
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY

I. Mission Statement

To diligently render proficient legal services ethically and honorably; and to act as an advisor and advocate to the various county entities which comprise the County of Kaua‘i on behalf of the people.

II. Department Goals

The Department’s goal is to provide timely competent legal advice and representation to the Mayor, County Council, and to all Departments, Commissions, Boards and Agencies. Competent representation requires the legal knowledge, skill, thoroughness, and preparation reasonably necessary for the representation.

Powers, Duties, and Functions

1. The county attorney shall be the chief legal adviser and legal representative of the county administration, all county agencies, the county council, and all county officers and employees in matters relating to their official powers and duties. The county attorney shall also perform all other services incident to the county attorney's office as may be required by law.
2. The county attorney shall have the power to appoint such deputy county attorneys and necessary staff authorized by the council, within the appropriation made therefor. Such deputies shall serve at the pleasure of the county attorney.
3. The council may, by vote of five members, authorize the employment of special counsel for any matter necessitating such employment. Any such authorization shall specify the compensation, if any, to be paid for said services. (Article VIII, Section 8.06, Kauai County Charter)
4. Legal process against the county shall be served upon the county attorney or any of the deputies.
5. Legal adviser of the council. (Article VIII, Section 8.04, Kauai County Charter)
 - a. Attend their meetings when required.
 - b. Oppose all claims and accounts against the county when the county attorney deems them unjust and illegal.
6. Legal advisor of the county administration. Render opinions to county officers and employees on matters relating to the duties of their respective offices.
7. Defend county officers, acting within their official capacities, in civil actions. The county attorney is not required to defend any officer in any matter or case out of which criminal proceedings against such officer may arise.

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8. Counsel for police officers as provided in sections 52D-8 and 52D-9, Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”).

Section 52D-8 “Police officers; counsel for. Whenever a police officer is prosecuted for a crime or sued in a civil action for acts undertaken in the performance of the officer’s duty as a police officer, the police officer shall be represented and defended:

- (1) In criminal proceedings by an attorney to be employed and paid by the county in which the officer is serving; and
- (2) In civil cases by the . . . county attorney ...”

“Section 52D-9 Determination of scope of duty. The determination of whether an act, for which the police officer is being prosecuted or sued, was undertaken in the performance of the officer’s duty, so as to entitle the officer to representation by county-provided counsel, shall be made by the county police commission. Before making a determination, the police commission shall consult the county attorney or the corporation counsel, who may make a recommendation to the police commission with respect thereto. The determination of the police commission shall be conclusive for the purpose of this section and section 52D-8.”

9. Legal adviser of the Board of Water Supply. (Section 54-16, HRS)

Prosecute and defend any and all actions and proceedings involving matters under the jurisdiction of the Board of Water Supply.

10. Legal adviser of the Liquor Control Commission. (Chapter 281, HRS, as amended)

Defender of investigators and employees.

- a. Section 281-104. "Whenever any investigator or other employee of the liquor commission shall be. . . sued in any civil cause for acts done in the performance of the investigator’s or employee’s duty as such investigator or employee, the investigator or employee shall be represented and defended . . . (2) in any such civil cause by the . . . county attorney, of the county in which the investigator or employee is serving. . . .”
- b. Section 281-105. Determination whether acts were in scope of duty shall be made by the liquor commission after consultation with the county attorney who may make a recommendation to the commission. Such determination shall be conclusive for such purpose only.

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11. Act as counsel for appointing authority under Chapter 76, HRS, (Civil Service Law). (Section 76-47, HRS)

12. Duty under Chapter 480, HRS: Monopolies; Restraint of Trade.

Section 480-20: "(a) . . . The county attorney . . . shall investigate and report suspected violations of this chapter to the attorney general. (b) Whenever this chapter authorizes or requires the attorney general to commence any action or proceeding, including proceedings under Section 480-18, the attorney general may require the county attorney . . . holding office in the circuit where the action or proceeding is to be commenced or maintained, to maintain the action or proceeding under the direction of the attorney general."

13. Legal assistance to Chief of Police in enforcement of Automobile Safety Regulations. (Section 287-2, HRS)

14. Prosecute violations of Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. (Section 328-28, HRS)

15. Legal assistance to the County Tax Collector.

16. Other duties.

Provide legal advice and advocacy upon request for commissions, boards, hearings, regular and special council and committee meetings, department and division meetings, conferences with Mayor and staff, including:

- Charter Review Commission
- Arborist Advisory Committee
- Historic Preservation Review Commission
- Board of Ethics
- Land Use Commission
- Committee on the Status of Women
- Fire Commission
- Public Access, Open Spaces Natural Resources Preservation Fund Committee
- Planning Commission
- Building Board of Appeals
- Housing Agency
- Police Commission
- Liquor Commission
- Board of Water Supply
- Civil Service Commission
- Board of Review
- Cost Control Commission
- Salary Commission

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- Council's Subcommittee on Housing
- Collective Bargaining
- Hawaii Labor Relations Board
- Workers' Compensation Appeals

To establish a litigation team to better serve the County in defending more cases in-house.

