OIPAND THE UIPA OVERVIEW

- An introduction to Hawaii's Office of Information Practices (OIP)
- An overall summary of the UIPA, Sec.92F, HRS
- More detailed and free resources online at oip.hawaii.gov
- •Get What's New articles by emailing your request to *OIP@hawaii.gov*

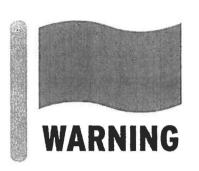
OIP administers:



Uniform Information Practices
 Act ("UIPA"), HRS Chapter 92F
 open records

• Sunshine Law, Part I of HRS Chap. 92 – open meetings

Penalties and Consequences:



- Public and media complaints
- Adverse OIP and court decisions
- Fines
- Final action voided
- · Lawsuits, attorney fees and costs

Need Help?



Attorney of the Day:

• Call **586-1400**

• E-mail oip@hawaii.gov

• Fax 586-1412

• Write 250 S. Hotel Street, #107

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

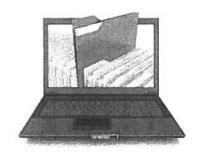
• Website oip.hawaii.gov

Common policy of UIPA and Sunshine Law:



"[I]t is the policy of this State that the formation and conduct of public policy -- the discussions, deliberations, decisions and actions of government agencies -shall be conducted as openly as possible."

UIPA: Purposes



- Promote the public interest in disclosure;
- Provide for accurate, relevant, timely, & complete government records;
- Enhance **governmental accountability** through a general **policy of access** to government records;
- Make government accountable to individuals in the collection, use, and dissemination of information relating to them; and
- Balance the individual privacy interest and the public access interest, allowing access unless it would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.



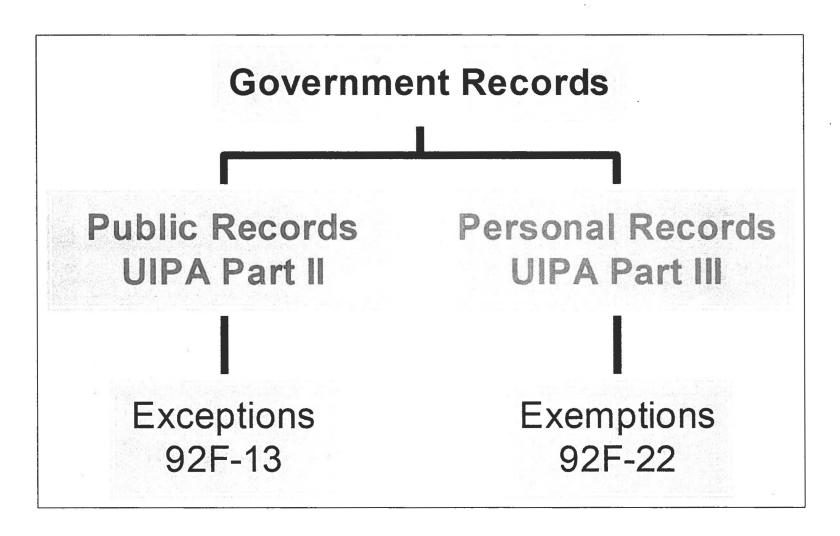
UIPA is a <u>disclosure</u> statute requiring public access, unless access is restricted or closed by law.

• A "government record' means information maintained by an agency in written, auditory, visual, electronic, or other physical form." (HRS sec. 92F-3)

• Includes emails and texts.



Uniform Information Practices Act



"Personal Record"



•"About" the individual requester

•Contains or makes reference to the person's name, social security number or other identification



Certain types of <u>specified</u> records <u>must</u> be disclosed to the public, **including**

- 1. **minutes** of all public meetings;
- 2. "information collected and maintained for the purpose of making information available to the general public" e.g., agency brochures, final public reports;
- 3. employee names, compensation, job titles/descriptions, business address, and other **specified employment information**;
- 4. for contract hires and consultants: **contract** itself, amount of **compensation**, contract's **duration**, and its **objectives**;
- 5. government purchasing information, including all bid results, "except to the extent prohibited by section 92F-13."

Other <u>non-specified</u> records <u>must</u> also be disclosed to the public (HRS Sec. 92F-12(b)) if they fall within these categories:



- 1. Requester has the **prior written consent** of all individuals to whom the record refers;
- 2. Record is expressly authorized by federal or state law to be disclosed to the requester;
- 3. Compelling circumstances affecting an individual's health or safety;
 - 4. Court order; or
 - 5. House or Senate subpoena.



