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SCMF-10-0000186

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF HAWAIʻI

In the Matter of the

DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE HAWAIʻI SUPREME COURT

ORDER APPROVING THE BUDGET OF THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE HAWAIʻI SUPREME COURT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2027

(By: Devens, C.J., McKenna, Eddins, and Ginoza, JJ., and Intermediate Court of Appeals Chief Judge Nakasone, assigned by reason of vacancy)

Upon consideration of the 2027 proposed budget, transmitted by letter dated September 2, 2026, by the Disciplinary Board of the Hawaiʻi Supreme Court, we note the Disciplinary Board does not seek to change the annual fees, which remain as follows:

Type Registration	Rate
Active/Gov. <5 yrs	$200.00
Active/Gov. 5+ yrs	$350.00
Pro Hac Vice	$650.00
Inactive <70 years age	$50.00
Inactive 70+ years age/medical	$0.00

It is hereby ordered pursuant to Rule 2.4(e)(8) of the Rules of the Supreme Court of the State of Hawai‘i that the Disciplinary Board’s proposed budget for calendar year 2027, a copy of which is attached hereto, and the requested annual fees are approved.

DATED: Honolulu, Hawai‘i, October 29, 2026.

/s/ Vladimir P. Devens

/s/ Sabrina S. McKenna

/s/ Todd W. Eddins

/s/ Lisa M. Ginoza

/s/ Karen T. Nakasone

PROPOSED 2027 DISCIPLINARY BOARD BUDGET
(08/18/2026)

		2026 Budget	2026 Estimated Actual	2027 Budget	Notes for 2027
1	**Revenue**				
2	Attorney Registration Fees	$ 2,056,100	$ 2,087,102	$ 2,054,200	Note A
3	Interest on Bank Accounts	$ 24,000	$ 24,000	$ 24,000	
4	Lawyers' Fund	$ 120,000	$ 140,000	$ 140,000	Note B
5					
6	TOTAL REVENUE	**$ 2,200,100**	**$ 2,251,102**	**$ 2,218,200**	
7	**Expenditures**				
8	Salaries				
9	Chief Disciplinary Counsel (Kong)				Note C
10	Deputy Chief Disciplinary Counsel (Richelieu) [PT]				
11	Deputy Disciplinary Counsel (Harada)				
12	Deputy Disciplinary Counsel (Sewell)				
13	Deputy Disciplinary Counsel (Lam)				
14	Deputy Disciplinary Counsel (Kidd)				
15	Deputy Disciplinary Counsel (Norris) [PT]				
16	Disciplinary Investigator (Sayavong)				
17	Manager Office Administration (Okamoto)				
18	IT and Administrative Specialist (A Sakurai)				
19	IT and Administrative Specialis (E Sakurai)				
20	Administrative Assistant (new)				
21	Disciplinary Board Admnistrative Dir (Hee)				
22	SUB-TOTAL SALARIES		$ 1,065,926	$ 1,160,000	
23	Compensation/Bonus Pool		$ 11,621	$ 30,441	
24	TOTAL SALARIES	**$ 1,198,475**	**$ 1,077,547**	**$ 1,190,441**	
25	Disciplinary Board Professional Contract Service (includes Board Counsel)	$ 10,000	$ 21,000	$ 30,000	Note D.1
26	ODC Professional Contract Services (Adjunct/Contract Trustees)	$ 199,600	$ 150,000	$ 160,000	Note D.2
27			$ -		
28					
29	TOTAL SALARIES AND PROFES-SIONAL CONTRACT SERVICES	**$ 1,408,075**	**$ 1,248,547**	**$ 1,380,441**	
30					
31	Benefits:				
32	Retirement	$ 119,847	$ 84,572	$ 116,000	Note E.1
33	Medical Plans	$ 114,600	$ 79,800	$ 115,800	Note E.2

