

# WHAT IS MEDIATION?

Mediation is an informal, inexpensive, and confidential process for resolving disputes quickly. The mediator acts as an impartial third party who assists the parties in face-to-face meetings to work out a mutually acceptable solution.

There are two types of mediation available:
1) facilitative; and 2) evaluative. In facilitative mediation, mediators facilitate discussions between parties and assist participants in memorializing perspectives. In evaluative mediation, mediators with subject matter expertise review the parties' pre-mediation position statements and provide written evaluations of the strengths and weaknesses of a case.

# ARE THERE ADVANTAGES IN MEDIATION?

- Inexpensive;
- Expedient;
- Parties control the solutions;
- Solutions are tailored to needs of parties;
- Confidential process by mediators with knowledge of the condominium law;
- · Scheduled at convenience of parties;
- Even if dispute is not completely resolved, mediation often defuses hostilities, clarifies issues, and expands options; and
- Small Claims Court, arbitration, and litigation are still options if unable to resolve dispute through mediation.



## IS MEDIATION MANDATORY?

Section 514B-161, HRS, **requires** mediation if a condominium owner or the board of directors requests mediation of a dispute involving the interpretation or enforcement of an association's declaration, bylaws or house rules.



# IS THERE A COST FOR MEDIATION?

There is a nominal fee. The Real Estate Commission (Commission) established a trust fund, the Condominium Education Trust Fund, which is used for educational purposes, including mediation. Subject to availability of these monies, subsidized mediation services are available through the mediation providers listed in this brochure for eligible parties and eligible issues.

# WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO FILE FOR MEDIATION?

Owners or boards of directors of condominium associations registered with the Commission.

## WHAT IS CONSIDERED AN ELIGIBLE ISSUE?

Disputes involving:

- The declaration of a registered condominium association;
- The bylaws of a registered condominium association; and
- The house rules of a registered condominium association.

## ARE THERE INELIGIBLE ISSUES?

- Parties and issues involving Chapter 521, HRS, Residential Landlord-Tenant Code
- Condominium developers and construction issues
- Time share owners/associations and time share issues
- Issues concerning employees of registered condominium associations and labor law issues

# WHAT IS THE PROCEDURE IN REQUESTING - SUBSIDIZED MEDIATION?

You may contact any of the Commission's mediation providers listed in this brochure. The

mediation providers will explain their procedures and cost. The Commission does not conduct mediations.

# **MEDIATION PROVIDERS**

Contact the following mediation providers directly about the procedures and cost, and arranging mediation (check <a href="www.hawaii.gov/hirec">www.hawaii.gov/hirec</a> for a current list of mediation centers):

Oahu: Mediation Center of the Pacific, Inc.

245 N. Kukui Street, #206 Honolulu, HI 96817 Tel: (808) 521-6767 Fax: (808) 538-1454

Email: mcp@mediatehawaii.org

Maui: Mediation Services of Maui, Inc.

95 Mahalani Street, Suite 25

Wailuku, HI 96793 Tel: (808) 244-5744 Fax: (808) 249-0905

Email: info@mauimediation.org

W. Hawaii: West Hawaii Mediation Center

65-1291 Kawaihae Road, #202

Kamuela, HI 96743

Tel: (808) 885-5525 (Kamuela) Tel: (808) 326-2666 (Kona)

Fax: (808) 887-0525

Email: info@whmediation.org

<u>E. Hawaii</u>: Ku'ikahi Mediation Center 101 Aupuni St. Ste. PH 1014 B-2

Hilo, HI 96720

Tel: (808) 935-7844 Fax: (808) 961-9727

Email: info@hawaiimediation.org

Kauai: Kauai Economic Opportunity, Inc.

2804 Wehe Road Lihue, HI 96766

Tel: (808) 245-4077 X237 Fax: (808) 245-7476 Email: keo@keoinc.org

## **USEFUL INFORMATION SOURCES**

# Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) website:

www.hawaii.gov/dcca

Chapters 514A and 514B, HRS, and Chapter 107, HAR, regarding Condominium Property Regimes, are available online. Please refer to the following sites:

Website to access unofficial copy of laws:

www.capitol.hawaii.gov www.hawaii.gov/dcca/hrs

Website to access rules: www.hawaii.gov/dcca/har

STATE TOLL-FREE NUMBERS From the neighbor islands:

Hawaii 974-4000 ext 62643 Kauai 274-3141, ext. 62643 Maui 984-2400, ext. 62643 Molokai & Lanai 1-800-468-4644, ext. 62643.

**Real Estate Branch Website:** 

www.hawaii.gov/hirec

# **REAL ESTATE COMMISSION**

STATE OF HAWAII

# MEDIATION OF CONDOMINIUM DISPUTES



# **Department of Commerce & Consumer Affairs**

Real Estate Branch Professional & Vocational Licensing Division 335 Merchant Street, Room 333 Honolulu, HI 96813 Telephone: (808) 586-2643

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This printed material can be made available for individuals with special needs. Please submit your request to the Senior Condominium Specialist at (808) 586-2643. REV 0313