# HAWAII CONDOMINIUM BULLETIN

VOLUME 10 NO. 1

**Funded through the Condominium Education Fund** 

**DECEMBER 2001** 

#### SWAT Bill for 2002 Affects CMAs, Limited Equity Housing Cooperatives

In January 2002, the Real Estate Commission and the Professional and Vocational Licensing Division (PVLD) will introduce a proposed bill to streamline the regulatory requirements for condominium managing agents (CMAs) and to repeal the Commission's administrative and regulatory authority over limited equity housing cooperatives.

The proposed bill is part of the Commission's and PVLD's continuing efforts under Lt. Governor Hirono's Slice Waste and Tape (SWAT) Project. The SWAT Project is a government initiative to repeal and reduce regulatory burdens on businesses, the general public, and State government.

Under the proposed SWAT bill, current active licensed Hawaii real estate brokers will no longer be required to register with the Commission as CMAs and to obtain a fidelity bond. The proposed amendment deletes duplicative and unnecessary regulatory requirements. Hawaii real estate brokers are already licensed by the Commission and are covered by the real estate recovery fund, which provides direct benefits to harmed consumers.

Corporations authorized to do business under Article 8 of

See SWAT Bill pg. 6

### Commission & Staff Coming to Maui on January 4

The Real Estate Commission's three standing committees, the Laws & Rules Review Committee, the Education Review Committee, and the Condominium Review Committee, convene on Maui on January 4, 2002.

The Maui Board of Realtors conference room located in Kahului at 441 Ala Makani Place will be the site of all meetings.

At 9:30 a.m. the Laws & Rules Review Committee meets, followed by the Education Review Committee meeting at 10 a.m. and the Condominium Review Committee meeting at 11 a.m.

Each committee meeting will have set agenda items and an open forum period where the audience may provide information to the Commission and discuss concerns.

At 1 p.m., the Commission's recodification attorney will present a progress report on the recodification of HRS Chapter 514A.

In addition, condominium and real estate specialists will be available to discuss condominium and real estate

See Maui Meetings on pg. 6

#### **HRS Chapter 514A Recodification Update**

The Commission continues to work on completing the initial draft of the recodification of Hawaii's condominium property regimes law. We are targeting the end of 2001 to complete the first draft.

As always, we are interested in learning what problems you have with HRS Chapter 514A and what solutions you might suggest.

For your reference, our recodification workplan, timetable, base working document, and other recodification materials are available on our website at http://www.state.hi.us/hirec.

You may contact us at: Mitchell Imanaka & Gordon Arakaki, Real Estate Branch, 250 South King Street, Room 702, Honolulu, HI 96813, phone 586-2644 or 586-2646.

You can also contact us by e-mail at *Gordon\_M\_Arakaki/DCCA@dcca.* state.hi.us.

Finally, join us on Maui for our condominium law recodification update at the Maui Board of Realtors conference room on Friday, January 4, 2002 at 1 p.m.

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The Hawaii Condominium Bulletin is funded by the Condominium Education Fund, Real Estate Commission, Professional and Vocational Licensing Division, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, State of Hawaii.

This material can be made available for individuals with special needs. Please call the Senior Condominium Specialist at (808) 586-2644 to submit your request.



#### Letter from the Chair . . .

Dear Condominium Owners and Managing Agents:

This issue contains an important "Condominium Survey" on pages 7 and 8 for you to complete and return. Please take a few minutes to help us evaluate a number of educational programs that the Condominium Education Fund (CEF) subsidizes. (Each biennium, registered associations contribute \$4 per apartment to the CEF to be used for educational purposes.) All you need to do is check the appropriate answers, detach pages 7 and 8, fold the sheet into thirds, seal with tape, add postage and your return address (optional), then mail the survey to the pre-printed address.

