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December 24, 2024

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

For your information and consideration, I am transmitting a copy of the Goals and Objectives of the Department of the Attorney General, as required by Act 100, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 1999, as amended by Act 154, SLH 2005. In accordance with section 93-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, I am also informing you that the report may be viewed electronically at <http://ag.hawaii.gov/publications/reports/reports-to-the-legislature/>.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at (808) 586-1500.

Sincerely,

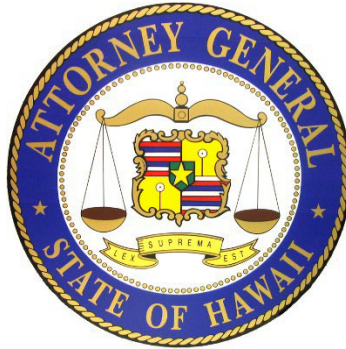
Anne E. Lopez

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Attorney General

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Sylvia Luke, Lieutenant Governor
Legislative Reference Bureau (Attn: Karen Mau)
Leslie H. Kondo, State Auditor
Luis Salaveria, Director of Finance, Department of Budget and Finance
Stacey A. Aldrich, State Librarian, Hawaii State Public Library System
David Lassner, Ph.D., President, University of Hawaii

Enclosure

State of Hawai‘i
Department of the Attorney General
Ka ‘Oihana O Ka Loio Kuhina



GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Pursuant to Act 100, Session Laws of Hawaii 1999
As amended by
Act 154, Session Laws of Hawaii 2005

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

*Submitted to
The Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 1:	<u>INTRODUCTION</u>	1
SECTION 2:	<u>MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS</u>	2
SECTION 3:	<u>DEPARTMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES</u>	4
	<u>Sustain Quality Legal Services through Hiring and Training</u>	5
	<u>New Deputy Training</u>	6
	<u>Improve Range of Legal Services by Cross Training</u>	6
	<u>Adapt to the Changing Needs of the Workforce</u>	7
	<u>Share and Access Resources; Establish a Data Bank</u>	9
	<u>Reduce Time Spent on Non-Legal Tasks</u>	10
	<u>Improve Client Relations</u>	11
	<u>Succession Planning and Leadership Opportunities</u>	12
SECTION 4:	<u>LEGAL SERVICES DIVISIONS</u>	12
	<u>Administration Division</u>	12
	<u>Appellate Division</u>	13
	<u>Civil Recoveries Division</u>	13
	<u>Civil Rights Litigation Division</u>	14
	<u>Commerce and Economic Development Division</u>	14
	<u>Complex Litigation Division</u>	15
	<u>Criminal Justice Division</u>	15
	<u>Education Division</u>	16
	<u>Employment Law Division</u>	16
	<u>Family Law Division</u>	17
	<u>Health Division</u>	17
	<u>Human Services Division</u>	18
	<u>Labor Division</u>	18
	<u>Land Division</u>	19
	<u>Legislative Division</u>	19
	<u>Public Safety, Hawaiian Home Lands, and Housing Division</u>	20
	<u>Special Investigation and Prosecution Division</u>	20
	<u>Tax and Charities Division</u>	20
	<u>Tort Litigation Division</u>	21
	<u>Transportation Division</u>	22
SECTION 5:	<u>PUBLIC SERVICES DIVISIONS</u>	22
	<u>Child Support Enforcement Agency</u>	22
	<u>Crime Prevention and Justice Assistance Division</u>	23
	<u>Hawaii Criminal Justice Data Center</u>	23
	<u>Investigations Division</u>	24
	<u>Office of Child Support Hearings</u>	24
	<u>Office of Dispute Resolution</u>	25
SECTION 6:	<u>CONCLUSION</u>	25

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

Act 100, Session Laws of Hawaii 1999, as amended by Act 154 (2005), requires every department and agency of the State to develop and submit to the legislature an annual report addressing the following: (1) a statement of goals, including what the department or agency hopes to accomplish over both the short and long term; (2) objectives and policies, specifically setting forth how each goal can and will be accomplished; (3) an action plan with a timetable indicating how the established objectives and policies will be implemented in one, two, and five years; and (4) the process that the department or agency will use to measure the performance of its programs and services in meeting the stated goals, objectives, and policies.

The Attorney General is the chief legal officer of the State of Hawai'i. By law, the Attorney General and her deputies represent the State and its agencies and officers in the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches of government. This representation includes litigation in both state and federal court, in both civil and criminal matters, and in both defensive and affirmative capacities. In addition, the Department performs transactional work that assists the State's many agencies with the performance of their duties. The Department works with its clients on legislative priorities as well as reviewing submitted bills and testifying on legislation; drafts and reviews Administrative Rules; advises boards and commissions; and prepares legal documents in many forms. The Department provides a constant stream of informal and often daily advice to its clients. Additionally, when writs are filed against the Judiciary, if requested, the Department will represent the judge. Experience and institutional awareness, alongside productive collaboration with our state, local, and federal counterparts, are key components of the Department's success.

The Attorney General is also the chief law enforcement officer of the State, and in that role she and her deputies and investigators investigate and prosecute complaints involving human trafficking, white collar crime, violations of public integrity, citations and arrests for violations on public lands, public nuisance, arrests made by all State law enforcement officers, compliance with the Master Tobacco Settlement Agreement, and Medicaid fraud.

The Department also provides public services. It handles all child support enforcement actions, which in fiscal year 2023-2024 resulted in the collection of over \$97 million in child support. The Department's Grants and Planning Branch of the Crime Prevention and Justice Assistance Division administers federal grants to state and county criminal justice agencies and non-profit victim service providers; active awards for fiscal year 2023-2024 totaled \$54,709,239 million. Other federal funds are administered by the Hawaii Criminal Justice Data Center and the Internet Crimes Against Children unit, both of which apply directly to the Department of Justice to receive funding.

On December 13, 2023, the Department had 206 deputy attorneys general and six hearings officers. As of December 13, 2024, the Department had 207 deputy attorneys general and four hearings officers. The professionals in the Department range from

new hires to career deputies, including seventeen deputies with over 30 years of service, three deputies with over 40 years of service, and one deputy with over 50 years of service to the Department. Experienced deputies are critical to the successful transition between administrations. The work of the deputies is integral to every project of importance in which any client is involved. In providing both legal and institutional knowledge, the deputies serve a vital, irreplaceable function in state government, one that only experienced, licensed professionals can perform.

