

**CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN**

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**EDUCATION:**           **WILLIAM S. RICHARDSON SCHOOL OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII**  
*J.D., May 1998; Member, Hawaii State Bar Association, October 23, 1998*

Honors: Richard S. and Percy K. Mirikitani Memorial Scholarship for outstanding academic performance; Lawrence H. Kono Memorial Award for outstanding academic performance; CALI Excellence for the Future Award

**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA**  
*Bachelor of Business Administration, May 1991, with distinction*

Concentration: Accounting  
Honors: Dean's Honor Roll, Golden Key National Honor Society

**WORK**                   **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**  
**EXPERIENCE:**       *Director, January 2015 to Present*

Member of Governor David Y. Ige's cabinet. Responsible for leading the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, which protects the interests of consumers, depositors, and investors throughout the State. The department sets standards and enforces laws and rules governing businesses, including licensed professionals, and is responsible for business registration, consumer protection, and consumer advocacy in regulated utility and transportation services.

**CABLE TELEVISION DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

*Cable Administrator, September 2013 to December 2014*

Reviewed, analyzed, and advised the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs on various proceedings relating to the applications and investigations of cable operators; Public, Educational, and Governmental (PEG) access organizations; and other recipients of cable franchise fees directed by the Department. Drafted and reviewed decisions, orders, correspondence, and legal memoranda for various proceedings and special projects. Conducted special projects to promote the adoption and deployment of broadband services in the State. Drafted and reviewed legislative testimony and legislative proposals. Tracked telecommunications proceedings before the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and drafted and reviewed legal documents for filing before the FCC. Managed a staff of seven professionals and support staff. Executed and managed consulting contracts for additional outside legal and accounting expertise and staff training.

**HAWAII PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

*Chief Legal Counsel, April 2011 to September 2013*

Managed six staff attorneys and led, reviewed, and analyzed various dockets and special projects relating to the applications and investigations of electric, gas, water, wastewater, telecommunications, and water and motor carrier companies. Drafted decisions, orders,

correspondence, legal memoranda, and legal briefs for various dockets and special projects. Advised Commissioners and professional staff on regulatory and legal issues. Drafted and reviewed legislative testimony and legislative proposals for the Commissioners' use.

**HAWAIIAN ELECTRIC COMPANY, INC.**

*Manager, Corporate Planning Department, November 2010 to April 2011*

Managed Generation Planning Division, Corporate Energy Planning Division, Forecast Division, and Strategic Planning Division to develop the Company's strategic plan, Clean Energy Scenario Plan, Resource Plans, corporate scorecards, and risk assessments. Responsible for advising the executive team and Board of Directors of various Company plans, strategies, risks, and methodologies for mitigating such risks. Assigned to legislative team and responsible for tracking specific energy bills at the State legislature and Congress. Responsible for preparing testimony, exhibits, and worksheets, for filing with the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission in various dockets.

**DIVISION OF CONSUMER ADVOCACY, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

*Executive Director, September 2006 to December 2009*

Represented utility consumers before the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission. Led, reviewed, and analyzed various dockets and special projects relating to the applications and investigations of electric, gas, water, wastewater, telecommunications, and water and motor carrier companies. Drafted and reviewed filings with the Commission, including legal briefs, witness testimonies, information requests, responses to information requests, and correspondence for various dockets and special projects. Executed and managed consulting contracts for expert witnesses and staff training. Managed a staff of fourteen professionals and support staff. Advised the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and the Governor of the State of Hawaii on regulatory and legal issues. Tracked energy bills and drafted testimony for presentation to the Legislature. Negotiated and executed the Hawaii Clean Energy Agreement with Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc. and the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism. Manager of the Year, DCCA, 2009.

**HAWAII PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

*Commission Counsel, January 2002 to September 2006*

Led, reviewed, and analyzed various dockets and special projects relating to the applications and investigations of electric, gas, water, wastewater, telecommunications, and water and motor carrier companies. Drafted decisions, orders, correspondence, legal memoranda, and legal briefs for various dockets and special projects. Advised Commissioners and professional staff on regulatory and legal issues. Tracked energy bills and drafted testimony for the Commission.

**BODDEN & MURAOKA, ATTORNEYS AT LAW, A LAW CORPORATION**

*Associate, March 2000 to October 2001*

Practice focused on real property transactions (including IRC § 1031 exchanges and reverse exchanges), estate planning, and entity formation. Responsible for independently advising clients and preparing and supervising legal assistants in the preparation of legal documents and correspondence.

**ASHFORD & WRISTON, LLP**

*Associate, February 1999 to March 2000*

Member of the firm's Real Property and Business Practice Areas. Practice focused on taxation, real property transactions, and estate planning. Responsible for preparing legal research memoranda regarding taxation issues; drafting wills and trust agreements; conducting due diligence inquiries relating to real property purchases and sales; drafting leases and other documents relating to real property transactions.

**STATE OF HAWAII, SECOND CIRCUIT COURT**

*Law Clerk to the Honorable Boyd P. Mossman, August 1998 to January 1999 (Judge Mossman Retired in February 1999)*

Researched and counseled Judge Mossman on civil and criminal legal issues relating to daily motions and trials. Responsible for setting and maintaining the civil and criminal calendars for Judge Mossman's courtroom. Provided information and assistance to members of the public reporting for jury duty.

**ASHFORD AND WRISTON**

*Summer Associate, May 1997 to August 1997*

Researched various legal issues; prepared legal memoranda and various motions in the following areas of law: general real property, land condemnation, bankruptcy, and partnership law, among others.

**KPMG PEAT MARWICK LLP**

*Senior Tax Specialist, June 1991 to October 1994*

Prepared and reviewed federal and state income tax returns for individuals, corporations, partnerships, trusts and estates. Designated Tax Computer Specialist. Responsible for training other professional staff in use of Fast-Tax tax preparation program and KPMG-developed software. Assisted the LAN administrator with the installation of the office-wide network (Novell/10 Base-T) and the subsequent training of the professionals in system use. Researched and drafted opinions on tax issues specific to clients' needs.

**SKILLS AND  
ACTIVITIES:**

Proficient in spreadsheet, word processing, and legal research software packages, including Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Word, WordPerfect, Lexis, and Westlaw.

Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation, Treasurer, 2006-2009; Delta Theta Phi fraternity, Exchequer, 1996-1997; Pacific Asian Legal Studies Student Organization, Secretary, 1996-1997; Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Instructor, 1996-1997; Ete Bowl Starting Defensive End and Tight End -1995, 1996, 1997, Starting Guard and Center – 2000, 2002 - 2004; Keala`okamaile Hula Halau (Keali`i Reichel, Kumu Hula) Member, 1998 - 2001; SCUBA diving, Paddling, Golf.