III. Program Description

The county attorney is the legal advisor and representative to the Council, the Mayor, all departments and agencies, all boards and commissions, and all officers and employees in matters relating to their official powers and duties.

Objectives

1. Assess all claims filed against the County, efficiently process those which this office determines to be valid, and vigorously defend against all others.
2. Produce and review all documents generated for the purpose of facilitating the delivery of governmental services by the County of Kaua'i to its citizens.
3. To provide such continuing legal education to the Mayor, the County Council, Departments, Commissions, Boards, and Agencies, as shall keep them current on changes in the law which affect the efficient and fair discharge of the duties of the County to its citizens.

Some of the successes and achievements of the Advice & Counsel Unit include:

1. Maintaining high level of support for our departments within the limitations of our resources.
2. Immediate response and review of all federal and state guidelines and requirements for responding to disasters as provided by state and county law. High quality guidance provided to all county departments when requested and recognized for such efforts by both state and federal agencies.
3. Drafted new solicitations and contract templates for FEMA reimbursement projects, in addition to other various forms to document that the County has complied with all federal rules and regulations for FEMA reimbursement.
4. Met with the State Procurement Officer and conducted a training to all County project managers on compliance with FEMA reimbursement rules and regulations.

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5. Continued maintenance and updating of contract templates to standardize the following types of contracts and amendments: 1) goods; 2) goods (open ended); 3) services; 4) services (open ended); 5) professional services; 6) professional services amendment; 7) professional services (HRS 464 licensed design engineers, architects etc.); 8) professional services (464) amendments; 9) professional services legal; 10) professional services legal amendments; and construction contracts.
6. Provided continued training to Executive departments for important administrative affairs, e.g. liability, personnel management, and contracting.
7. Continued legal and administrative assistance to KPD regarding the future planned Kawaihau police station.
8. Continued HR training and guidance for executive departments to lessen and mitigate liability and avoid costly court cases.
9. Continued assistance to the Division of Purchasing, in its initiative to move the County towards greater use of electronic records and electronic signatures.
10. Assisting DOW in adopting e-procurement which will lead to increased efficiency of water service and better maintenance of water infrastructure.
11. Assisted DOW in collecting delinquent accounts in order to ensure that water service is paid for equitably by the entire community.
12. Worked with Council and Administration to amend the county code to provide for legal avenues to allow for vending in the county's public right-of-ways when appropriate, according to the needs of Kauai's unique individual communities.
13. Assisted Planning Department in passing the General Plan.
14. Continued support of County efforts to site an Adolescent Drug Treatment Center on Kauai.
15. Continued to spearhead programs that support the native Hawaiian community and protect the host culture, heritage, and entitlements.
16. Continued to lead efforts to comply with the Federal and State Endangered Species Act, including efforts to extensively amend the Kauai Seabird Habitat Conservation Plan (KSHCP) to create a program that is affordable and fair for the island of Kaua'i, and revise the County's building and lighting inventory and lighting proposal for its Participant Inclusion Plan (PIP) to enable the County to have lights on at County facilities and hold night football games during the seabird fledgling seasons during the thirty (30) year permit duration.

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17. Continued to provide advice and training on Uniform Information Practices Act requests.
18. Drafted an “Advice & Counsel Division Treatise” that provides an outline and notes on frequent requests and legal analyses to improve service and efficiency in rendering legal advice, and provide a written form of institutional memory for future use of the office with posterity in mind.
19. Continued guidance and support to Executive departments in passing administrative rules to support their operations.

The Litigation Unit continues to manage the majority of the new litigation filed against the County, as well as filing necessary cases to protect the County’s interests in all of the various judicial and quasi-judicial venues, including Federal District Court, State Circuit Court, State District Court, State and Federal Appellate courts, and the various administrative agencies.

Some of the successes and achievements of the Litigation Unit include:

1. Continued reduction on the County’s reliance of special counsel.
2. Continued handling of all planning contested cases in-house.
3. Vigorous defense of the County in various litigation cases and increased cooperation with insurance carriers to best utilize our limited litigation resources in the most economic fashion.
4. Ongoing collections of delinquent accounts receivables or other moneys owed to the County.

IV. Program Measures – Accomplishments/Evaluation

The Office of the County Attorney serves to provide legal support services to all other County departments and agencies.