The Department is organized into twenty legal services divisions and six public services divisions, each with unique responsibilities for assigned departments or agencies. While there is often overlap among divisions to accommodate issues that impact multiple departments or agencies in the State, in general, each division is able to develop an expertise in its own area of law or service. The structure allows the Department to best use its resources to meet the legal needs of the State. Sections 3 and 4 of this report describe the divisions in our Department and their respective roles and responsibilities for various State clients.

SECTION 2: MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The day-to-day, continuous legal and public services provided by our Department are essential to minimize financial exposure and liability to the State and to allow the State to comply with federal regulations and maximize federal funding for its public programs. While the ordinary tasks that sustain the State's operations and minimize its risks and liabilities are significant, we provide the following examples of a few of the notable accomplishments achieved in the last year to highlight our Department's ability, preparedness, and commitment to deal with legal matters as they arise, and to provide community service, education, and outreach that benefits the community.

Maui Fires Investigation. In August 2023, the Attorney General began an investigation into the official response to the Maui wildfires. In support of the independent contractor's investigation, the Department has issued more than 70 subpoenas to the County of Maui and made available to the public, *voluminous amounts of* documents, videos, and audio recordings while limiting redactions to personal identifying information of residents and visitors. In all, 850 gigabytes of data were made available to the public. The Phase I comprehensive timeline and the Phase II analysis report have been released; results of Phase III will follow.

James Dannenberg v. State of Hawai'i, 06-1-1141-06 JPC. In this class action, state and county retirees alleged that their retirement medical benefits had been diminished or impaired by the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund (EUTF), contrary to section 2 of article XVI of the state constitution. The plaintiff class sought *hundreds of millions of dollars* for 50-60,000 class members. After two Supreme Court appeals, the case went to trial in phases during 2021-2023. In January 2024, the Department secured judgment in favor of the State EUTF and all four counties on *all claims*. Despite numerous counsel changes, judge reassignments, copious documents,

depositions, and witnesses, the Department maintained a cohesive and effective defense resulting in a *huge* win for the State, *nearly 18 years after the case began*.

DW Aina Lea v. Land Use Commission, 1:17-cv-00113-SOM-WRP. The Department successfully defended the Land Use Commission (LUC) against a developer who sued for over \$600 million after the LUC reverted the classification of a parcel of property because of the developer and landowner's failure to comply with an affordable housing requirement. Significantly, the LUC's ability to impose conditions when granting petitions for land use reclassification, including affordable housing requirements, would have been vulnerable had the Department lost this case. The Department's motion for summary judgment was granted in February 2024.

Navahine v. Department of Transportation, 1CCV-22-0000631. The Department defended the Governor, the Department of Transportation, and the Director of Transportation against allegations by thirteen minor plaintiffs that the State's transportation system violated their constitutional right to a clean and healthful environment and violated the public trust doctrine. The case garnered local, national, and international attention. Just weeks before the June 2024 trial, the Department entered an historic settlement agreement saving considerable state resources, eliminating the need for a three-week trial, nullifying the potential for multiple appeals spanning several years, and ensuring that the youth plaintiffs will have a voice in Hawaii's ongoing efforts to reach its 2045 goal of zero emissions.

State of Hawai'i v. Bristol-Meyers Squibb Co., et al., Civ. No. 14-1-0708. The Circuit Court issued a judgment in favor of the State in State of Hawai'i v. Bristol-Meyers Squibb Co., et al., in the amount of \$916 million. This case arose out of the Defendants' acts in developing, marketing and promoting Plavix, a prescription drug designed to reduce the risk of serious cardiovascular events such as heart attacks, strokes and blood clots. According to evidence presented in court, the Defendants began marketing the drug to Hawai'i physicians and consumers in 1998, knowing that it was not effective for many patients, including Asian and Pacific Island patients. Defendants only began warning Hawai'i physicians and consumers about this issue in March 2010, when the U.S. Food and Drug Administration required them to place a "black box" warning on the label accompanying the drug. The Court found that the defendants violated the State's unfair and deceptive acts law and issued a total judgment in the amount of \$916 million. This case is currently on appeal.

Additional major accomplishments include:

The Department assisted the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands with development agreements, property acquisitions, and contracts on projects worth more than \$200 million and funded by Act 279, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022.

The Community and Crime Prevention Branch of the Crime Prevention and Justice Assistance Division, a three-person office, conducted 124 presentations and participated in thirty-one large and small community events, reaching over 32,000 youth

and adults. The presentations and educational materials/activities focused on online/cyber safety, preventing identity theft and fraud, and substance use prevention.

The Department's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and Missing Child Center-Hawaii completed a successful Operation Shine the Light activity. Over a weekend in June 2024, a cooperative effort between county, state, and federal agencies and nonprofit organizations centered on the recovery and protection of endangered missing foster youth who are at high risk of abuse, exploitation, and trafficking, resulted in the safe location and recovery of eleven youth between the ages of 15 and 19.

SECTION 3: DEPARTMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The mission of the Department is to provide excellent legal services to the State of Hawai'i by offering advice and counsel to its client agencies, assisting in the implementation of policy decisions, aiding the core activities of its client agencies, representing the State and its agencies and officers in litigation, and investigating and prosecuting human trafficking, white collar crime, criminal violations by public officials and employees, and crimes that occur on public lands and properties. Carrying out this mission includes: (1) initiating lawsuits to protect the interests of consumers and the public, and appearing for the State in civil and criminal cases when the State is a party, (2) investigating violations of state laws, enforcing the laws, and prosecuting those who violate the law, (3) preparing legal opinions for the Governor, Legislature, and the heads of state departments, (4) assisting with the preparation of the Administration's bill package for each legislative session, reviewing all bills that are introduced each session, and advising the Legislature and the Governor about legal concerns with those bills and other legislative matters, (5) advising state officials, including more than 170 boards and commissions, on legal matters so they can faithfully execute their duties and responsibilities, (6) defending and representing state officials and employees when they are sued for actions that have occurred as part of their official duties; and (7) collaborating with other states, as well as federal and local counterparts, on matters of importance to our State.

The Attorney General administers several programs and projects that provide direct benefits to the public, including the Child Support Enforcement Agency, the Crime Prevention and Justice Assistance Division, the Hawaii Criminal Justice Data Center, the Hawaii Internet and Technology Crimes Unit, the Hawaii Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, the Missing Child Center Hawaii, Notaries Public, the Office of Child Support Hearings, the Sex Offender Registry Program, the Tax and Charities Division, and the Tobacco Enforcement Unit.