		2026 Budget	2026 Estimated Actual	2027 Budget	Notes for 2027
34	Group Life Insurance	$ 5,000	$ 4,000	$ 5,000	
35	FICA	$ 82,000	$ 82,500	$ 84,000	
36	Workers' Compensation	$ 5,000	$ 350	$ 5,000	
37	Unemployment Comp.	$ 9,000	$ 8,620	$ 9,000	
38	TDI	$ 4,000	$ 8,350	$ 9,000	
39	Long Term Disability Ins.	$ 5,800	$ 5,100	$ 5,800	
40	Bar Membership Fees	$ 4,123	$ 4,122	$ 3,703	Note E.3
41	Parking	$ 12,480	$ 9,720	$ 10,080	Note E.4
42	EAP	$ 1,000	$ 1,000	$ 1,000	Note E.5
43	TOTAL BENEFITS	**$ 362,850**	**$ 288,134**	**$ 364,383**	
44					
45	Current Expenses:				
46	Services on a Fee Basis				
47	Accountant Fees	$ 6,600	$ 6,276	$ 6,600	
48	Indevtech	$ 60,000	$ 58,164	$ 60,000	Note F
49	Pension Services Corp.	$ 3,000	$ 3,000	$ 3,000	
50	Akamai Messenger Service	$ 2,500	$ 2,500	$ 2,500	
51	Ceridian	$ 3,200	$ 3,200	$ 3,200	
52	CPA Review of Financials	$ 6,000	$ 6,200	$ 6,500	
53	Gum Design	$ 1,375	$ 2,500	$ 2,500	
54	Stationery & Supplies	$ 8,000	$ 9,600	$ 9,000	
55	Postage/Postal Charges	$ 5,000	$ 10,200	$ 10,000	
56	Telephone (Servpac)	$ 10,472	$ 7,200	$ 8,500	
57	Trans (Neighbor Island)	$ 6,400	$ 4,000	$ 9,600	Note G.1
58	Subsistence (Neighbor Island)	$ 19,800	$ 10,000	$ 12,000	Note G.2
59	Trans (Out of State)	$ 4,500	$ 1,500	$ 4,500	Note H.1
60	Subsistence (Out of State)	$ 6,975	$ 5,000	$ 8,775	Note H.2
61	Conference Registration Fees	$ 2,500	$ 1,400	$ 2,500	Note H.3
62	Car Rental/Taxi/Uber-Lyft	$ 1,500	$ 1,500	$ 1,500	
63	Publications/Subscriptions	$ 500	$ 500	$ 500	
64	Office Rent (CFT)	$ 98,036	$ 100,878	$ 95,000	Note I
65	Office Rent (212 Merchant St Ste 310)	$ 25,044	$ 25,512	$ 25,512	Note J
66	R & M (Leasing of Equipment)	$ 14,025	$ 11,255	$ 13,000	Note K.1
67	Vyanet Security Camera				
68	Copier Lease				
69	Postage Meter Lease				
70	R & M (Office)	$ 500	$ 500	$ 500	Note K.2

PROPOSED 2027 DISCIPLINARY BOARD BUDGET
(08/18/2026)

