

- I was told by these Wespac staff consultants that this was a “private spiritual meeting” and I was not invited. I said I understood it to be a Wespac organized and funded policy meeting and therefore it must be open to the public.
- The Demates denied it being a Wespac meeting and repeated that it was in fact a “private spiritual meeting.”
- Rather than escalate an already tense situation, I exited the room.
- I was not the only member of the public asked to leave this Wespac meeting. Tina Owens was also asked to leave.

Complaint

Wespac is a public entity operating with public funds. Its meetings are required to be noticed and, in nearly every circumstance, fully open to the public. Wespac is also prohibited from lobbying at either the state or federal levels.

Wespac staff on March 13 appeared to violate these rules. I therefore request that you formally investigate:

- the circumstances that led to these meetings, including whether they violated anti-lobbying rules and regulations;
- Wespac staff actions related to the funding and organization of the meetings, and the exclusion of members of the public from the meetings;

I also ask that you publicly release the results of your investigation, including whatever disciplinary or remedial actions you take in response to this complaint.

This week is “Sunshine Week” across the United States. As front page stories in the Hawaii papers state today, transparency in government actions is a central tenet of a healthy democracy. How ironic it was, therefore, that just yesterday I was so blatantly excluded from what was apparent to me to be a Wespac meeting.

Chairman Martin, you are the leader of Wespac, and as such, I ask you to exercise your leadership responsibilities to expose Wespac staff actions to the sunlight, and ensure that they do not recur.

Thank you.

Keiko Bonk