Currently, the Department's goals are to enhance operations, functionality, and professionalism. The overall strategy to achieve these goals is to maintain an environment that attracts and nurtures talented attorneys and individuals with a commitment to public service, so that the Department can continue to represent the State successfully at the local and federal level on matters of state importance.

Achieving these goals will allow the Department to serve the State and the public and to achieve its mission.

The Department's performance measures have rarely changed because they are so closely tied to the successful representation of the State. If we do our job well, we save money and resources for the State. Lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting economic stresses, include the necessity of maintaining the ability to adapt to working under new and changing conditions and with potentially fewer resources. New challenges have required the Department to adjust. For example, the Department's Human Services Division and Family Law Division are working cooperatively with the Department of Human Services to update policies and procedures to ensure seamless provision of services. And, due to the number of land acquisitions, the Land Division is working with deputy attorneys general advising the Departments of Education, Agriculture, and Health to complete the complex due diligence and legal requirements for these transactions.

The following are specific goals and objectives for the Department as a whole to continue the work it does with efficiency and effectiveness, and the steps needed to achieve those goals and objectives.

Goal 1: Sustain Quality Legal Services through Hiring and Training.

The Department has an ongoing commitment to training, which improves the skills and efficiency of the Department. It is especially important to attract talented personnel to work in the Department and make sufficient resources available to sustain quality and timely legal services to the client departments and agencies.

Objective: Provide comprehensive legal advice to clients, manage workflow and caseloads efficiently, and meet deadlines for responses to requests for legal services.

Action Plan: To the extent allowed, and subject to the availability of funding, hire personnel with the desired experience to fill vacancies when they arise. Provide deputies and staff with access to training and legal research tools to support high-quality and timely work product.

Require deputies and staff to attend free training offered to government attorneys and employees and attend in-house training provided by the Department. Identify training programs outside of the Department and seek funding to attend such programs.

Encourage deputies to attend other legal training when it becomes available. We often have opportunities to attend subject matter training, frequently funded or partially funded by our client agency or other sources

(i.e., the National Attorneys General Training and Research Institute and the National Governor's Association, among others).

Review and update all division training manuals as necessary. Continue in-house division training, including the most current opinions of Hawaii appellate courts, the federal courts, and the United States Supreme Court.

Target: The target date for this goal is ongoing. Based on the Legislature's approval of funding for increases in deputy salaries in 2022, we have already been able to increase salaries to more competitive rates, and we can offer competitive government salaries that will assist our ability to fill positions and continue providing quality legal services.

Goal 2: New Deputy Training.

Ensure that attorneys who are new to the Department are provided a foundation to serve the State while meeting the Department's standards of excellence. Increase the collective knowledge of our deputies.

Objective: Provide a live Training Academy for new attorney hires, preferably annually. Provide recordings of trainings for those who join the Department after the training and before a new training is scheduled.

Action Plan: In 2021, we started a new and exciting project for providing both an introduction to the Department and consistent training to all new deputies within the Department. We developed and implemented our new deputy Training Academy. This two-week intensive session supplements individual training within each division and combines in-person and virtual training in a comprehensive introduction to the Department, its divisions, and the relevant laws and procedures that every deputy attorney general needs to know. The Training Academy instructors are supervisors and specialists from all divisions. Division supervisors also train their new deputies, upon employment.

Target: This training is envisioned to occur annually. The most recent training was held in October 2024.

Goal 3: Improve Range of Legal Services by Cross Training.

Broaden deputies' areas of knowledge to minimize subject area silos, facilitate flexibility in making assignments, and avoid disruption in the provision of legal services. When one of our divisions is short-handed due to vacancies or absences, deputies need to cover for each other by performing legal work that may be outside their area of expertise. By sharing responsibilities on cases and among clients, the divisions

strengthen their ability to adapt to unexpected staff shortages. Cross training allows accommodation for leave time.

Objective: To increase exposure to various legal issues to broaden the capabilities of deputies to be able to contribute to assignments outside of their specialty when a need arises due to staff shortages or special projects.

Action Plan: Encourage deputies to pursue subject-matter and practice-relevant training, in addition to the annual Continuing Legal Education requirements for all attorneys. Promote teamwork by encouraging deputies to communicate freely with and collaborate with division deputies and deputies in other divisions who have expertise and resources to assure appropriate and consistent Department-wide advice and representation. Expose deputies to a variety of substantive issues and encourage deputies to take on different assignments jointly and to work together on less familiar projects.

The need for cross training became especially critical during the COVID-19 pandemic, when we were forced to pool available resources. The intent is for cross training to occur primarily within subject matter divisions, but to also select deputies for special projects within the Department that will provide broader exposure to various subject matters, usually of a complex nature. Deputies may also be required to devote extra hours to ensure client work is completed.

Deputies have primary assignments of programs or issues for which they gain expertise, but they collaborate with each other on matters to share their knowledge across their assigned areas, and they cover matters for each other when necessary. Deputies are encouraged, but not required, to become involved in Department-wide or community-based activities outside of their assigned area to network and expand their skill sets.

Pair less experienced deputies with those who are more seasoned.

Encourage divisions to seek guidance from the Appellate/Opinion Review Committee or the Litigation Management Committee whenever necessary or appropriate.

Target: The target date for this goal is ongoing, but we anticipate an annual increase in the collective knowledge of the Department's deputies and their ability to contribute to special projects.

Goal 4: Adapt to the Changing Needs of the Workforce.

As learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and the necessary stay-at-home orders in 2020, to provide seamless legal services to our clients and stay

competitive with private firms, we need to increase resources and adapt policies and practices to assist deputies and staff in working more efficiently and comfortably in a remote setting, out of the office, when needed. Currently, the Department policies and procedures allow deputy attorneys general to work remotely no more than three days a week.

Objective: Allow flexibility in making assignments and to ensure continuity in the provision of services.

Action Plan: A means of assessing accountability is essential to successful remote working. Supervisors of deputies who work any portion of their work week remotely are responsible to determine that deputies are completing their work at the same levels they would if they were in-office. This involves assessing work output and reviewing timesheets, as well as ensuring that staff members are always responsive to emails and available by telephone or virtual meetings.

Review and update as needed the Department's remote work policy for exempt excluded deputy attorneys general and ensure that staff subject to collective bargaining are working in a manner compliant with the statewide remote work policy.

To ensure full legal services are provided if remote work is required, increase capacity to ensure that personnel have access to the resources needed to work remotely, such as IT equipment. Continue in-house refresher training for all personnel on Microsoft Office applications that enable online collaboration, including SharePoint and Teams.