		2026 Budget	2026 Estimated Actual	2027 Budget	Notes for 2027
71	Insurance				
72	Commercial Package	$ 1,980	$ 346	$ 1,980	
73	Umbrella	$ 1,100	$ 1,100	$ 1,100	
74	Erisa Bond	$ -	$ 27	$ -	
75	Director's & Officers Liability	$ 8,030	$ 7,000	$ 7,500	
76	Professional Organization Dues				Note L
77	NOBC	$ 1,600	$ 2,000	$ 2,000	
78	ABA (CPR)	$ 400	$ -	$ -	
79	NCLDB	$ 100	$ 100	$ 100	
80	OBI	$ 175	$ 175	$ 175	
81	Computer Fees				Note M
82	Luhina (Internet Service)	$ 29,502	$ 27,427	$ 29,000	
83	Hawaiian Telcom (Internet Service)		$ 1,350	$ 1,500	
84	Zoom	$ 3,000	$ 3,000	$ 3,000	
85	Microsoft	$ 6,710	$ 6,000	$ 6,710	
86	Dropbox (ODC)	$ 1,100	$ 1,100	$ 1,100	
87	Dropbox (DB)	$ 1,250	$ 1,500	$ 1,250	
88	Westlaw	$ 21,923	$ 24,100	$ 24,100	
89	Pacer	$ 500	$ 200	$ 500	
90	Adobe	$ 4,000	$ 3,617	$ 4,000	
91	Actionstep (Data Management Software	$ 34,000	$ 31,920	$ 38,000	Note N.1
92	Actionstep Consultant (3545)	$ 5,000	$ 2,000	$ 2,000	Note N.2
93	Employee Training	$ 2,500	$ 500	$ 2,500	
94	Litigation Costs	$ 30,000	$ 24,000	$ 25,000	Note O
95	Trusteeship Costs	$ 20,000	$ 32,000	$ 20,000	Note P
96	Trusteeship Costs-Recovered	$ -	$ -		
97	Contract Trustee Costs-Recovered		$ -		
98	Judgment Filing Costs	$ 300	$ 300	$ 300	
99	Miscellaneous	$ 1,000	$ 2,000	$ 1,000	
100	HSBA Credit Card Fee Charge	$ 50,000	$ 55,000	$ 55,000	
101	TOTAL CURRENT EXPENSES	**$ 510,097**	**$ 497,647**	**$ 513,002**	
102					
103	Capital Expenses:				
104	Equipment				
105	Computer Hardware	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	$ 20,000	Note Q
106	Cables	$ 100	$ 250	$ 250	
107	Recorders, Tapes, etc.	$ 100	$ 100	$ 100	

PROPOSED 2027 DISCIPLINARY BOARD BUDGET
(08/18/2026)

		2026 Budget	2026 Estimated Actual	2027 Budget	Notes for 2027
108	Furnishing:				
109	Desks, Tables, etc.	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	$ 1,000	Note R
110	TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENSES	**$ 20,200**	**$ 20,350**	**$ 21,350**	
111	(RECOVERVED COSTS)				
112	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	**$ 2,301,222**	**$ 2,054,678**	**$ 2,279,176**	
113	Excess of Revenue over Expenditures	$ (101,122)	$ 196,424	$ (60,976)	
114	Beginning Reserves	$ 389,195	$ 484,403	$ 680,827	
115	Ending Reserves	$ 288,073	$ 680,827	$ 619,851	
116	TOTAL RESERVES				
117					
118	ALLOCATED RESERVES				
119	OPERATING EXPENSES RESERVES				
120	SURPLUS RESERVES				
	8/18/2026				

A. COMPUTATION OF DISCIPLINARY BOARD FUNDS IN 2027

A. PROJECTED 2027 REGISTRATION FEES BY CATEGORY (estimate).

Cateogory	No. of Attorneys*	Registration Fee	Amount
Active Attorneys			
1-4 Years	347	$ 200.00	$ 69,400.00
5+ Years	4542	$ 350.00	$ 1,589,700.00
Inactive	2299	$ 50.00	$ 114,950.00
Pro Hac Vice	431	$ 650.00	$ 280,150.00
			$ 2,054,200.00

*Based on 2026 Dues collected by HSBA from 01/01/26 to 06/30/2026

B. CALCULATION OF 2027 TOTAL AVAILABLE REVENUE.

2027 ARS Receipts	$2,054,200.00
Interest on Bank Accounts	$24,000.00
Lawyers' Fund Admin Fee	$140,000.00
	$2,218,200.00

C. CALCULATION OF CARRYOVER AT DECEMBER 31, 2026

2026 Projected Revenue	$2,251,102.00
2026 Project Expenditures	$2,054,678.00
2026 Excess of Revenue Over Expenditures	$196,424.00
December 31, 2025 Carryover	$484,403.00
2026 Estimated Ending Reserves	$680,827.00

D. TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR 2027 $2,899,027.00

7/23/2026

B. NOTES

A. Attorney Registration Fees [**Line 2**]

The revenue projection is based on the number of attorneys registered in 2026 with HSBA through June 30, 2026.

