

## OPINION NO. 7

The principal of a state school has invested sums of money in two limited partnerships which develop land. He states that in his official position he takes no action which affects these companies, and that there is no connection or contact whatsoever between his work for the Department of Education and these two companies. He asks for an opinion based upon these facts.

The Ethics Act was passed to ensure high standards of conduct of those in government service. The Act does not penalize the public servant by preventing him from ownership of outside investments, unless such private investment interests conflict with the public interest of which he is a fiduciary because of his position in state government. The Act demands only that when a public servant takes official action or makes an official decision, he does so unencumbered by motives of personal interest.

Official action taken by this employee does not and cannot, according to his statement, directly affect his investments. In this situation, based on the facts disclosed, the Commission finds no violation of Act 263.

Dated: Honolulu, Hawaii, May 23, 1968.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION  
Vernon F.L. Char, Chairman  
Mary George, Vice Chairman  
James F. Morgan, Jr., Commissioner  
S. Don Shimazu, Commissioner  
July Simeona, Commissioner