Working remotely during the pandemic was critical to the Department's ability to perform its work. Subsequently, it has become apparent the Department needs to maintain a long-term strategy for remote work when necessary and as an incentive to retaining talented deputy attorneys general. It is equally clear that some deputies and staff have the capability to work remotely, but the technology currently available is limited and not available to all employees in the Department. Assessment of the need for continued remote working and improved or additional resources is ongoing. Key considerations include our continued ability to be responsive to the client's needs in a timely manner and maintain a healthy work environment both in the office and with remote work.

When in-person meetings are not possible, maintain Department cohesiveness through Microsoft Teams meetings, emails, texts, telephone conferences, and other remote means.

Attend court appearances, hearings, meetings, and work-related matters through telephonic appearances and video conferencing platforms such

as Microsoft Teams, Zoom, and WebEx when in-person meetings are not possible or otherwise ordered by the court.

Target: The target date for this goal is ongoing. The need for remote meetings has outlasted the dangers of the pandemic, and the convenience has become a part of the evolving remote-working culture.

Goal 5: Share and Access Resources; Establish a Data Bank.

Objective: Enhance the Department's document management system so that all Department personnel can access and obtain maximum value from resources. Eventually, the system will include: (1) all forms used by the Department and its various divisions, (2) memo banks indexed for efficient accessibility and to save research time, (3) opinion advice letters provided to clients indexed by topic to allow for consistency in our legal advice, (4) pleadings from court cases, (5) analysis of various Hawai'i and federal cases, (6) filed appellate briefs, and (7) an expert data bank, including prior depositions, curriculum vitae, and opinions.

Provide better, faster, and easier access to critical information, improved efficiency, consistency in advice, and improved office environment, by moving towards a paperless environment.

Reduce the need to store hard copies by making electronic copies of relevant documents to better manage the Department's physical space. Identify and digitize pleadings and advice to make them accessible. Review and move old files to storage or destroy as warranted.

Reduce the need to retrieve boxes already in off-site storage to obtain information from closed cases.

Action Plan: Each division is encouraged to scan files and resource materials so that files can be accessed, shared, and reviewed electronically.

Digitize and index historical work-product to provide additional resources for Department members. Use the standard procedure for maintaining electronic files and work product described above.

Ensure all personnel are using a consistent method to manage files within our ProLaw system.

Utilize the technology in the Department (ProLaw, iManage, Office 365, departmental intranet, Internet) to its fullest potential.

Ensure that each member of the Department is proficient in the use of technology to increase efficiency and allow for the sharing of information.

Identify information to post on the departmental intranet to share knowledge within the Department.

Create or update and maintain manuals and checklists for deputies and staff regarding important duties and reminders for case management and include them in the data bank.

Develop or update and maintain a process to better share information among divisions and create uniformity in procedures for different divisions that perform similar assignments, such as issuing and responding to discovery.

Target: The target date for this goal is ongoing, but to capture all historical data within the Department within a data bank would be a major project. Currently, divisions do this work when time permits. As the Department fills vacancies, it may be able to make faster progress in this area.

Goal 6: Reduce Time Spent on Non-Legal Tasks.

Objective: Reduce the time attorneys spend on non-legal tasks for clients, to achieve savings in deputy time.

Use technology to improve efficiency.

Action Plan: Continue to train clients in tasks such as preparing agendas and minutes, maintaining records, creating records and indices of records for administrative appeals, and compiling records on appeal.

Train clients to ensure that agency records that are available to the public do not contain confidential information or attorney-client privileged information and ensure that agency records for administrative appeals are in good order. This will include savings in staff time currently spent compiling records on appeal for client agencies and appropriately redacting documents for permitted reasons in response to Uniform Information Practices Act requests.

Work with clients to prioritize assignments.

Conduct training to enable clients to issue spot, take preventative action, and proactively respond when an issue arises.

Assist clients in standardizing procedures, where possible.

Establish and maintain consistent procedures and forms to be used with all client offices.

Increase proficiency with existing technology solutions described above and become adept in new technology solutions that are introduced in the future. In addition to in-house training, deputies and staff are encouraged to utilize other State-sponsored training and available web-based courses.

Keep a master calendar of all deadlines within each division and use reminder systems.

Target: The target date for this goal is ongoing.

Goal 7: Improve Client Relations.

Objective: Nurture and encourage early and regular consultation with clients to ensure that deputies fully understand their client's business and that clients understand the legal advice they receive and its application.

Assist clients with the development of processes or forms to help decrease recurring legal issues and facilitate consistency in the client's work product.

Action Plan: Work collaboratively with clients to solve problems, including identifying potential necessary administrative rules or rules changes or statutory changes that will resolve issues.

Be accessible to meet with clients and foster open communication. Identify recurring questions and evaluate the possibility of establishing ways to systematically address such issues.

Ensure that the Department's work is accurate, thorough, and well-reasoned. Provide training and mentor less experienced deputies so that they are fully prepared for all court appearances, administrative hearings, and situations where they may be called upon to give legal advice, e.g., board and commission meetings.

Educate clients to develop their ability to identify potential legal issues before they arise and what action they can take after they arise to minimize their impact.

Maintain good and consistent communication with clients on a regular basis.

Target: The target date for this goal is ongoing.

Goal 8: Succession Planning and Leadership Opportunities.

Objective: Provide opportunities for deputies to obtain leadership skills and pursue appropriate recruitment to fill vacancies anticipated due to the retirement of division supervisors and senior deputies.

Preserve institutional knowledge and maintain a culture of excellence.

Action Plan: Expose deputies to supervisory functions.

Encourage interested deputies to attend training in supervision, mentorship, and administrative duties within State government.

Facilitate interested deputies' ability to mentor their less experienced colleagues and the opportunity to understand and participate in departmental activities outside of their division

Memorialize institutional knowledge in a data bank and a form bank.

Target: The target date for this goal is ongoing.

SECTION 4: LEGAL SERVICES DIVISIONS

The Department is divided into the following twenty legal services divisions to provide representation to all departments and agencies in the State.

Administration Division

The Administration Division differs from other legal divisions in the number and diversity of client agencies it represents and advises, and the wide variety of substantive areas of law that the advice encompasses. The division's roles include representing and providing quality advice and counsel to policy-making executive branch agencies (i.e., the Office of the Governor, the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, the Department of Accounting and General Services, and the Department of Budget and Finance); assisting in implementing policy decisions (e.g., through drafting executive orders, legislation, and rules); and assisting in the implementation of the core activities of the above entities, their attached agencies, and other agencies (i.e., Employees' Retirement System, Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund, Office of Enterprise Technology Services; State Procurement Office, Aloha Stadium Authority, E911 Board, Building Code Council, State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, Office of Elections, Campaign Spending Commission, and the Office of Information Practices). The division also provides representation, advice, and counsel to the Judiciary and the Legislature and their agencies, as well as to the public services divisions of the Department.

