UNIVERSITY of HAWAIʻI
WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Ke Kulanui Kaiāulu o ke Koʻolau

BLAW 200, Legal Environment of Business

Fall 2026

3 units | CRN 62078

Windward Community College Mission Statement

Windward Community College offers innovative programs in the arts and sciences and opportunities to gain knowledge and understanding of Hawaiʻi and its unique heritage. With a special commitment to support the access and educational needs of Native Hawaiians, we provide the Koʻolau region of Oʻahu and beyond with liberal arts, career and lifelong learning in a supportive and challenging environment — inspiring students to excellence.

Instructor Information

How to Contact Your Instructor

Douglas Raphael, MA, JD

Office Hours: Wednesday 7:00am – 8:00am (online)

Email: draphael@hawaii.edu

Phone: (808) 451-2345

About

Aloha! My name is Doug Raphael. I hold a bachelor's degree in business administration with a focus on finance, real estate, and law from California State University Long Beach. After gaining experience in the real estate industry, I pursued graduate studies, earning a Juris Doctor from the University of Hawai'i William S. Richardson School of Law, where I was active in Law Review and the International Environmental Moot Court Team. I am a licensed attorney in Hawai'i and California, with most of my legal experience centered in the real estate sector. I have also volunteered with the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i and have been teaching within the UH System for over 15 years.

Please note that grading will be completed within 5 business days, and I aim to respond to emails within 24 hours on weekdays. I will respond to emails sent over the weekend on Monday. Feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns via email or phone.

Alternate Contact Information

If you are unable to contact the instructor, have questions that your instructor cannot answer, or for any other issues, please contact the Academic Affairs Office:

- Location: Alakaʻi 121
- Phone: (808) 235-7422

Course Information

Catalog Description

This course provides an introduction to the legal environment of business operations with particular attention to business law and ethics and to principles of law relating to contracts, agency, partnerships, and corporations. (3 hours lecture.)

Pre-Requisite(s): none
Co-Requisite(s): none
Recommended Preparation: A grade of C or higher in ENG 100

Activities Required at Scheduled Times Other Than Class Times: None

Student Learning Outcomes

As a result of taking this course, students can expect to attain the following outcomes:

- Summarize the American system of justice and jurisprudence, and its evolution, and effectively use its concepts, terminology, and procedures.
- Explain how laws are made, implemented, interpreted and enforced by the three branches of government at the national, state and local levels.
- Examine, explain and apply basic principles of law, including contracts, torts, real and personal property, business organizations, agency, employment, products and consumer protection, environmental law, and anti-trust, etc.
- Discuss how business and legal disputes arise and are avoided and/or resolved, including informal processes and alternative dispute resolution.
- Participate in ethical decision-making, taking into account various legal, business and ethical approaches, philosophies and codes.

Required Materials

Two Required Textbooks (OER - $0 Cost Textbooks):

1. Business Law Essentials I, Rice University, (OpenStax, 2021). ISBN-13: 978-1-947172-78-4 (Available at for free at: https://openstax.org/books/business-law-i-essentials/pages/1-introduction)
2. Foundations of Business Law and the Legal Environment, Creative Commons, (Saylor Academy, 2021) (Available for free at: https://saylordotorg.github.io/text_foundations-of-business-law-and-the-legal-environment/index.html)

Learning Management System: http://lamakū.hawaii.edu

This course is structured over a 16-week period, providing a comprehensive and steady progression through the material. Throughout the semester, you will have numerous opportunities to engage with both your instructor and peers. Interaction in this course primarily takes place through discussion boards, where you can share insights, ask questions, and collaborate on ideas related to the course content. These discussions are a key part of the learning process, helping to deepen your understanding and connect with others in the class.

Please note that there are no required synchronous activities, meaning you are not obligated to participate in real-time sessions. However, it is important to understand that this is not a self-paced course. The class schedule is fixed, and deadlines must be adhered to strictly. Assignments, readings, and discussions are scheduled on a week-by-week basis, and it's crucial to stay on track with the course timeline to ensure a successful learning experience.

Regular Substantive Interaction (RSI)

Online courses at Windward Community College follow the college's RSI Definition for ensuring quality instruction. You can expect me to communicate with you frequently (and in a timely fashion) about our coursework in the following ways during our 16-week course:

Announcements:
Lamakū announcements will be posted on Monday mornings at 8:00 a.m. when a new module opens. Additional announcements will be issued when all assignments for a module have been graded and feedback has been returned.

Assignments:
All grades and instructor feedback for assignments will be provided through Lamakū. Assignments will be evaluated using established rubrics, which will guide grading and feedback.

Discussions:
Discussion participation is required for each module. I will monitor student engagement in the discussion forums throughout the two-week period during which each module is open. Students are expected to submit their initial discussion post by the end of the first week. By the end of the second week, when the module closes, students must respond to at least two classmates.

Quizzes and Exams:
There will be four quizzes during the semester. All quizzes will be completed through Lamakū, and grades will be available immediately upon completion. Quizzes are not cumulative and will assess only the material covered since the previous quiz.

All course activity due dates are listed in Lamakū on the Calendar. Please check your UH email often and set your Lamakū Notifications (both email and D2L Brightspace Pulse App) to receive course notices, such as grading updates, announcements, and activity reminders. I will keep our Lamakū course Grades as current as possible.

Course Technology

Lamakū Learning Management System

Regular Substantive Interaction

To foster Regular Substantive Interaction in this course, I will:

1. Provide direct asynchronous instruction.
2. Provide individualized assessment of or feedback on a student's coursework.
3. Provide information (in addition to that provided during direct instruction) about course content.
4. Facilitate group discussion regarding course content. Discussions should be designed to allow for both student-teacher and student-student interaction.
5. Assign and facilitate peer feedback, group projects, or student-led instruction (student presentations, student-led discussions, etc.).

Participation Verification

Campuses are required by federal regulations to verify the participation of students in their classes. In accordance with Executive Policy 7.209, all students in the University of Hawai'i system are required to establish "participation" to ensure that they are not dropped from their class(es). Students who fail to participate by the late registration period for a class will be administratively dropped from that class. Students may also be dropped from dependent prerequisite and/or corequisite classes if both courses do not establish participation.

Grading Policy

COURSE TASKS

Quizzes (400 points total - 100 points for each quiz). Students will complete four online open-book quizzes to assess their comprehension of course materials. **Quizzes will be due as part of Module #2, Module #4, Module #6, and Module #8.** Quizzes are timed (2 hours maximum per quiz) and are 40 questions in length. Each student will be allowed to take each quiz ONLY ONCE and there are no re-takes for quizzes. Students who fail to take the quiz by the required date and time will receive a "zero" score on the quiz.

- **Essays** (480 points total - 60 points for each of the eight essays). Students will complete eight essays during the semester. Each essay will be two pages in length (double spaced, 12-point font). The topic for each essay will be posted on Lamakū.

- **Discussion Forum** (120 points total - 15 points for each of the eight discussions). Students will complete eight discussion board assignments on selected topics from the course text. The purpose of these assignments is to facilitate open discussion of course topics between students in the class. For discussion boards, students will be required to post a response based on the prompt posted by your instructor. Students will also be required to read and post responses to at least TWO of the posts from their classmates. Both your initial post and the responses MUST be completed by the deadline. Posts and responses will be graded based on effort, clarity, and accuracy. Students are asked to respond to discussion topics with thoughtful commentary, incorporating readings and other class materials into their posting.

ASSESSMENT TASKS AND GRADING

A student's overall course grade will be calculated by means of the following weighted criteria:

Assignment	Occurrences	Total Points
Discussion Board	8 x 15 points	120
Writing Assignment (2 pages each)	8 x 60 points	480
Quizzes	4 x 100 points	400
Total		1000

Calculation of grade: The final letter grade for this course will be determined on the basis of the total number of points and will follow the normal University of Hawai'i grading system. Thus, the letter grade is determined by the percentage of points accumulated, based on the following scale:

A: 90%-100% (900 - 1000 points)

B: 80%-89% (800 - 899 points)

C: 70%-79% (700 - 799 points)

D: 60%-69% (600 - 699 points)

Please note that "N" grades are not given for this course

Grades may be curved at the instructor's discretion; however, the student should use the above grading scale to evaluate their performance throughout the class.

Attendance and Class Preparation Policy

This is an online class and students are expected to keep pace with module assignments. Students are required to complete reading and writing assignments by the posted deadlines, and interact with the instructor and other members of this online class using the delivery platform with professionalism. There will be **no make-up work**. As in real life, **no assignments will be accepted late**. In case of illness or other serious emergency, please provide documentation and notify the instructor by e-mail. **Students may not stop and restart the class**.

Student Responsibilities

The student is expected to view all lectures, participate in all course activities, and complete all examinations and course assignments **on-time**. Any changes in the course schedule, such as examination dates, deadlines, etc., will be announced ahead of time on the course website or by UH email. Students should check their UH email address regularly (at least every 48 hrs.) so that they can be informed of course changes in a timely manner. It is the student's responsibility to be informed of these changes. It is also the student's responsibility to be informed about deadlines critical to making registration changes (e.g., last day for making an official withdrawal).

How to Succeed in This Class

Please make sure to read your textbook and take detailed notes. Merely *reading* the chapter will not suffice. Courses at WCC generally require a minimum of three hours of independent study time for each hour in class. It is your responsibility to allocate the appropriate amount of time needed for study and be realistic about all personal and professional commitments that may cut into your study time.

Netiquette

The best possible experience in discussion forums and in e-mail exchanges occurs when respect is shown to all participants. When addressing other people on the discussion forums, think about the impact of your words and remember that unlike face-to-face communication, those you communicate with cannot see the expression on your face or hear the intonation in your voice.

Try to be brief and to the point. Answer questions, but do not get drawn into arguments. The discussion forum is not the place for political arguments or for discussion of inappropriate topics.

If you cite someone else's ideas, make sure to give them credit.

Peer Feedback

Collaborative learning is a part of this course. Students are expected to provide quality feedback to their peers. Some of the ways that this can be done during the course include the following:

- Be nonjudgmental and provide specific examples if discussing the work of someone else.
- Cite examples from your own work or cite other research as a way to make your point.
- Make suggestions that are easy to understand and make sense. Suggest specific processes that a person might use to solve a particularly difficult problem.

Weekly Assignments

Course Format and Schedule

This course is divided into eight modules. We will spend two weeks on each module. Each module will have reading assignments from the textbooks, a discussion, a writing assignment,

self-test questions, and possible videos to watch. We will have four quizzes this semester. The quizzes will be embedded into Modules #2, #4, #6, and #8.

Course Schedule

Each week begins on Monday and ends on Sunday. **Note: Schedule is subject to change.**

Module	Topics	Assignments
MODULE #1: **(Aug. 24 – Aug. 30)** **DUE: Aug. 30 by 11:59pm**	**Chapter 1 – American Law, Legal Reasoning, and the Legal System (OpenStax book)** **Chapter 2 – Disputes and Dispute Settlement (OpenStax book)** **Chapter 3 – Business Ethics and Social Responsibility (OpenStax book)**	**Read Chapter 1 – 3 (From OpenStax Book the links are on Lamakū)** **Complete the *Assessment Questions* at the end of the chapter.** **Submit DISCUSSION #1 (First post due by Aug. 27. Two reply posts due by Aug. 30. Please make sure to reply to the posts of at least two classmates.)** **Submit Writing Assignment #1 before 11:55pm on Aug. 30 (two pages, double-spaced, formal essay format)**
MODULE #2: **(Aug. 31 – Sept. 6)** **DUE: Sept. 6 by 11:55pm**	**Chapter 4 – Business and the United States Constitution (OpenStax book)** **Chapter 5 – Criminal Liability (OpenStax book)** **Chapter 6 – The Tort System (OpenStax book)**	**Read Chapter 4 – 6 (From OpenStax Book the links are on Lamakū)** **Complete the *Self-Test Questions* at the end of the chapters.** **Submit DISCUSSION #2 (First post due by Sept. 3. Two reply posts due by Sept. 6. Please make sure to reply to the posts of at least two classmates.)** **Submit Writing Assignment #2 before 11:55pm on Sept. 6 (two pages, double-spaced, formal essay format)** **Submit QUIZ #1 before 11:55pm on Sept. 6 (40 questions, 2-hours maximum, 1 attempt, open book, open notes)**

MODULE #3: **(Sept. 7 – Sept. 13)** **DUE: Sept. 13 by 11:55pm**	**Chapter 7 – Contract Law (OpenStax book)** **Chapter 8 – Sales Contracts (OpenStax book)** **Chapter 9 – Employment and Labor Law (OpenStax book)**	**Read Chapter 7 – 9 (From OpenStax Book the links are on Lamakū)** **Complete the *Self-Test Questions* at the end of the chapters.** **Submit Writing Assignment #3 before 11:55pm on Sept. 13 (two pages, double-spaced, formal essay format)** **Submit DISCUSSION #3 (First post due by Sept. 10. Two reply posts due by Sept. 13. Please make sure to reply to the posts of at least two classmates.)**
MODULE #4: **(Sept. 14 – Sept. 20)** **DUE: Sept. 20 by 11:55pm**	Chapter 14 - **Relationships between Principal and Agent** ***(from: Foundations of Business Law and the Legal Environment…Link provided on Lamakū)*** **Chapter 15: Liability of Principal and Agent; Termination of Agency** ***(from: Foundations of Business Law and the Legal Environment…Link provided on Lamakū)***	**Read Chapter 14 (Foundations of Business Law) and Chapter 15 (Foundations of Business Law)** **Complete the *Self-Test Questions* at the end of each chapter.** **Submit Writing Assignment #4 before 11:55pm on Sept. 20 (two pages, double-spaced, formal essay format)** **Submit DISCUSSION #4 (First post due by Sept. 17. Two reply posts due by Sept. 20. Please make sure to reply to the posts of at least two classmates.)** **Submit QUIZ #2 before 11:55pm on Sept. 20 (40 questions, 2-hours maximum, 1 attempt, open book, open notes)**

MODULE #5: **(Sept. 21 – Sept. 27)** **DUE: Sept. 27 by 11:55pm**	**Chapter 18: Partnerships: General Characteristics and Formation** *(from: Foundations of Business Law and the Legal Environment…Link provided on Lamakū)* **Chapter 19: Partnership Operation and Termination** *(from: Foundations of Business Law and the Legal Environment…Link provided on Lamakū)* **Chapter 20: Hybrid Business Forms** *(from: Foundations of Business Law and the Legal Environment…Link provided on Lamakū)*	Read Chapters 18, 19 and 20 *(from: Foundations of Business Law and the Legal Environment…Link provided on Lamakū)* **Complete the *Self-Test Questions* at the end of each chapter.** **Submit Writing Assignment #5 before 11:55pm on Sept. 27 (two pages, double-spaced, formal essay format)** **Submit DISCUSSION #5 (First post due by Sept. 24. Two reply posts due by Sept. 27. Please make sure to reply to the posts of at least two classmates.)**
MODULE #6: **(Sept. 28 – Oct. 4)** **DUE: Oct. 4 by 11:55pm**	**Chapter 21: Corporation: General Characteristics and Formation** *(from: Foundations of Business Law and the Legal Environment…Link provided on Lamakū)* **Chapter 10 – Government Regulation (OpenStax book)** **Chapter 11 – Antitrust Law (OpenStax)**	Read Chapter 21 *(from: Foundations of Business Law and the Legal Environment…Link provided on Lamakū)* **and Chapter 10 & 11 from OpenStax** **Complete the *Self-Test Questions* at the end of each chapter.** **Submit Writing Assignment #6 before 11:55pm on Oct. 4 (two pages, double-spaced, formal essay format)** **Submit DISCUSSION #6 (First post due by Oct. 1. Two reply posts due by Oct. 4. Please make sure to reply to the posts of at least two classmates.)** **Submit QUIZ #3 before 11:55pm on Oct. 4 (40 questions, 2-hours maximum, 1 attempt, open book, open notes)**

MODULE #7: **(Oct. 5 – Oct. 11)** **DUE: Oct. 11 by 11:55pm**	**Chapter 12 – Unfair Trade Practices and the Federal Trade Commission (OpenStax)** **Chapter 13 – International Law (OpenStax)**	**Read Chapters 12 & 13 (OpenStax)** **Complete the *Self-Test Questions* at the end of each chapter.** **Submit Writing Assignment #7 before 11:55pm on Oct. 11 (two pages, double-spaced, formal essay format)** **Submit DISCUSSION #7 (First post due by Oct. 8. Two reply posts due by Oct. 11. Please make sure to reply to the posts of at least two classmates.)**
MODULE #8: **(Oct. 12 – Oct. 16)** **DUE: Oct. 16 by 11:55pm**	**Chapter 14 – Securities Regulation (Open Stax)** **Chapter 29: Introduction to Property: Personal Property and Fixtures** *(from: Foundations of Business Law and the Legal Environment…Link provided on Lamakū)* **Chapter 31: The Transfer of Real Estate by Sale** *(from: Foundations of Business Law and the Legal Environment…Link provided on Lamakū)*	**Read Chapter 14 (OpenStax) and Chapters 29 and 31** *(from: Foundations of Business Law and the Legal Environment…Link provided on Lamakū)* **Complete the *Self-Test Questions* at the end of each chapter.** **Submit Writing Assignment #8 before 11:55pm on Oct. 16 (two pages, double-spaced, formal essay format)** **Submit DISCUSSION #8 (First post due by Oct. 14. Two reply posts due by Oct. 16. Please make sure to reply to the posts of at least two classmates.)** **Submit QUIZ #4 before 11:55pm on Oct. 16 (40 questions, 2-hours maximum, 1 attempt, open book, open notes)**

Academic Integrity

Work submitted by a student must be the student's own work. The work of others should be explicitly marked, such as through the use of quotes or summarizing with reference to the original author. In this class, students who commit academic dishonesty, cheating, or plagiarism will have the following consequence(s):

Students will receive a failing grade for plagiarized assignments.