This issue also discusses the proposed Slice Waste and Tape (SWAT) bill for the 2002 legislative session. The bill is a continuation of our efforts under the SWAT Project, a government initiative to repeal and reduce regulatory burdens on businesses, the general public, and State government. It streamlines regulatory requirements for condominium managing agents and repeals the Commission's authority over limited equity housing cooperatives. This issue will also update you on the Commission's continuing efforts to recodify Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 514A. The target date for completing the first draft is the end of 2001. We welcome your comments and suggested solutions regarding problems you've encountered with Chapter 514A.

Readers on Maui please mark your calendars because the Commission and staff are coming to Kahului on January 4, 2002 to hold three standing committee meetings, and to present a progress report on the recodification of HRS Chapter 514A. Condominium and real estate specialists will also be available to discuss condominium and real estate licensing concerns with individuals on a first come, first served basis.

As a follow-up to the September 2001 issue, the Reference File contains Part Two of the Index for *Hawaii Condominium Bulletin*: Fall 1991-June 2001. These two indexes will help you to locate questions about condominium-related topics that have been covered in past *Bulletin* articles.

Finally, we have included the Commission's meeting schedule for 2002. You have a standing invitation to attend our monthly public meetings, and we look forward to meeting you and hearing your concerns.

Sincerely,

Mitchell A. Imanaka

Mitchell A. Imanaka, Chair Condominium Review Committee

#### Ask the Condominium Specialist

If an owner requests copies of condominium association documents, may the board require the owner to put the request in writing?

Basically HRS section 514A-83.5 requires boards to be fair about providing copies of association documents to owners, and owners to be fair about requests for copies of documents. We have received reports that boards often ask owners to put their request in writing to officially document the request, and to allow the board sufficient time to comply if documents must be retrieved from storage, or if numerous documents or copies of documents must be assembled. Owners should be aware that HRS section 514A-83.5 requires owners to pay a reasonable fee for duplicating, postage, stationary, and other administrative costs associated with handling a request to copy documents.

Subsections (a) through (d) of HRS section 514A-83.5 relate to board and association minutes, financial statements, general ledgers, accounts receivable and payable ledgers, check ledgers, insurance policies, contracts, invoices, delinquencies of ninety days or more, proxies, tally sheets, ballots, owner's check-in lists, and certificates of election. However, subsections (a) through (d) are silent as to whether the owner's request must be in writing. Section (e), in contrast, is a catch-all provision covering owner requests to examine "other documents" not specified in subsections (a) through (d). Subsection (e) does require owners to file a written request for "other documents." The board is then required to provide written authorization or written refusal with an explanation within thirty calendar days of receipt of the request.

Does HRS Chapter 514A prohibit owners who reside outside the State of Hawaii from serving on the board of directors?

No, there is no specific prohibition against owners who reside out-of-state from serving on the board of directors in HRS Chapter 514A. HRS section 514A-82(a)(12) requires all members of the board to be owners; HRS section 514A-82(a)(15) requires the board to meet at least once a year; and HRS section 514A-82(b)(10) prohibits directors from expending association funds for their travel unless owners are informed and a majority approves of this expense. As long as board members are owners and are able to attend board meetings and perform their duties despite residing outside of Hawaii, HRS Chapter 514A does not prohibit them from serving on the board. Other governing documents of an association, however, may prescribe residency requirements for directors. In particular, to ascertain whether in-state director residency requirements apply to your condominium, readers are advised to check the association's bylaws.

#### **Index for Hawaii Condominium Bulletin: Fall 1991 - June 2001**

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#### **REAL ESTATE COMMISSION**

2002 MEETING SCHEDULE

Laws & Rules Review Committee – 9 a.m Education Review Committee – 10 a.m. Condominium Review Committee – 11 a.m. Real Estate Commission - 9 a.m.