During the period covered by this report, the Administration Division's usual workload was heavily impacted by the 2022 and 2024 elections, which generated a marked

increase in the number of election claims that usually result from an election, and an unprecedented number of cases filed in State and federal courts challenging the election results and the election process. The division has prevailed in all these cases; although a few have been appealed by the unsuccessful parties and are pending in the appellate courts. Questions regarding the spending of federal and state funds for the Maui wildfires relief efforts consumed a considerable amount of the division's time. The relative increase in federal and state funds available this past legislative session raised questions from the division's clients on subjects including the relative authority of the branches of government, budgeting, financing, and appropriations. The division received an uncommon number of questions relative to the specific wording and meaning of various appropriations. The division continues to advise the Departments of Accounting and General Services and of Budget and Finance and legislators to ensure that state funds are properly appropriated and expended. Additionally, the division assisted with the review of the Governor's emergency proclamations.

Appellate Division

The primary missions of the Appellate Division are to maximize the quality of appellate representation to all the Department's clients and to provide constructive and quality advice to deputies throughout the Department on all appellate matters. The division's attorneys directly handle many of the appeals in the Department, including briefs filed and oral arguments presented on behalf of the State and its agencies and officials in the state and federal courts. The Appellate Division also drafts amicus briefs in appeals involving issues of importance to the State and makes recommendations to the Attorney General on whether the State should join multi-state amicus briefs filed in the United States Supreme Court and other courts in cases of state and federal interest and importance.

During the past year, for example, Appellate Division attorneys have authored or co-authored amicus briefs, provided moot court assistance to deputies from other divisions, and conducted trainings for the Department, including a review of the key cases decided during the U.S. Supreme Court's recently concluded 2023-24 term.

The division also facilitated the State's joinder in multi-state amicus briefs and letters. Since the beginning of 2023 through the present, the Appellate Division has reviewed, assessed, and analyzed approximately 200 requests from other states and organizations for Hawai'i to join multi-state amicus briefs and letters on a wide array of high-profile legal issues. Appellate Division deputies reviewed each of these requests and, in consultation with the Solicitor General, made detailed recommendations to the Attorney General about whether to join litigation or letters urging Congress or Federal agencies to take certain actions.

Civil Recoveries Division

The Civil Recoveries Division provides service in the pursuit and, if necessary, litigation of outstanding debts, delinquent accounts, and other financial obligations by working

closely with client agencies. The division administers the Notary Public Services and Process. This includes managing applications from individuals interested in becoming notaries, and administering the examination, renewal, and payments. The Asset Forfeiture Program is managed by this division as well. The primary objective of the program is to administer the disposition of forfeiture petitions and manage the storage, maintenance, liquidation and distribution of assets seized.

Civil Rights Litigation Division

The Civil Rights Litigation Division provides legal defense to the State, its departments and agencies, and certain state employees in lawsuits or other claims that primarily involve allegations of civil rights or constitutional violations. The Civil Rights Litigation Division litigates cases in state and federal courts, including appellate courts. The division's litigation includes answering legal complaints filed in court, investigating claims, conducting discovery, drafting and filing motions, memoranda, and briefs, as appropriate, and representing state interests at administrative hearings, court hearings, arbitrations, mediations, trials, and appeals. The Civil Rights Litigation Division also assists in the training of state agencies on issues such as acceptance of service and other litigation matters.

The Civil Rights Litigation Division has achieved significant successes in winning trials and prevailing on dispositive motions and appeals in both state and federal courts, as well as entering favorable settlements to limit the State's exposure.

Commerce and Economic Development Division

The mission of the Commerce and Economic Development Division is to provide high quality and timely legal services to the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, and the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. These services include advice and counsel to over twenty boards and commissions and multiple attached agencies. The division also enforces antitrust laws, participates in multistate consumer protection matters and cases, and advises the Legislature, the Governor, and other affected agencies on legal issues arising from the subject matter of the division.

The division had a significant role in some of the department's major accomplishments, including the opioid claim against Publicis Health, LLC, the unfair and deceptive practices act claims related to electronic nicotine delivery systems, and the case against Bristol-Meyers Squibb Co for its unfair and deceptive acts in marketing Plavix in Hawaii.

In addition to the opioid cases settled in prior years, the division settled an opioid claim against consultant Publicis Health, LLC for approximately \$1.1 million to be deposited into the general fund.

In addition to the JUUL settlement negotiated by the Complex Litigation Division, the division settled unfair and deceptive practices act claims against certain related

electronic cigarette companies, Altria Group, Inc., and others, for approximately \$5.9 million to be placed within a Department of Health account for prevention, education, research, and mitigation programs relating to electronic nicotine delivery systems or nicotine and nicotine synthetic products.

The division also created a process to receive and investigate complaints relating to the eviction moratorium and rent cap established by the Governor's emergency proclamations relating to wildfires.

Complex Litigation Division

The Complex Litigation Division provides core services to the State and its departments. The Complex Litigation Division is a stand-alone division tasked with providing litigation, audit, and administrative support in larger civil matters, investigating potential contract and procurement irregularities, and providing guidance to both the Department and other state agencies on a range of legal, ethical, compliance, and other matters. The division fills a supportive role that allows the Department to flexibly augment other division resources and advance multiple action plan items. The division is also the Attorney General's liaison to several federal agencies, litigates many of the large-scale, often multistate, complex matters involving the State, and supports some of the more significant, high-profile matters affecting the people of Hawai'i.

The Complex Litigation Division addresses integrity matters that could lead to criminal, civil, or administrative action. The division collaborates with the Department's Criminal Justice Division, Special Investigations and Prosecution Division, and Investigations Division on long-term criminal investigations, developing investigative plans, preparing search warrants, assisting in the gathering of evidence, and conducting financial analyses. Much of that work is done by the analysts, all of whom are retired federal criminal investigators with substantial experience investigating complex financial crimes, including tax crimes, money laundering, contract fraud, healthcare fraud, bribery, and integrity offenses.