1. The advice and counsel division (A&C) extensively studied and reviewed federal procurement laws, rules, and regulations, FEMA Procurement Public Disaster Assistance Team training and guidance materials, and Hawai‘i’s procurement rules, regulations, and laws to develop trainings, documentation, and new contract and IFB templates for FEMA reimbursement projects. A&C worked with the State Procurement Office (SPO) to develop solicitation and contract templates, checklists, and various other memorandums for records to allow the County to substantiate compliance with all federal rules and regulations for FEMA reimbursement projects. Some of these materials are now available for use on other disaster response projects statewide (e.g., for Hawai‘i Island disaster response projects) through the SPO website.

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2. A&C conducted a training for all County project managers on FEMA project eligibility and process eligibility, and to introduce the various templates A&C created.
3. The litigation division continues to provide support to the various departments' collection of delinquent accounts receivables.
4. Handling the majority of litigation in-house has reduced County reliance on special counsel.
5. Secured an Executive Order from State DLNR for the Kapa'a Armory for use by the County at no cost.
6. Maintaining the updated General Provisions for Construction Contracts and General Terms and Conditions for Goods and Services Contracts.

V. Budget

Resources (General Fund)

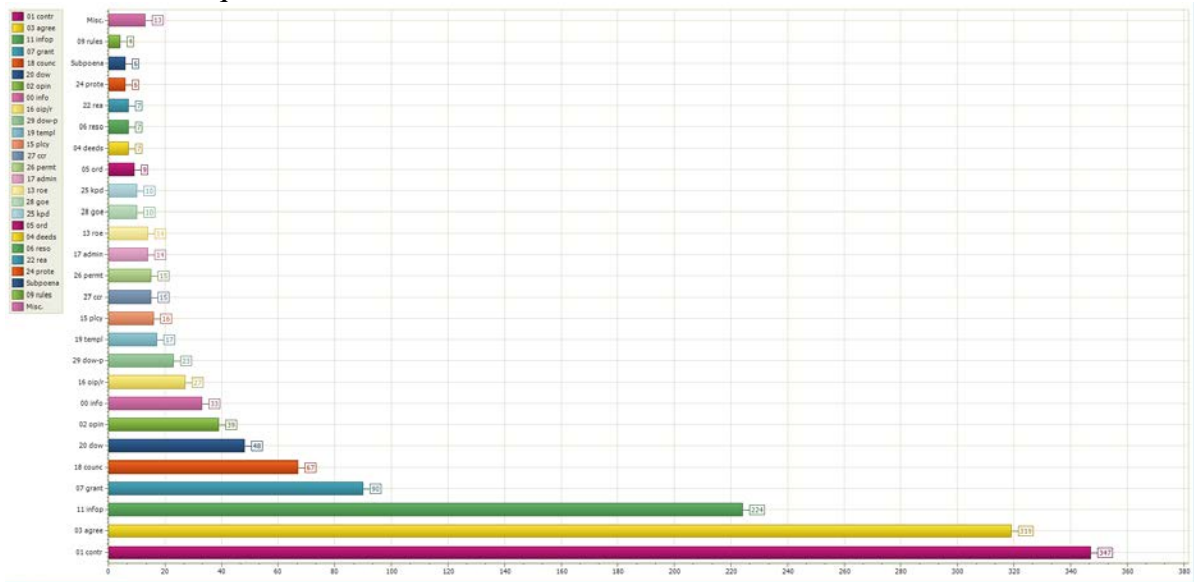
Expense Type	<u>FY 2018</u> Appropriation	<u>FY 2018</u> Actual
Equivalent Personnel (E/P)	15	15
Salaries and Wages	\$ 2,200,224	\$1,923,120
Operations	\$ 538,548	\$420,172
Equipment	\$ 0	\$ 0
Total	\$ 2,738,772	\$2,343,292

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VI. Statistics

Chart: Advice and Counsel Division Matters for FY 2018
Total Requests for Review and Assistance = 1387