The Board and ODC will not be seeking an increase in dues for 2027.

B. Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection [**Line 4**]

ODC currently provides, under contract, administrative and professional support to the Lawyers' Fund primarily consisting of shared use of five staff members [one disciplinary investigator (Fund Investigator), two disciplinary counsel (Fund Counsel and Fund Administrator), and two administrative staff members for processing Lawyers' Fund claims.

In 2026, the Lawyers' Fund increased the annual administrative fee to the Disciplinary Board to $140,000.00. It is anticipated that this fee will remain the same in 2027.

C. Salaries [**Lines 9 through 21**]

The salaries are based upon the following 11 full-time positions:

Number of Staff	Full-Time Position
1	Chief Disciplinary Counsel
4	Deputy Disciplinary Counsel
1	Disciplinary Investigator
1	Manager Office Administration
2	IT and Administrative Specialist
1	[new] Administrative Assistant
1	Disciplinary Board Administrative Director

All "counsel" positions are compensated based on experience and individual skills. Salaries will be based solely on the standard salary guidelines.

In 2027, ODC is budgeting for a maximum 3.5% salary increase for all full-time employees. This is for budgeting purposes only, as the final salary amount will be based upon the individual employee's annual performance review.

The compensation/bonus pool includes the maximum salary increase and includes some funds for discretionary bonuses as was used in 2026.

Salaries also include two part time counsel positions, one of which was accounted for in line 26 (Adjunct/Contract Trustees) in 2026's budget.

Number of Staff	Part-Time Position
1	Deputy Chief Disciplinary Counsel
1	Deputy Disciplinary Counsel

D. Professional Services

1. Disciplinary Board Professional Contract Services [**Line 25**]

In 2027, this budget category is increased to reflect the growing workload of Disciplinary Board Counsel. Board Counsel is an outside attorney/contractor who provides legal research and advice to the Board in its adjudicatory and administrative roles. The amount budgeted in prior years was insufficient to meet operational needs, and additional increase due to counsel submitting invoices for all work performed. This category also includes the employment of outside legal services as needed, including an employment attorney and tax/ERISA attorney. All of the above offer discounted rates to the Board.

2. ODC Professional Contract Services (Adjunct Disciplinary Counsel/Contract Trustee) [**Line 26**]

This category includes the utilization of independent contractors, on an hourly basis: "adjunct" Deputy Disciplinary Counsel to supplement full time ODC staff; outside lawyer and non-lawyer consultants (including auditors); and Special Assistant Disciplinary Counsel to serve where ODC and the Disciplinary Board are conflicted or disqualified, such as when a complaint is filed against a Board member, Board Counsel, or Disciplinary Counsel. This category also includes payment to attorneys who are appointed to serve as compensated trustees by the Hawai'i Supreme Court. In 2026 and 2027, the Board expects to pay for the services of 10 contract Trustees for the following trusteeships: Milton Soo, Michael Lippert, Melody Parker, Brian De Lima, Walter Vierra, Maria Avinante, Stuart Ing, Lionel Riley, Clayton Ikei, Thomas Yano, and Michael Indie. Seven trusteeships need to be closed and funds escheated to the state, and a contract Trustee has been appointed to oversee this task.

While the amount expected to be spent on adjunct attorneys has decreased significantly over the past year, the

budget for this line item reflects the significant trustee payments mentioned above.

E. Benefits

1. Retirement Plan-Employer's Contribution [**Line 32**] 10% of gross base salary (total with 11 full time employees = $116,000)

2. Medical Plans [**Line 33**]

[Note: This calculation is based on a medical premium increase of 10% in 2027.]

a. Qualified ODC employees: $725.00 premium per month x 10 employees = $7,250 x 12 months = $87,0000.00

b. Additional maximum allowance for qualified employees enrolled in a dependent/family plan (partial coverage): $800.00/month x 3 employees x 12 months = $28,800.00

Total a + b = $115,800 (10 employees, 3 with dependent/family plans)

Remaining benefits (e.g. group life insurance, FICA, workers' comp, unemployment insurance, TDI, long-term disability, Employee Assistance Program) are based on either a percentage of salary total, or actual costs.

3. Bar Membership Fees [**Line 40**]

This category includes mandatory HSBA annual license/dues for full time (salaried) ODC attorneys.

	Admitted 5+ Years
HSBA	$210.00
Processing Fee	15.00
Disciplinary Board	350.00
AAP	44.00
	619.00 x 4 ODC attorneys = $2,476.00

	Admitted 1-4 Years
HSBA	$150.00
Processing Fee	15.00
Disciplinary Board	200.00
AAP	44.00
	$1,227.00 x 3 ODC attorney

Total HSBA Dues: $2,476.00 + $1,227.00 = $3,703.00

4. Parking [**Line 41**]

Parking at City Financial Tower will be paid in full for the following positions:

Chief Disciplinary Counsel
IT/Admin Specialist
Disciplinary Board Administrative Director

Employees in these managerial and administrative positions are on-call and need safe access to the building, and parking, 24/7.

3 - Unreserved stalls - $280.00/mo x 3 = $840.00 x 12 months = $10,080.00 (lease limit max 4 stalls)

Total: $10,080.00

5. Employee Assistance Program (EAP) through WorkLife Hawaii [**Line 42**]

This program assists employees, as well as their family members, with personnel-related, and/or other health and wellness issues by providing individual employee counseling, family counseling, and/or mediation.

F. Indevtech [**Line 48**]

In 2027, ODC will continue its contract with Indevtech to manage its IT services.

G. Transportation and Subsistence-Neighbor Island [**Lines 57 and 58**]

1. Neighbor Island [**Line 57**]

In 2027, ODC anticipates that more in-person meetings and hearings will become standard. ODC will, however, continue to offer hybrid (both in person and virtual) meetings as an option. This budget anticipates neighbor island Board members to attend Board meetings in Honolulu at $300.00 per trip (which may accommodate parties in formal hearings as well.)

Four Board members for eight Board meetings in Honolulu at $300.00 per trip = $1,200.00 x eight meetings = $9,600.00

Total Line 57 = $9,600.00

2. Subsistence (Neighbor Island) [**Line 58**]

This category includes parking validation at 201 Merchant Street for any Board, Lawyers' Fund, or ODC related hourly parking, presently at $8.00 per hour. This also includes validation for remote employees who "touch-down" in the office once a week for 8 hours. Public, vendor, and respondent parking is not validated.

Total Line 58 = $12,000.00

H. Travel and Subsistence-Out of State [**Lines 59 and 60**]

In 2027, ODC may send Disciplinary Counsel to National Organization of Bar Counsel (NOBC) meetings and the Board will send Disciplinary Board Counsel to the annual meeting of the National Council of Disciplinary Boards (NCLDB).

1. Travel-Out of State [**Line 59**]

a. NCLDB (one Board member)

Round trip airfare $1,500.00 (Nashville, TN)

b. NOBC (one ODC attorney to attend the Mid-Year Meeting and one ODC attorney to attend the Annual Meeting)

Round trip airfare $1,500.00 x 2 = $3,000 (est. location dependent)

Total a + b = $4,500.00

2. Subsistence-Out of State [**Line 60**]

a. Hotel: $450.00/night x 5 nights = $2,250.00/trip

b. Meals: $75.00/day x 5 days = $375.00/trip

c. Ground Transportation: $300.00/trip

Total a + b + c = $2,925.00 per trip x 3 trips = $8,775.00

3. Conference Registration Fees [**Line 61**]

Participation or attendance (live or virtual) at NOBC, NCLDB, ABA, or OBI functions, seminars, conventions.

