



RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CITY AUDITOR TO PERFORM A COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT AND PERFORMANCE AUDIT OF THE HONOLULU ETHICS COMMISSION.

WHEREAS, Section 11-107 of the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu 1973, as amended ("Charter"), establishes an Ethics Commission ("Commission"), within the Department of the Corporation Counsel for administrative purposes, comprised of seven members appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Council to five-year terms; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has the basic duties of rendering advisory opinions and conducting investigations concerning the application of the City's standards of ethical conduct and recommending appropriate disciplinary action against City officers and employees who violate the standards; and

WHEREAS, the Commission's stated goal is to establish and build an ethical culture in City government so that the public may justifiably trust City government officers and employees and their respective actions; and

WHEREAS, recent events have strained the relationship between the Commission's Executive Director and staff members, Commissioners, and the City administration; and

WHEREAS, the public's trust in the Commission's ability to carry out its duties has been undermined, as media reports have indicated, by events such as:

- A. The imposition of a media policy that, among other things, prohibited the Commission's staff members from engaging in media activities to air their concerns or grievances regarding the Commission's operations or comment on the Commission's decisions and opinions;
- B. The suspension of the Commission's Executive Director following an internal personnel investigation;
- C. The implementation of a requirement for Commission's staff members to complete daily timesheets that detail by tenth-of-an-hour increments legal and administrative tasks performed; and
- D. The resignation of the Commission's Executive Director and staff members; and



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WHEREAS, the City Council finds that, given the current state of the Commission, a comprehensive management and performance audit is necessary to determine how to improve the Commission's operations and efficiency in carrying out its duties and to help restore the public's trust in the Commission; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that the City Auditor is requested to perform a comprehensive management and performance audit of the Honolulu Ethics Commission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council requests the City Auditor to report its findings and recommendations for improving the Commission's operations and efficiency in carrying out its Charter-prescribed duties; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Managing Director, the Chair of the Honolulu Ethics Commission, and the City Auditor of the City and County of Honolulu.

INTRODUCED BY:

[Handwritten signature]

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

JUN 29 2016

Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers