I. PURPOSE: To provide authority to Hawaii Health Systems Corporation’s (HHSC) Office of General Counsel, in collaboration with the HHSC facilities, to settle claims for damages against HHSC. This policy applies to all HHSC facilities, staff, regional, and corporate boards.

II. POLICY:

A. Pursuant to HRS Chapter 323F, HHSC is the legal entity that can sue or be sued. Prudent fiscal responsibility requires that the organization fairly, consistently, and expeditiously settle viable claims brought against HHSC and those which HHSC may bring against adverse parties.

B. The Office of General Counsel shall be kept informed of all significant legal matters and shall manage litigation on behalf of HHSC, in collaboration with the involved facility/regional management, as designated by the RCEO.

C. General Counsel is authorized to settle claims after consulting with the involved facility/regional management, based upon a determination that:

   i. the settlement is fair based on an assessment of liability and damages;
   ii. the settlement is cost effective, considering the cost of litigation, staff time, and a potentially higher damages assessment;
   iii. outside counsel recommendations; and
   iv. the insurer recommends the settlement.

D. Where a significant settlement involving significant multiregional or system-wide financial or reputational impact is contemplated, the HHSC President and Chief and Chief Executive Officer shall also be consulted and the HHSC Corporate Board Chair shall also be apprised.

E. Information relating to settlements shall be shared with the HHSC Corporate Board on a regular basis.

III. AUTHORITY: HRS Chapter 323F

IV. RELATED PROCEDURE: ADM 0028B

V. REFERENCES: None.