Friday, January 4, 2002 – Maui (See below) Wednesday, February 13, 2002 – Kapuaiwa Room Wednesday, March 13, 2002 – Kapuaiwa Room Wednesday, April 10, 2002 – Kapuaiwa Room Wednesday, May 8, 2002 – Kapuaiwa Room Wednesday, June 12, 2002 – Kuhina Nui Room Friday, January 25, 2002 – Kapuaiwa Room Friday, February 22, 2002 – Kapuaiwa Room Friday, March 22, 2002 – Kapuaiwa Room Friday, April 26, 2002 – Kapuaiwa Room Friday, May 31, 2002 – Kapuaiwa Room Friday, June 28, 2002 – Kapuaiwa Room

All meetings will be held in the HRH Princess Victoria Kamamalu Building, located at 1010 Richards Street, Second Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii, except the January 4, 2002 meeting, which will be held in the Maui Board of REALTORS' Conference Room, located at 441 Ala Makani Place, Kahului, Maui. The Laws and Rules Review Committee meeting will convene at 9:30 a.m. for this meeting only and will be followed by the Education Review Committee meeting at 10 a.m. and the Condominium Review Committee meeting at 11 a.m.

Meeting dates, locations and times are subject to change without notice. Please visit the Commission's website at *www.state.hi.us/hirec* or call the Real Estate Commission Office at 586-2643 to confirm the dates, times and locations of the meetings. This material can be made available to individuals with special needs. Please call the Executive Officer at 586-2643 to submit your request.

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#### SWAT Bill from pg. 1

HRS Chapter 412 (trust companies), however, will still be required to register as CMAs and to obtain a fidelity bond.

The Commission's administrative and regulatory authority over limited equity housing cooperatives in HRS section 421H-5 will also be repealed by the proposed SWAT bill. The proposed amendment reduces duplicative regulatory requirements for developers of limited equity housing cooperatives without compromising consumer protection. Registration and stock sales of limited equity housing cooperatives already falls within the jurisdiction of the Business Registration Division of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. Other county and federal agencies also provide regulatory oversight as well.

Since enactment of the law in 1987, only two cooperatives have registered with the Commission. The disclosures made in those two developer's final public reports merely recited disclosures already made and approved by another regulatory agency.

#### Maui Meetings from pg. 1

licensing concerns with interested parties on a first come, first served basis.

Members of the condominium and real estate communities, government officials, educators, and other interested individuals and organizations are invited to attend and participate in these public meetings.

Agenda topics for the Condominium Review Committee and issues for the condominium specialist include condominium governance and management, condominium mediation, AOAO and CMA registration, condominium education programs, CPR registration and developer's public reports, HRS Chapter 514A, HAR Chapter 107, new legislation, and reserves.

If you have a specific concern for a committee to address on January 4 or if you have questions for the recodification attorney, senior condominium specialist, or senior real estate specialist, please contact the Commission's office toll-free from Maui at 984-2044 ext. 6-2643 or at 586-2643 prior to January 4.

#### **Mediation Case Summaries**

MCP=Mediation Center of the Pacific, Inc.
WHMS=West Hawaii Mediation Services
MSM=Mediation Services of Maui, Inc.
KMC=Kuʻikahi Mediation Center

KEO=Kauai Economic Opportunity, Inc.

RICO=Regulated Industries Complaints Office
BOD=Board of Directors

CMA=Condominium Managing Agent

#### Cases handled by MCP (7/1/01 - 9/30/01)

A total of nine (9) cases involving condominium disputes were opened and/or closed between July 1, 2001 and September 30, 2001. Of those nine cases, three (3) cases were mediated, four (4) cases were closed without mediating, and two (2) cases are pending.

#### Cases handled by MSM (7/1/01 - 9/30/01)

A total of two (2) cases involving condominium disputes were opened and/or closed between July 1, 2001 and September 30, 2001. Of those two cases, one (1) case mediated to agreement and one (1) case is pending.