Criminal Justice Division

The Criminal Justice Division serves as a statewide prosecutorial arm of the Department to enforce the laws of the State of Hawai'i and to ensure public safety through the just, efficient, and effective administration of justice. The Criminal Justice Division reviews and prosecutes a wide variety of criminal cases statewide including welfare and tax fraud, white collar crime, Internet crimes against children, child sexual exploitation, sex offender registration violations, various criminal cases conflicted out by the counties, homicides, sexual assaults, abuse and neglect cases, unauthorized practice of law, environmental crimes, crimes related to state corrections facilities, and other cases involving matters of statewide concern or involving state officials or employees. In addition, this division works closely with the newly created Department of Law Enforcement's sheriffs and investigators to ensure high quality criminal prosecutions.

The Criminal Justice Division includes the Internet Crimes Against Children Unit, the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, and the Tobacco Enforcement Unit. The division also has responsibilities for the sex offender registration and surveillance review programs. The division administratively supports the Law Enforcement Standards Board and manages the State Firearms Certification Program under the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004.

The division reviews criminal justice related legislation and addresses legal issues in the legislation. The division also provides legal support to other state departments on criminal justice related matters.

Education Division

The mission of the Education Division is to provide quality services to all the division's clients, which include the Department of Education with all its schools, the Board of Education, the Hawaii State Public Library System, the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board, the Charter School Commission, the individual Charter Schools and their Governing Boards, the Executive Office on Early Learning, the Early Learning Board, and the School Facilities Authority.

The division's responsibilities have increased over the last year as the Department of Education and School Facilities Authority move forward with acquisitions of land and school construction.

Employment Law Division

The Employment Law Division provides legal representation and advice to the Department of Human Resources Development and to all State departments and agencies, including the public charter schools, on employment-related issues. The division represents all State employers in mandatory arbitration hearings, administrative agency hearings, and civil litigation involving disputes over employment matters with State employees. Forums in which the division litigates include State and Federal Courts, the Hawaii Labor Relations Board, the Merit Appeals Board, and the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board. The division also provides legal advice and representation for State employers in matters before the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission and the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Additionally, the division frequently represents State employers in labor grievance arbitrations, including individual and class grievances. This past year, the division was engaged in several class grievance arbitrations regarding Temporary Hazard Pay during the COVID emergency. The division anticipates that next year it will take lead in numerous interest arbitrations that arise from impasses in negotiations over the various collective bargaining agreements set to expire in 2025. The division handles appeals and post-award litigation that arise from its cases. It also reviews and advises on all employment-related legislation and submits testimony when appropriate. Finally, the division provides legal advice and representation to the Merit Appeals Boards and Civil

Service Commissions of all the counties and the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation, for appeals filed with those boards.

Family Law Division

The mission of the Family Law Division is to represent state agencies in any Family Court proceedings statewide. The Family Law Division handles all litigation under the jurisdiction of the Family Court, such as child and adult protection, minor and adult guardianships, involuntary hospitalization, truancy, and juvenile law violation cases where services are provided by our client agencies to one or more of the parties. Clients include the Department of Education, the Department of Health, the Department of Human Services, and the Office of the Public Guardian.

In the first half of calendar year 2024, the Family Law Division filed about 303 petitions for involuntary hospitalization, 165 Child Protective Act petitions for children who were subjected to harm or threatened harm by their families, 41 guardianship and 122 adoption petitions for children in the custody of the Department of Human Services, 92 petitions for truancy, and 16 guardianship petitions for incapacitated adults. The division also handled 31 appeals, 17 of which are still active.

Health Division

The mission of the Health Division is to provide quality legal services to support the work of the Department of Health, comprised of over thirty-five different and distinct offices and branches whose subject matter ranges from medical marijuana to mental health, environmental regulation and enforcement to emergency medical services, and health facility licensing to disease prevention and control, in addition to its various attached entities, boards, and commissions. The Health Division provides advice, counsel, and representation in various courts and administrative proceedings, including multistate litigation and appellate work. The division also advises members of the Hawaii Legislature when questions arise involving health-related issues.

Some of the higher profile work of the division includes supporting the legal needs of the Department of Health in addressing the procurement of emergency ground ambulance services and related protests, the Red Hill fuel spill, defueling, closure, and clean-up, and the establishment of new behavioral health crisis centers. And, after the tragic Maui wildfires, there are emerging public health issues, such as reduced air quality, unprecedented volumes of solid and hazardous waste, the need to mitigate the effects of ground and surface water pollution, and of course, mental health issues about which the division must advise the Department of Health. The Health Division is also playing a critical role on the Department's Mental Health Law Revision Working Group, the mission of which is to thoughtfully and systematically recommend amendments to the State's mental health code to better serve the needs of the community.

Human Services Division

The division's assigned client agency is the Department of Human Services. The division provides advice and counsel to the Department of Human Services programs and its administratively attached agencies, and represents client programs in court and administrative hearings, including appeals from decisions in those forums. The division also advises the Office of the Governor, the Attorney General, and the Legislature on a broad range of human services issues, which, for at least the upcoming year, will include advice relating to the human services aspects of homelessness, joblessness, and loss of life and security in the wake of the Maui wildfire tragedy.

The Human Services Division has trained toward and advanced the goal of working collaboratively with the various client divisions to help the Department of Human Services in its goal of serving the public in a "whole family" or "Ohana Nui" paradigm. Within the division, the deputies have succeeded in cross-training efforts set out in past goals. Each deputy takes on responsibilities outside of the deputy's usual assigned areas by, for example, working with unfamiliar programs and investing considerable time on Department-wide projects and committees. The Division collaborates frequently with other divisions within the Department to provide support and expertise in areas such as security, confidentiality, collections, and civil rights litigation, among other areas, and are frequently called upon to advise boards or hearing officers for other divisions' clients, such as the Department of Health, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Labor Division

The mission of the Labor Division is to provide excellent and timely legal services and litigation support, including agency appeals, to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and the boards and agencies administratively attached to it. The attached agencies include the State Fire Council, the Office of Community Services, the Workforce Development Council, the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission, and the Hawaii Retirement Savings Board. Among the divisions within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations are the Unemployment Insurance Division, Disability Compensation Division (workers' compensation), Hawaii Occupational Safety and Health Division, and Wage Standards Division (unpaid wages and minimum wage). In connection with its enforcement of the various labor laws, the Labor Division collects penalties, fines, and reimbursements. The division also provides legal advice and representation to the Employees' Retirement System's Medical Board.

The division provided and continues to provide to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations advice, counsel, and representation as issues continue to arise because of the pandemic and the Maui wildfires, mainly with respect to appeals of decisions relating to the provision of unemployment benefits.