Agency may disclose to any other agency for various reasons, including if the disclosure is:

- 1. Necessary for the performance of the requesting agency's duties and functions, and is (1) compatible with the purpose for which the information was collected, or (2) consistent with the conditions or reasonable expectation of use and disclosure under which it was provided e.g. sharing information in a mutual investigation or research project
- 2. Otherwise subject to disclosure under the UIPA;
- 3. Pursuant to court order.
- 4. To the **legislature**, or a county **council** or any committee or subcommittee thereof, **the offices of the legislative auditor**, the **legislative reference bureau**, or the **state ombudsman**;
- 5. To the state, county, or agency **personnel offices**; or
- 6. To another agency for the purpose of auditing or monitoring an agency program that receives federal, state, or county funding.



HRS Sec. 92F-13 Exceptions to Disclosure

Agency could keep records confidential if:

- 1. Disclosure would constitute a **clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy** this is not applicable to businesses;
- 2. The records would **not be discoverable** in litigation in which the state or county is or may be a party;
- 3. The records must be confidential in order for the government to avoid the **frustration of a legitimate government function**;
- 4. The records are protected from disclosure by state or federal **law** or court order; or
- 5. The records fall into a limited exception relating to legislative records.

UIPA's Procedural Requirements

The request should be made in writing.

OIP has a form on its website for requesters to use that helps to make clear **who** the requester is, **when** the request was made, **what** is being requested, and **where and how** the agency's response should be provided, and also lists the **requester's responsibilities**, such as possible payment of **fees and costs**.

But **requesters need not use this form** – the request may be oral or made via email or a letter or other writing.

The **agency may ask** for a formal written request and for clarification if the request is not clear.

Within 10 Business Days:

Provide:

- Record,
- Notice, or
- Acknowledgement



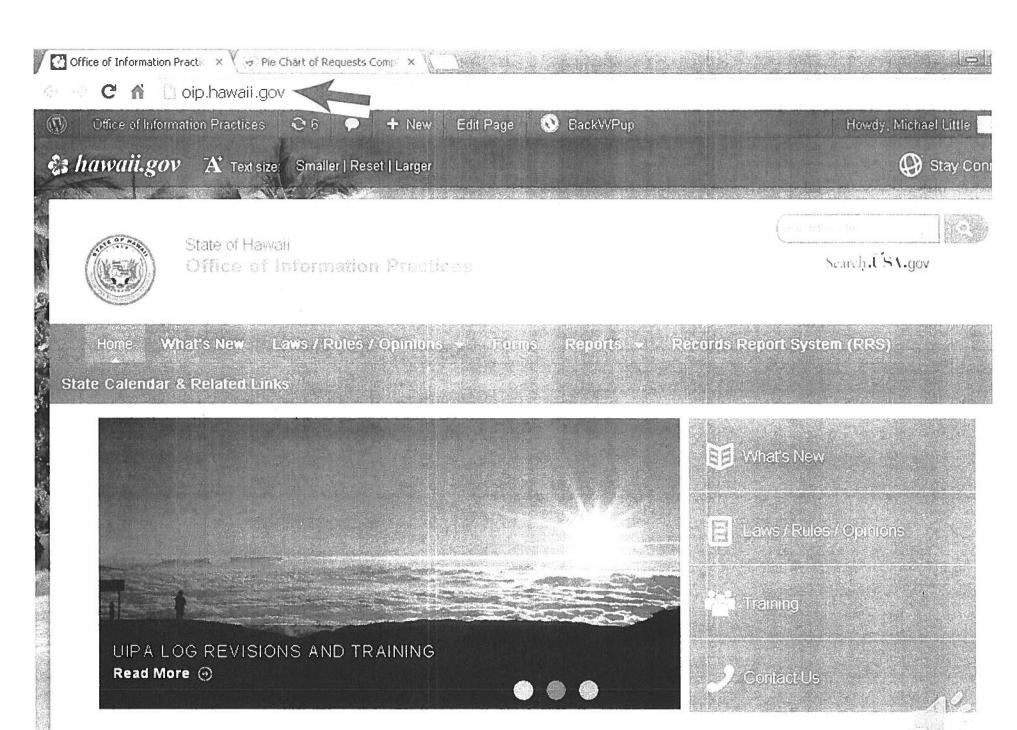
Use the UIPA Record Request Log to keep in compliance and to track and report record requests.

oip.hawaii.gov/training

The UIPA Record Request Log helps an agency to

- Track its written requests for records & the agency's response
- Report requests & outcomes onto data.hawaii.gov
- Assist & account to the public
- Calculate fees & costs
- Keep government open





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