

FACT SHEET

OPEN, RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT 2006 INITIATIVES

Encourage Transparency and Openness

The Lingle-Aiona Administration remains committed to providing an open government in which people of integrity treat every citizen fairly.

Require Departments to Share Information

All procurement and contract award information will be required to be posted on the Internet. Currently State departments have the option to post on their websites information about pending and awarded government contracts. The Governor has instructed that a Procurement Circular be issued to ensure that all executive branch departments start to include this information on a routine basis on their public Web sites.

Improve Government Operations Through Recruitment

The Administration proposes changing the strict residency requirements for State and County jobs in order to increase the pool of available applicants. Applicants will no longer have to be residents of the State when applying. However, they must establish residency upon starting their new government job. A larger pool of applicants for government jobs will augment the available talent and skill-set the State can consider and also allow former residents to Hawai'i of apply for positions while still living out-of-state.

Improve Enforcement of the Sunshine Law and Open Records Law

The Administration is proposing two bills that would give the Office of Information Practices (OIP) the ability to enforce rulings through the courts.

The first bill would give OIP authority to take a case to court when a board or commission refuses to comply with a ruling regarding the State's Sunshine Law. Currently the OIP can rule on any challenge to a board action as a violation. However, there is no internal mechanism to force the board or commission to comply. In the past this has resulted in some boards refusing to abide by an OIP ruling.

The second bill would give the OIP similar enforcement powers over the release of government records. When a request for release is made by a member of the public, and an agency denies the request, the OIP may rule on the appropriateness of this denial. If the ruling is that the law requires release of documents, the OIP has no way to enforce this. An agency may simply decline to honor the decision. This bill would give OIP the authority to take an agency to court in order to implement their ruling.