I. Office Rent-City Financial Tower [**Line 64**]

The lease will expire on November 30, 2026, and we are currently in negotiations to renew our lease. For ease of budgeting purposes, we anticipate paying less than currently budgeted for in 2027.

J. Office Rent-212 Merchant Street [**Line 65**]

In 2027, ODC will continue to rent a small commercial office space to process and store client files in active trusteeship cases. This will eliminate the need for expensive off-site storage with commercial vendors. The lease will end on July 31, 2027. We will assess whether this lease will need to be renewed in Q1 2027.

K. Repair and Maintenance

1. Leasing of Equipment [**Lines 67-69**]

ODC will continue to lease a copier/printer/scanner, postage meter, and a security camera system as this is a cost-effective method of financing and maintenance.

2. Office [**Line 70**]

This category includes the cost of general repairs within the office not covered by building management.

L. Membership in Professional Organizations [**Lines 77-80**]

National Organization of Bar Counsel (NOBC). Only organization that provides educational seminars, interactive user Forums and consulting on topics/issues specific to attorney discipline. All ODC attorneys are members of NOBC.

American Bar Association (ABA) annual membership will be cancelled in 2027.

National Council of Lawyer Disciplinary Board (NCLDB), which is the Board's counterpart to the NOBC.

Organization of Bar Investigators (OBI), which provides information sharing and educational opportunities for ODC's Disciplinary Investigator.

M. Computer Fees [**Lines 82-90**]

In 2027, ODC professional staff and adjuncts will continue to work remotely and nearly all records have been digitized. Our budget reflects the critical technology needed to keep our computer systems safe and secure. This category includes the cost of subscriptions to the following:

- Luhina (internet service and cloud storage/backup)
- Hawaiian Telcom (internet service for 212 Merchant Street location)
- Zoom (remote conferencing for outside participants)
- Microsoft Office 365 (monthly subscription)
- Dropbox for ODC and DB (secure cloud storage/backup; records access to Board and Lawyers' Fund)
- Westlaw (Legal Research-Public Records)
- Pacer (Federal court records access)
- Adobe (pdf document management software)

N. Actionstep [**Lines 91-92**]

1. Data Management System

The cost of the annual subscription for Actionstep is estimated at $38,000.00. This is based on a cost per user fee. ODC will renew its contract for another three year term with the existing contract set to expire on 12/31/27.

2. Consultant

ODC has set aside funds for an Actionstep consultant to assist with potential future system enhancements and modifications.

O. Litigation Costs [**Line 94**]

This category includes costs for any court or bank documents used in the investigation of ODC cases, service of subpoenas and Supreme Court orders, transcription of hearings, interviews, and transcription of telephone calls from the public used to assist in the filing of complaints, storage of ODC administrative files, destruction of files, and any other costs associated with the investigation and litigation of cases by ODC and the Board.

P. Trusteeship Costs [**Line 95**]

Under Supreme Court Rule 2.20, trustees are appointed by the Court when an attorney dies, is disabled, is suspended or disbarred, or abandons his or her law practice, and no other responsible party can be found to wind down the practice. ODC is charged with initiating these proceedings and supervising trustee performance, reviewing fee/cost applications, and other oversight.

Presently there are 45 active trusteeships, with 16 assigned to compensated trustees.

Costs include postage, shipping, movers, commercial storage (other than storage at ODC's Document Processing Facility), publication of notices of trustee appointment, secure destruction of files, and other trusteeship related expenses.

Q. Computer Hardware [**Line 105**]

As our computer hardware budget in 2026 was mostly consumed by changes needed for our move to a different suite; additional resources are needed to update a portion of our outdated computers.

R. Furnishing [**Line 108**]

For miscellaneous furnishing not covered in our office move in 2026.