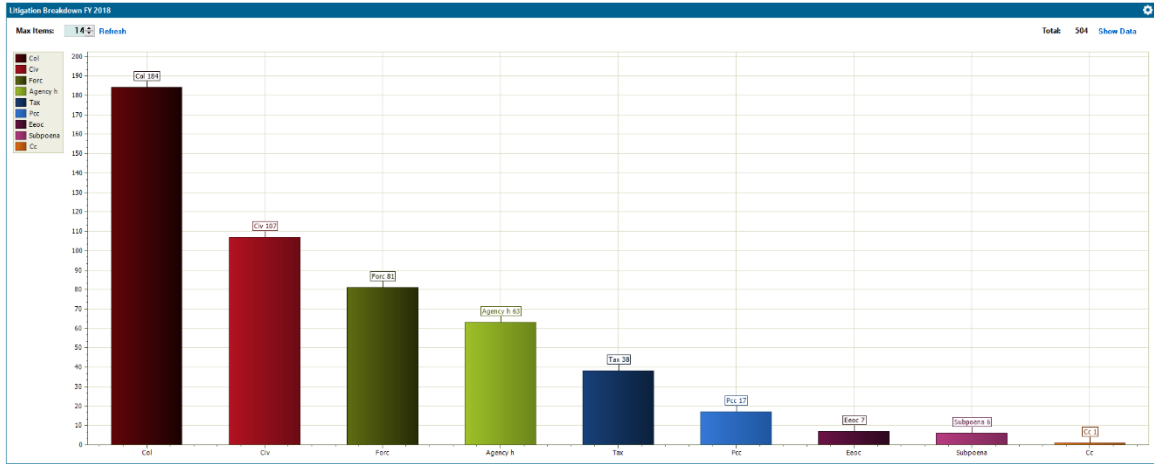


Data: Advice and Counsel Division Matters for FY 2018
1387 Matters Broken down by Case Codes

Advice & Counsel 2018 Fiscal Year			
Group	Description	Count	Percentage
01 CONTR	01 CONTR	347	25%
03 AGREE	03 AGREE	319	23%
11 INFOP	11 INFOP	223	16%
07 GRANT	07 GRANT	90	6%
18 COUNC	18 COUNC	67	5%
20 DOW	20 DOW	47	3%
02 OPIN	02 OPIN	39	3%
00 INFO	00 INFO	32	2%
16 OIP/R	16 OIP/R	27	2%
29 DOW-P	29 DOW-P	23	2%
19 TEMPL	19 TEMPL	17	1%
15 PLCY	15 PLCY	16	1%
27 CCR	27 CCR	15	1%
26 PERMT	26 PERMT	15	1%
13 ROE	13 ROE	14	1%
17 ADMIN	17 ADMIN	14	1%
28 GOE	28 GOE	10	1%
25 KPD	25 KPD	10	1%
05 ORD	05 ORD	9	1%
06 RESO	06 RESO	7	1%
04 DEEDS	04 DEEDS	7	1%
22 REA	22 REA	7	1%
24 PROTE	24 PROTE	6	0%
SUBPOENA	SUBPOENA	6	0%
09 RULES	09 RULES	4	0%
23 TRAIN	23 TRAIN	3	0%
14 DISPO	14 DISPO	2	0%
08 MISC	08 MISC	2	0%
empty	empty	2	0%
PL	PL	1	0%
ADM	ADM	1	0%
PUC	PUC	1	0%
GRIEVANC	GRIEVANC	1	0%
12 AGEND	12 AGEND	1	0%
ARB	ARB	1	0%
WC	WC	1	0%

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Chart: Litigation Division Current for FY 2018
Total Current Cases = 504



Data: Litigation Division Current for FY 2018
504 Cases Broken down by Case Codes

Litigation Breakdown FY 2018			
Max Items: <input type="text" value="25"/>		Refresh	
Group	Description	Count	Percentage
COL	Collections	184	37%
CIV	Civil	107	21%
FORC	Foreclosure	81	16%
AGENCY H	Agency/Commissionior	63	13%
TAX	Real Property Tax A	38	8%
PCC	Planning Contested	17	3%
EEOC	EEOC	7	1%
SUBPOENA	Subpoena	6	1%
CC	Contested Case	1	0%

VII. Holo Holo 2020 Projects & Status

The Mayor announced in 2010 his Holo Holo 2020 Project List. The Office of the County Attorney assisted the various departments and agencies with several Holo Holo projects by providing legal advice, review of procedures, and review and drafting of legal documents which are as follows:

- Assisted with the review of procurement and contractual documentation of the design consultant for a Residential Adolescent Drug Treatment Center.
- Provided continuing advice and counsel on the Lima Ola 75 acre green affordable housing development.
- Provided continuing advice, counsel, and litigation support for the expansion of Hanalei Beach Park.

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- Provided continuing advice and counsel on the County’s various stewardship agreements.
- Provided continuing advice and counsel on the pilot closure of Eiwa Street.
- Provided continuing advice and counsel on the development of the new resource recovery park and landfill site.

VIII. Office Staff as of June 30, 2018

Mauna Kea Trask	County Attorney
Matthew M. Bracken	First Deputy
Jodi Higuchi Sayegusa	Deputy
Mahealani Krafft	Deputy
Cameron Takamura.....	Deputy
Adam P. Roversi	Deputy
Teresa Tumbaga	Deputy
Sinclair Salas-Ferguson	Deputy
Mark Bradbury.....	Deputy
Peter Morimoto	Deputy
Mark Ishmael	Deputy
Teresa Amoy	Administrative Services Officer
Barbara S. Montemayor.....	Paralegal Assistant II
Allison A. Hiranaka	Paralegal Assistant II
DonnaLee Brinkerhoff.....	Paralegal Assistant I
Michelle I. Vierra.....	Legal Clerk II
Vacant	Legal Clerk III