



Doug Chin served for 12 years at the Honolulu Prosecuting Attorney's office and is leaving his post as managing partner at the Carlsmith Ball law firm. "It's an honor for me to join the administration and serve as the attorney general," Chin said. "This is an opportunity to solve problems, and I welcome it." Gov. Ige called Chin a man of integrity with the skills and experience to perform at the highest level. "He is able to defend the state in court, facilitate and negotiate agreements, manage a large department and communicate well," Ige said. "It's rare to find someone who can do all those things." Chin earned a bachelor's degree in English from Stanford University and added a law degree from the University of Hawaii's William S. Richardson School of Law. Doug is already hitting the ground running with a recent Hawaii Supreme Court ruling on Tuesday, March 17, 2015 that nine online travel companies -- including Expedia, Orbitz, Priceline and Travelocity -- owe a portion of the \$247 million in back taxes to the state for selling Hawaii hotel rooms over the Internet. "This landmark ruling is the first time the Supreme Court ruled that online commerce may be just as subject to pay general excise taxes as local brick-and-mortar businesses. It is the result of years of effort by the Attorney General's office to collect state taxes from national companies who profited from selling Hawaii hotel rooms. It's a privilege to do business in Hawaii. Bottom line, these online travel companies derived substantial revenues from the sale of Hawaii hotel rooms, and they need to pay their fair share."