

# **DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

*<http://hawaii.gov/ag>*

The Department of the Attorney General, established under section 26-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is headed by the Attorney General. The Department administers and renders state legal services, including furnishing written legal opinions to the Governor, the Legislature, and such state departments and officers as the Governor may direct; represents the State in all civil actions in which the State is a party; approves as to legality and form all documents relating to the acquisition of any land or interest in lands by the State; and, unless otherwise provided by law, prosecutes cases involving violations of state laws and cases involving agreements, uniform laws, or other matters which are enforceable in the courts of the State.

## **Crime Prevention and Justice Assistance Division**

The Crime Prevention and Justice Assistance Division (CPJAD) coordinates crime prevention research projects and uniform crime statistic reports, administers federal and state grants relating to the improvement of criminal justice systems, coordinates crime prevention training activities, and develops and maintains the juvenile justice information system.

## **Hawaii Criminal Justice Data Center**

The Hawaii Criminal Justice Data Center, established under section 846D-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is responsible for the statewide criminal history record information system, the statewide automated fingerprint identification system, and the issuance of the Hawaii State identification cards.

## **Investigation Division**

The Investigation Division is responsible for providing investigative services in three general categories: criminal, civil, and administrative.

## **Child Support Enforcement Agency**

The Child Support Enforcement Agency, created by section 576D-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is responsible for administering the child support enforcement program, which involves establishing, collecting, and enforcing child support payments owed to children by their absent parents. In this connection, the Agency, through attorneys in the Department of the Attorney

General<sup>1</sup> files or appears in actions to establish paternity for children born out of wedlock; obtains, enforces, or modifies an order of support on behalf of any dependent or other person for whom the Agency has a duty to obtain or enforce an order of support; locates absent parents; and intercepts tax refunds of parents who are delinquent in making their child support payments.

### **Office of Child Support Hearings**

The Office of Child Support Hearings is responsible for establishing, modifying, suspending, terminating, and enforcing child support obligations, and providing a fair administrative hearing for child support disputes pursuant to chapters 91 and 576E, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

### **Legal Services Divisions**

The various Legal Services Divisions are responsible for providing legal services to the Governor, executive departments and agencies, the Legislature, and the Judiciary, and for enforcing laws. The Divisions are organized according to the program areas which they serve and include the tort litigation, tax, labor, land/transportation, administration, civil recoveries, commerce and economic development/antitrust, special assignments, employment law, criminal justice, Medicaid fraud, health and human services, family law, education, public safety, Hawaiian homelands, and housing divisions.

The Divisions' services include furnishing written legal opinions, representing the State in all court and administrative agency actions, approving the legality and form of all contracts and documents relating to the acquisition of land or any interest in lands by the State, and prosecuting cases involving violations of state laws, agreements, and uniform laws. They also draft bills and resolutions for the Governor, legislators, and the executive departments and agencies.

### **Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation**

The five-member Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation, established under section 3-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, acts in an advisory capacity to the Attorney General and to the Legislature on matters relating to the promotion of uniform legislation. Commissioners are appointed in the same manner as other members of boards and commissions although, under section 26-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the two-term, eight-year limit does not apply to the members of the Commission.

The Commission works with the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws to promote uniformity of state laws in areas in which uniformity is practicable and

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<sup>1</sup> Effective October 1, 2007, Act 167, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, transferred personnel employed by the family support divisions of the County of Hawaii and the City and County of Honolulu, whose functions relate to child support enforcement, to the Department of the Attorney General.

desirable. The adoption of the uniform acts prepared by the National Conference by the states is voluntary, and acts that would be advantageous to the State are promoted by the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation for passage by the Legislature.

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