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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: **Candidates for Prelicensing Schools or Anyone Considering a Real Estate License**
FROM: **Real Estate Commission**

SUBJECT: **Persons with a Questionable Background Issue(s)**

Do you have a questionable background issue? Questionable background issues include, but is not limited to, criminal convictions (felony, misdemeanor, or court martial), or any civil/administrative/government action, against you, including DUIs, drug/alcohol issues, abuse situations, tax liens, unpaid tax obligations, judgments, unpaid judgments, disciplinary action (for another licensing area or from another state or country), applicants currently serving parole or probation, violations of administrative laws/court orders/government sanctions, etc. If you have a questionable background issue, the Commission highly recommends you review the "Request for Preliminary Decision" application. If your answer to any of the questions from **1.b) through 5 will be "yes", immediately contact the Real Estate Branch at the above address or at (808) 586-2643. Do not enroll in any Prelicensing Real Estate course until you secured advice on how to proceed and/or, if applicable, submit the "**Request for Preliminary Decision**" application.**

Although a good number of applicants with questionable background issues have been granted licenses or conditional licenses, a good number of applicants with questionable background issues have been **denied licenses.** Denied applicants have spent monies for the prelicensing school, taking and passing the examination, and submitting an application, as well as expending a lot of time studying, attending classes, and taking the examination. Therefore, prior to expending monies and time on the process to eventually submit an application for a real estate license that may be denied, the applicant should submit a Request for Preliminary Decision Application to the Commission.

Upon receipt of a Request for Preliminary Decision application and prior to inclusion on the Commission's meeting agenda, the Real Estate Branch staff gathers all pertinent documentation from the applicant to support and explain any and all "yes" answer(s). The Commission then reviews each application on a case by case basis at its monthly meeting. The applicant is invited to appear at the Commission's meeting to answer questions the Commissioners may have, and/or to provide oral testimony. The Commission then decides whether they would most likely approve or most likely deny a real estate license application with the affected background issues. Although the Preliminary Decision is a non-binding decision and subject to further review upon receipt of the license application, the decision should provide the candidate with a fair indication as to how the Commission may vote on the actual license application.

Lastly, Hawaii Revised Statutes Section 467-20 states that any false statement provided by the applicant to the Commission is an unlawful act subject to administrative sanctions and constitutes a misdemeanor criminally punishable under the laws of the State of Hawaii. In the electronic age of the internet, open records law by federal, state, and county governments, various private services, and with governmental agencies sharing information, access to background information on individuals and entities are easier to obtain. Therefore, the worst act by an applicant for licensure would be to answer the questions in the application falsely or basically lie.

Please contact the Real Estate Branch at the above address or telephone (808) 586-2643, between 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. HST, Monday to Friday.