

## **THE EXECUTIVE**

The State Constitution, Article V, section 1, vests executive power of the State in the Governor. In the absence or disability of the Governor, the power and duties of the Governor devolve upon the Lieutenant Governor.

The Governor and the Lieutenant Governor are elected at large by voters for concurrent four-year terms and must be of the same political party.

### **OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

<http://governor.hawaii.gov>

The Governor is the Chief Executive of the State of Hawaii and is responsible for the faithful execution of the laws of the State and the effective performance of the executive branch of the state government. The Governor establishes the broad goals of the State and determines the priorities for achieving those goals. The Governor provides community, executive, and political leadership for the people of the State, plans for the development of the State and its resources, and provides for the general well-being of the people. The Governor directs the development of the executive budget and the generation of recommendations for revenue-producing measures and programs, which are submitted to the Legislature for each fiscal biennium, and administers the execution of the legislatively approved budget.

The Governor's authority includes the power to call the Legislature into special session, to veto legislation passed by the Legislature, to grant reprieves and pardons, and to arrange interstate compacts. The Governor is also the Commander in Chief of the armed forces of the State. Unless otherwise provided by law or the State Constitution, the Governor nominates and, with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoints members of boards and commissions and members of the Cabinet and fills vacancies in the House of Representatives and the Senate. From a list of nominees submitted by the Governor by the Judicial Selection Commission, the Governor fills vacancies in the Supreme, Intermediate Appellate, and Circuit Courts. In addition, the Governor, as required by the State Constitution, Article V, section 5, appoints an Administrative Director, who functions as the Governor's chief of staff and assists in the supervision of the executive departments and major state initiatives.

The Office of the Governor is comprised of seven functional areas: (1) Executive, (2) Administration and Operations, (3) Boards and Commissions, (4) Communications, (5) Constituent Services, (6) Policy, and (7) Collective Bargaining and Managed Competition.

## **Executive**

This area provides overall direction and the highest level of authority and decision-making.

## **Administration and Operations**

Administration and Operations is responsible for the general administration and support of the office staff, first family, and constituents.

## **Boards and Commissions**

The Office of the Governor oversees more than 160 boards and commissions established by the State Constitution, statutes, or executive orders, providing an opportunity for a cross-section of Hawaii residents to offer vital input. Boards and Commissions facilitates applications and provides the Governor with lists of qualified candidates.

## **Communications**

Communications is responsible for overseeing and coordinating external communications.

## **Constituent Services**

Through Constituent Services, the public may contact the Governor and the Governor's staff, and invite the Governor to an event or request a meeting. This area also fields constituent requests, such as for proclamations, commendations, or special messages; flags to be flown over the State Capitol; and tours of the Capitol.

## **Policy**

Policy is responsible for coordinating support and monitoring the status of legislative issues, and processing and maintaining acts and administrative rules, as well as coordinating, assisting in the development of, and implementing the policies that are set by the Governor.

## **Office of Collective Bargaining and Managed Competition**

The Office of Collective Bargaining and Managed Competition, established in the Office of the Governor under section 89A-1, HRS, assists the Governor in negotiating with and entering into written contracts between public employers and public employee union representatives on matters of wages, hours, and other negotiable terms and conditions of employment. The Office of Collective Bargaining and Managed Competition also assists the Governor in formulating plans and criteria to measure management's accomplishment of objectives and in formulating management's philosophy and strategy in collective bargaining. It reviews collective bargaining agreements and coordinates the compilation of data required for negotiation.

## **Executive Office on Early Learning**

The Executive Office on Early Learning (Office), established and temporarily placed within the Office of the Governor pursuant to section 302L-1.5, HRS, will be permanently established within the Department of Education for administrative purposes only on July 1, 2015. Among its responsibilities, the Office must develop a plan for the early learning system, including the development, execution, and monitoring of a phased implementation plan, and coordinate, improve, and expand upon existing early learning programs and services for children from prenatal care until kindergarten.

## **Education Commission of the States**

The Education Commission of the States (ECS) is established pursuant to Article III, paragraph A, of the Compact for Education under section 311-1, HRS. Pursuant to section 311-2, HRS, Hawaii's representatives to the Commission consist of seven members. The Governor; two members of the Legislature selected by its respective houses and serving in such manner as the Legislature may determine; and the head of a state agency or institution, designated by the Governor, having one or more programs of public education, are ex officio members of the Commission. The other three members are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The mission of ECS is to help states develop effective policy and practice for public education by providing data, research, analysis, and leadership, and by facilitating collaboration, the exchange of ideas among the states, and long-range strategic thinking.

# OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

