

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
1325 K Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20463

RELEASE: PM'S MONDAY, JUNE 23, 1975

CONTACT: David Fiske
Director of Press Relations
382-4733 or 382-4734

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
GOAL: VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE

HONOLULU - JUNE 23 - "A goal of the new Federal Election Commission is to seek voluntary compliance with the law by political candidates and committees," FEC Commissioner Joan D. Aikens said today.

In an address this morning to the Annual Conference of the National Association of County Recorders and Clerks, at the Hawaiian Village, Aikens said, "Our most important goal is to help simplify the reporting process and to help all candidates and committees understand ahead of time what is required to fully comply with the law."

The Federal Election Commission was created by the Federal Election Campaign Amendments Act of 1974 to supervise and enforce new limits on contributions to federal campaigns, ceilings on federal candidate and political committee spending, and public financing for Presidential primary and general elections. The six-member independent commission was sworn in on April 14 this year.

Aikens cited specific functions of the new Commission:

- (1) to serve as a public depository for political disclosure;
- (2) to oversee and administer public financing of Presidential campaigns;
- (3) to seek voluntary compliance with Federal election financing laws;
- (4) to serve as an investigative body initiating action against violators who refuse compliance with these laws;
- (5) to audit periodical reports from candidates and committees.

Aikens lauded the National Clearinghouse for Information on administration of elections, previously run by the General Accounting Office, and being continued as part of the FEC. "The Clearinghouse performed numerous valuable services in cooperation with local leaders around the country. It did extensive research on structural functions of election boards, voting equipment, registration systems and other local administrative matters," she said.

Aikens told the county officials, "The FEC wants to aid local officials in finding solutions to problems in administering elections and in improving communications between election officials at all levels."

"Election administration is becoming more complicated and more difficult. We at the Federal Election Commission are entrusted with a broad responsibility to sort out some of these problems and see that they are properly corrected. Working together, the Commission and dedicated civil servants across our nation can produce the ideas and energy needed to streamline and strengthen the heart of American democracy, our electoral process," she said.