The division assisted and continues to assist the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations regarding contract matters and with its modernization projects.

Land Division

The Land Division advises and represents the Department of Land and Natural Resources, its Board of Land and Natural Resources, and its various divisions and offices, including, the Aquatic Resources Division, Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation, Bureau of Conveyances, Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands Division, Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement, Engineering Division, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, State Historic Preservation Division, Land Division, State Parks, and the Commission on Water Resource Management. The Land Division also provides services to the numerous attached commissions, boards, and agencies of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, including the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission, Natural Area Reserves System Commission, the Island Burial Councils, Hawaii Historic Places Review Board, Endangered Species Recovery Committee, and the Legacy Land Conservation Commission. The division also prepares or reviews land disposition documents for the Department of Land and Natural Resources and prepares all office lease agreements when state agencies rent private properties as tenants for the Department of Accounting and General Services. The Land Division also advises and represents the Land Use Commission, which is attached to the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism.

The Land Division represents the Department of Land and Natural Resources, its attached commissions, boards, and agencies, and the Land Use Commission in contested case hearings, appeals of contested case hearings, and original actions. The division responds on behalf of the State to all quiet title actions.

The division also handles administrative enforcement actions for violations of the State Historic Preservation law and the law governing land use in conservation districts and actions for damage to natural resources of the State. This year, the Land Division successfully resolved the Department of Land and Natural Resources' Marconi Point (located next to the Turtle Bay Resort) enforcement action where native Hawaiian yellow-faced honey bees and a Laysan albatross were killed. The Land Division continues to be involved in Department of Land and Natural Resources cases involving unauthorized shoreline structures on the North Shore of Oahu.

The Land Division assists the Department of Land and Natural Resources with the acquisition of land in fee simple or under conservation easements for the protection of natural resources.

Legislative Division

The Legislative Division provides legal services on matters pertaining to legislation and to proposed administrative rules. The division coordinates the preparation and review of all legislative bills proposed by executive branch agencies, including our Department's own legislative proposals, and coordinates the review, monitoring, and evaluation of all legislative bills during and after each session of the Legislature. The division's Supervising Deputy Attorney General serves as the Legislative Coordinator of

the Department and, other than the Attorney General, is the primary contact for all legislative legal and policy matters. In addition, the division coordinates, monitors, and reviews the preparation of administrative rules of the Department and, time permitting, may assist other divisions in their review of administrative rules for agency clients. The division sometimes assists with the final review of formal opinions issued by the Attorney General and provides staff support to the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation. The division compiles, edits, and redrafts the Department's annual reports to the Legislature from drafts provided by the responsible divisions.

Public Safety, Hawaiian Home Lands, and Housing Division

In support of the Department's overall mission, the Public Safety, Hawaiian Home Lands, and Housing Division provides legal services and representation in litigation to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and its attached agencies and commissions (which include the Hawaii Paroling Authority, the Correctional Industries Advisory Committee, the Crime Victim Compensation Commission), the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, the Department of Law Enforcement, the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation, the Hawaii Public Housing Authority, and the Department of Defense, including the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HIEMA).

The division's work with HIEMA has increased significantly since August 9, 2023, due to the devastating and far-reaching impacts of the Maui wildfires. The division has assisted HIEMA and will, along with other divisions in the Department, continue to provide support to the State in its ongoing response to the tragedy.

The division has also supported the Administration's affordable housing and homelessness initiatives, including affordable housing and homelessness proclamations, new housing financing and development, and other projects.

Special Investigation and Prosecution Division

The Special Investigation and Prosecution Division is composed of the Corruption, Fraud, and Economic Crimes Section and the Human Trafficking Abatement Section. The division's mission is to ethically and efficiently investigate and prosecute public corruption and human trafficking cases. It serves, along with the Criminal Justice Division, as a statewide prosecutorial arm of the Department.

Tax and Charities Division

The Tax and Charities Division provides legal representation and counsel to the Department of Taxation, boards and commissions that are placed within the Department of Taxation, and other state departments and agencies, primarily in the areas of tax litigation, legislation, rules, investigations, and the provision of legal advice and opinions. The division also oversees and enforces laws pertaining to charitable trusts, public charities, public benefit corporations, and private foundations, and is responsible

for the oversight and enforcement of Hawaii's charitable solicitation laws under chapter 467B, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). The division also administers the State's online registration system for charitable organizations and their professional solicitors and professional fundraising counsels that solicit contributions in Hawai'i. There are currently over 9,100 charities and over 200 professional solicitors and professional fundraising counsels on the Department's charities registry.

In the aftermath of the Maui wildfires, the division increased its focus on educating the public to practice informed giving decisions and to research the charity on the Department's charities registry prior to making donations. The Division also supported the Attorney General in issuing four press releases devoted to alerting the public on how to identify a charity scam and providing a list of resources to research charities. The division engaged in seven community outreach events and trainings aimed at vulnerable populations and the public at large to reinforce the Attorney General's warnings and provide information and tools to help donors prior to making donations. The division investigated dozens of inquiries and complaints regarding entities engaged in soliciting donations related to the Maui wildfires. As a result, the division issued sixteen notices to unregistered charitable organizations found to be conducting charitable solicitations without registering with the division. These ongoing enforcement efforts serve two equally important purposes: (1) to allow the public access to the most current information about the charities on the Department's registry via the division's website to assist potential donors in making informed giving decisions; and (2) to provide the Attorney General information and authority to detect and prosecute unlawful conduct as it relates to charitable fundraising in the State.

Furthermore, the division assisted the Department of Taxation to collect more than \$18 million in taxes from the court cases it handled in the last fiscal year. Collection of taxes includes amounts received by the Department of Taxation pursuant to settlement, amounts collected in bankruptcy, foreclosure and trust cases, and amounts that the Department of Taxation is entitled to collect, or does not have to refund, pursuant to court order or judgment.

Tort Litigation Division

The Tort Litigation Division provides a legal defense in personal injury lawsuits and claims made against the State, its departments and agencies, and its employees. This division litigates cases in state, federal, and appellate courts. The division drafts pleadings, motions, and briefs, investigates claims, conducts discovery, and otherwise litigates and defends cases at administrative hearings, court hearings, depositions, arbitrations, mediations, trials, and appeals.

The Tort Litigation Division also occasionally provides legal defense for civil rights claims made against state employees when there is a conflict of interest between or among several defendant employees in one lawsuit.

The cases defended by the Tort Litigation Division often have a potential monetary exposure to the State in the millions of dollars. Typically, each year the division is successful in obtaining dismissal of some cases through dispositive motions and successfully reaching reasonable settlements of many cases with potential for high verdicts.

