

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRACTICES**

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CHERYL KAKAZU PARK  
DIRECTOR

January 10, 2020

VIA E-MAIL

Mr. Robert Tucker

Re: Dismissal of Appeals (U APPEAL 20-15 and 20-24)

Dear Mr. Tucker:

The Office of Information Practices (OIP) opened an appeal based on your requests to OIP dated September 5 and 27, 2019, which indicated that the County of Hawaii Department of Public Works (DPW-H) partially denied access to records you requested under Part II of the Uniform Information Practices Act (Modified), chapter 92F, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) (the UIPA). Specifically, your record requests to DPW-H, dated August 1, 2019 sought access to a list of pre-approved building plans and records of building plans that were "directly approved by the Director(s) of Public Works and/or the Building Division Chief(s)" in 2018 and 2019.

As required by section 2-73-13(a)(1), Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR), you, the appellant, are hereby provided with notice that this appeal will not be heard. As checked below, OIP is dismissing this appeal because:

- A prerequisite for filing an appeal under this chapter has not been met (HAR § 2-73-18(1)).
- The appeal is determined to be frivolous (HAR § 2-73-18(2)).
- The issues are beyond OIP's jurisdiction (HAR § 2-73-18(3)).
- No violation of the law can be found when viewing the issues in the light most favorable to the appellant (HAR § 2-73-18(4)).
- The appellant requests that the appeal be dismissed (HAR § 2-73-18(5)).
- The appeal has been abandoned by the appellant's failure to respond to OIP within twenty days after the date OIP sent the appellant a request for a response, or other circumstances indicate the appeal has been abandoned (HAR § 2-73-18(6)). Specifically, after receiving OIP's letters dated November 6 and 13, 2019, setting out OIP's informal guidance and

inclinations in these appeals, you did not advise OIP that you wanted OIP to proceed with a binding determination in the appeals.

\_\_\_\_\_ The same issues on appeal have been previously addressed in a published OIP decision (HAR § 2-73-18(7)).

\_\_\_\_\_ An OIP decision on the appeal would be advisory or moot (HAR § 2-73-18(8)).

A person is entitled to seek assistance from the courts when that person has been improperly denied access to a government record. HRS §§ 92F-15, 92F-42(1) (2012). An action for access to records is heard on an expedited basis and, if the complainant is the prevailing party, the complainant is entitled to recover reasonable attorney's fees and costs. HRS § 92F-15(d), (f) (2012).

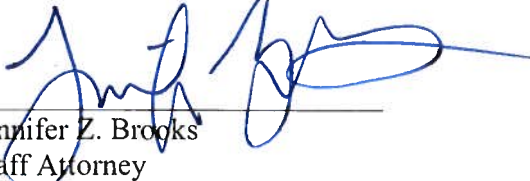
For any lawsuit for access filed under the UIPA, the person filing the action must notify OIP in writing at the time the action is filed. HRS § 92F-15.3 (2012).

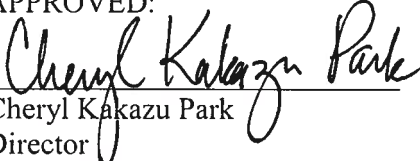
This dismissal constitutes an appealable decision under section 92F-43, HRS. An agency may appeal an OIP decision by filing a complaint within thirty days of the date of an OIP decision, in accordance with section 92F-43, HRS. The agency shall give notice of the complaint to OIP and the person who requested the decision. HRS § 92F-43(b) (2012). OIP and the person who requested the decision are not required to participate, but may intervene in the proceeding. Id. The court's review is limited to the record that was before OIP unless the court finds that extraordinary circumstances justify discovery and admission of additional evidence. HRS § 92F-43(c). The court shall uphold an OIP decision unless it concludes the decision was palpably erroneous. Id.

A party to this appeal may request reconsideration of this decision within ten business days, in accordance with section 2-73-19, HAR. This letter also serves as notice that OIP is not representing anyone in this appeal. OIP's role herein is as a neutral third party.

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact OIP.

**OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRACTICES**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Z. Brooks  
Staff Attorney

APPROVED:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Cheryl Kakazu Park  
Director

cc: DPW-H