion is about task force business.
- Applies to face-to-face discussion, telephone conversation, written communication, fax, email.

# “Permitted interactions” among task force members re: task force business

- Communication between two task force members as long as no commitment to vote is made or sought. [No serial 1-on-1 meetings]
- Investigations by task force members (less than a quorum) designated by the task force to investigate and report back.
- Discussions of routine administrative matters between two or more members with the CAS.