Transportation Division

The Transportation Division advises and represents the Department of Transportation, including its Airports, Harbors, and Highways divisions. The division handles Department of Transportation procurement protests, often involving large contracts, and other related litigation, and it reviews contracts, real-property acquisition and disposition documents, administrative rules, and proposed legislation related to transportation issues.

The division reviews and advises on issues relating to airport concession agreements and provides services relating to the Airports Division's compliance with Federal Aviation Administration grant assurance requirements. It assists the Highways Division with acquiring real property through eminent domain actions for public projects. It handles vessel impoundment matters and provides support with projects involving federal agencies such as the Coast Guard and the Army Corps of Engineers.

The division continues to assist with emergency proclamations issued for emergency work on roadways and harbors. It provides services to commissions, boards, and agencies attached to the Department of Transportation, including the Medical Advisory Board and the Highway Safety Council.

SECTION 5: PUBLIC SERVICES DIVISIONS

The Department is divided into the following six professional services divisions or autonomous units within larger divisions, each of which provides various services to the State.

Child Support Enforcement Agency

The Child Support Enforcement Agency aids children and families by collecting, disbursing, and enforcing support payments (both financial and medical) owed to custodial parents. In some cases, the agency collects and disburses reimbursements to the Department of Human Services for public assistance provided to the child and family. The agency's mission is to promote the well-being of children and the self-sufficiency of families through the timely and effective operation of its responsibilities while providing excellence in customer service.

The Child Support Enforcement Agency receives federal matching funds to operate its program. The agency receives 66 percent federal matching funds to meet its operating costs, requiring only 34 percent to be paid by the State's general fund. Both the Child

Support Enforcement Agency and the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement are committed to improving operations and service to families.

For state fiscal year 2023-2024, the agency collected \$97 million in child support. Ninety-four percent of the child support collected was distributed to families. The State's share of the remaining child support collected was distributed to the Department of Human Services as general funds.

Crime Prevention and Justice Assistance Division

The Crime Prevention and Justice Assistance Division serves as the central agency to provide the Attorney General with the information and resources needed to address crime and crime prevention. The division accomplishes this by: (1) researching crime issues and reporting comprehensive crime statistics for the State; (2) utilizing federal and state funds and non-financial resources to address crime problems and criminal justice system issues; (3) planning, developing, and implementing education and crime prevention programs to promote community involvement in crime prevention efforts; (4) developing and maintaining a computerized juvenile offender information system; (5) assisting in locating, recovering, and reuniting missing children and runaways with their families; and supporting the Hawaii Sexual Assault Response and Training program and the statewide standards for responding to sexual assaults.

These activities enable the Attorney General to facilitate and coordinate efforts to improve the criminal justice system and to encourage community partnerships in addressing crime.

The division's mission is to assist the criminal justice system agencies to improve service delivery and to promote the involvement of communities in the prevention of crime.

The division includes the Community and Crime Prevention Branch, the Grants and Planning Branch, the Juvenile Justice Information System, the Missing Child Center – Hawaii, the Research and Statistics Branch, and the Hawaii Sexual Assault Response and Training Program.

Hawaii Criminal Justice Data Center

The Hawaii Criminal Justice Data Center is responsible for the adult statewide criminal history repository, access, and dissemination of criminal history information, the statewide Automated Biometric Identification System that includes the statewide Automated Fingerprint Identification System, the statewide mug photo and facial recognition systems, and the statewide sex offender registry. The Data Center serves as the State's Information Bureau and liaison to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Crime Information Center program.

The Data Center also manages the Hawaii Integrated Justice Information Sharing system, which provides services for the sharing of information between criminal justice agencies.

Investigations Division

The Investigations Division provides professional law enforcement investigative services at the direction of the Attorney General in criminal, civil, administrative, and regulatory matters. Investigators are vested with statewide law enforcement authority pursuant to section 28-11, HRS.

The Attorney General seeks to develop new capabilities for investigation that complement the law enforcement community by building capacity in areas where the Attorney General is uniquely qualified to act in the public interest and support underserved victim communities. The Attorney General seeks to provide services that are not provided by other law enforcement agencies. The Investigations Division has statutorily mandated core functions, and, building on those, it provides essential services to protect the people, the environment, and the public's trust in government in Hawai'i.

The Investigations Division is the primary law enforcement element in the State investigating violations of chapter 846E, HRS.

Office of Child Support Hearings

The Office of Child Support Hearings was established pursuant to section 576E-10, HRS, to resolve child support disputes impartially and expeditiously. This is accomplished by Child Support Hearings Officers through an administrative hearings process. Orders issued by Hearings Officers establish, modify, terminate, and enforce child support obligations statewide.

Orders may also address child support arrears, debt owed to the State for periods when children received welfare benefits, and in certain cases, spousal support arrears. Hearings Officers may also confirm, modify, and enforce out-of-state orders brought under the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act. Orders issued by Hearings Officers are filed in the Hawaii Family Court without further review and have the same force and effect as orders issued by Judges.

All cases handled by the Office of Child Support Hearings are processed through the Child Support Enforcement Agency, which is a separate division of the Department. If the Child Support Enforcement Agency is processing a case and a hearing is requested, the agency may schedule it for an administrative hearing with the Office of Child Support Hearings. Hearings are conducted pursuant to chapters 91 and 576E, HRS; chapter 5-34, Hawaii Administrative Rules; and the most current Hawaii Child Support Guidelines.

Office of Dispute Resolution

The mission of the Office of Dispute Resolution is to impartially and expeditiously adjudicate administrative proceedings initiated pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

In fiscal year 2023-2024, the Office of Dispute Resolution's two administrative hearings officers received thirty-nine requests for an administrative hearing. Of those, thirty-one were fully adjudicated and eight are pending. Additionally, nine cases filed in fiscal year 2022-2023 were also adjudicated during this fiscal year. The Office of Dispute Resolution was in full compliance with its mandated deadlines and withstood appellate review on all decisions reviewed by the United States District Court.

SECTION 6: CONCLUSION

This report was prepared with the input of all the Department's divisions and is an attempt not only to describe our goals and objectives, but to provide insight into how we fulfill our Department's overall purpose, by providing samples of our major accomplishments as well as our continuing duties. Our primary goal, mandated by statute (section 26-7, HRS), is to administer and render legal services to the State and its entities. We strive to improve as we operate, to ensure our ability to continue rendering legal services to the State.