



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**  
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

29 AUG 2002

HIHRO

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. § 7321 as amended)

1. The Hatch Act governs political activity by government employees at the federal, state and local levels. Under amendments enacted by Congress in 1993, most federal and District of Columbia (D.C.) government employees are permitted to take an active part in partisan political management and campaigns. The Hatch Act also restricts political activity by certain state or local government employees employed in connection with programs financed by federal funds. These employees are not permitted to coerce the political activities of others or be candidates for public office in partisan elections.

2. Federal employees may take an active part in partisan political management and campaigns. They may:

- be candidates for public office in nonpartisan elections;
- register and vote as they choose;
- assist in voter registration drives;
- express opinions about candidates and issues;
- contribute money to political organizations;
- attend political fundraising functions;
- attend and be active at political rallies and meetings;
- join and be active members of political parties and clubs;
- sign nominating petitions;
- campaign for or against referendum questions, constitution amendments, or municipal ordinances;
- make campaign speeches for candidates in partisan elections;
- distribute campaign literature in partisan elections; or
- hold office in political parties or clubs.

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3. Federal employees must abide by certain important restrictions whether on duty or off duty. Federal employees may not:

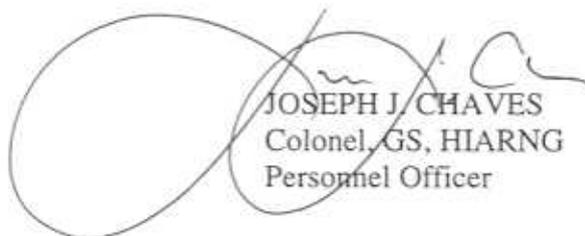
- use their official authority or influence to interfere with or affect the results of an election;
- solicit, accept, or receive political contributions from anyone (with a very narrow exception in certain circumstances for solicitations or other federal employees for contributions to federal labor organizations and certain other employee organizations);
- knowingly solicit or discourage political activity of anyone who has business before their agency; or
- run for public office in a partisan political election.

4. Except for certain officials at the highest levels of government, employees may not engage in political activity while:

- on duty;
- in government offices;
- wearing insignia identifying their office or position; or
- using a government vehicle.

5. If there are any questions, feel free to contact the following individuals: Colonel Joseph J. Chaves, (808) 733-4118; Lieutenant Colonel Donald G. McKinney, (808) 733-4110; or Lieutenant Colonel Fredrick Johnson, (808) 733-4111.

FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL:



JOSEPH J. CHAVES  
Colonel, GS, HIARNG  
Personnel Officer

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