 Parties
 Complaint
 Disposition

 Owner vs. BOD
 Bylaws violation re: structure built in yard without Board
 Mediated; agreement reached built in yard without Board

permission

#### (No cases reported by WHMS, KMC, KEO, or RICO (7/1/01 – 9/30/01)

Mediation subsidized through the Condominium Education Fund may be obtained through the following providers:

Oahu: Mediation Center of the Pacific, Inc.; 680 Iwilei Rd. #530; Honolulu, 96817; Tel. 521-6767

Maui: Mediation Services of Maui, Inc.; 95 Mahalani St. #26; Wailuku, 96793; Tel. 244-5744

Island of Hawaii – Hamakua, Kohala, Kona & Kaʻu districts: West Hawaii Mediation Services; P.O. Box 7020; Kamuela 96743; Kamuela Tel. 885-5525; Kailua-Kona Tel. 326-2666

Island of Hawaii – East Hawaii districts: Kuʻikahi Mediation Center; 300 W. Lanikaula St.; Hilo 96720; Hilo Tel. 935-7844; Kamuela Tel. 885-5388

Kauai: Kauai Economic Opportunity, Inc.; 2804 Wehe Rd.; Lihue 96766; Tel. 245-4077

Complaints against licensees: Regulated Industries Complaints Office; 235 S. Beretania St. 9th Flr.; Honolulu 96813; Tel. 587-3222

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#### **CONDOMINIUM SURVEY**

The Real Estate Commission (REC) desires to better serve condominium owners with its education outreach programs. To accomplish this, we are evaluating the circulation of the Hawaii Condominium Bulletin (Bulletin), the awareness and use of resources provided by REC, and the use of mediation to resolve condominium disputes. The Bulletin, website, seminars, and mediation are funded by the Condominium Education Fund. Your answers will assist us in determining where improvement is needed. Please check the most appropriate answers, cut off this page, fold in thirds, seal with tape, add return address (optional) and postage, then mail back to us by January 31, 2002.

1.	Please identify if you are (please check all that apply): in-state apartment owner managing agent AOAO resident manager out-of-state owner board member
2.	How large is your association? 6 – 40 units 41 - 90 units 91 – 174 units 175 – 586+ units
3.	How are you managed? self-managed managing agent
4.	How many meetings has your Board of Directors held within the past year?1 to 34 to 67 or morenone
5.	Have you reviewed the REC's web site at <a href="http://www.state.hi.us/hirec">http://www.state.hi.us/hirec</a> at any time? yes no, not aware of website
6.	Did you find the information helpful to you? very helpful not helpful
7.	REC sends out copies of the Bulletin to all registered AOAOs quarterly. How many issues of the Bulletin were distributed to you this year?
	1 to 23 to 4none
	If distributed to you, did you find the Bulletin to be a good source of information?very helpful not helpful
8.	Currently, the Bulletin is sent to the designated officer as indicated on the AOAO's biennial registration.  The Bulletin should be sent to:  designated officer condominium managing agent  resident manager other (list title)
9.	If you read the Bulletin, how did you receive it?from managing agentwebsiteother (please explain)from board of directorsposted on association's bulletin board
10.	Are you aware that the Bulletin is currently available on the REC's website? Yes No
	If yes, have you accessed it via the Internet? Yes No

	Yes	No	Have you attended any of the	e seminars :
	If yes, how many semin less than 3	ars have you attended? 3 or more		
	If yes, did you find the s	eminars to be helpful? helpful	not helpful	
	On occasion condomin condominium matter? Yes	ium disputes arise between t	wo (2) parties. Have you eve	r had a complaint about a
	handled matter my	n	ey, certified public accountant	, insurance agent)
	Was the problem resolv	ved to your satisfaction?somewhat	yes	
		s Chapter 514A now requires on be required for <b>all</b> condom for select issu		minium disputes. Would
Is there anything else your response brief, c			ay help us develop education	al programs? (Please keep
			fold here	<u> </u>
				Place Stamp

Real Estate Branch Condominium Survey 250 South King Street, Room 702 Honolulu, HI 96813