All cases of academic dishonesty are referred to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

Windward CC Student Conduct Information

UH System Student Conduct Policy EO 7.208

In this course, students are not permitted to use generative AI applications such as ChatGPT, Bard, or Bing, in whole or in part, to generate course materials or assignments. Grammar and spell checking tools such as those integrated into MS Word may be used. If you have any questions about whether a particular tool or specific use is permitted, check with the professor.

How to Seek Academic or Technical Support

Academic Support

- Windward Community College Library
- Library eResources
- Ka Piko Writing Lab
- Ka Piko Speech Lab
- Ka Piko Math Lab
- Evening and Online Learning at Windward Community College
- STAR Balance

Technical Support

- UH ITS Help Desk – email help@hawaii.edu or call 956-8883 (or 1-800-558-2669) for Lamakū and most technology support. Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including holidays.
- Student Tech Support - email winhelp@hawaii.edu, call 808-235-7437, or stop by in person at Hale La'akea 228. Available Monday–Friday from 8:00 am–4:00 pm.
- Lamakū – Click on the Request Assistance link at the bottom of any Lamakū Page to fill out and submit a question and get your answer via email.
- Information Security for Students

College Policies & Support Services

Disabilities Accommodations Statement

The Windward Community College's Disability Student Services Office (WCC-DSSO) is committed to providing equal access to qualified students with disabilities.

If you have a physical, sensory, health, cognitive, or mental health disability that could limit your ability to participate fully in this class, you are encouraged to contact the Disability Specialist Counselor, Roy Inouye, to discuss reasonable accommodations that will help you succeed in this

class. The Disabilities Counselor can be reached at 808-235-7448, wccdsso@hawaii.edu, or stop by the office (Hale Kakoʻo 106) for more information.

Basic Needs

Basic needs include food and housing, childcare, mental health, financial resources, and transportation. Student basic needs security is critical for ensuring strong academic performance, persistence and graduation, and overall student well-being. If you or someone you know is experiencing basic needs insecurity, please see the UH System Basic Needs website.

Mental Health Counseling

Mental Health and Wellness at Windward Community College counseling services and activities on campus to support students' life goals as well as their academic goals. Information about services can be found at the WCC Mental Health & Wellness website.

UH Alerts

The UH Alert emergency notification system alerts the university community in the event of a natural, health or civil emergency. The information you provide will only be used in the event of an emergency that impacts the health and safety of the UH community or the closure of whole campuses. It will not be shared with others or used for routine UH communications or announcements. To sign up, visit UH Alerts website for more information.

Financial Aid

If you are receiving financial aid and are contemplating not completing the course, BEFORE you withdraw, it is highly recommended that you contact the Financial Aid Office at 808-934-2712 or email them at wccfao@hawaii.edu to discuss the impact this decision may have on your financial aid eligibility.

Student Conduct Code

Windward Community College follows the University of Hawaiʻi Code of Student Conduct which defines expected conduct for students and specifies those acts subject to University sanctions. Students should familiarize themselves with the Code of Student Conduct since, upon enrollment at Windward Community College, the student has placed herself/himself under the policies and regulations of the University and its duly constituted bodies. The disciplinary authority is exercised through the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. Copies of the Student Conduct Code are available at the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs or online.

Title IX - Sex Discrimination And Gender-Based Violence Resources

Windward Community College is committed to providing a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect and is free of all forms of sex discrimination and gender-based violence, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

If you or someone you know is experiencing any of these, WCC has staff and resources to support and assist you. To report an incident of sex discrimination or gender-based violence, as well as receive information and support, please contact one of the following:

Leslie Cabingabang, UH System Confidential Advocate
Phone/Text: (808) 348-0432 or (808) 341-4952
Email: advocate@hawaii.edu
Office: Hale Kākoʻo 107 (Wednesdays)

Mykie E. Menor Ozoa-Aglugub, J.D., Title IX Coordinator
Phone: (808) 235-7468
Email: mozoa@hawaii.edu
Office: Hale Kākoʻo 109

Desrae Kahale, Mental Health Counselor & Confidential Resource
Phone: (808) 235-7393
Email: dkahale3@hawaii.edu
Office: Hale Kākoʻo 101

Karen Cho, Deputy Title IX Coordinator
Phone: (808) 235-7404
Email: kcho@hawaii.edu
Office: Hale ʻAlakaʻi 120

As a member of the University faculty, I am required to immediately report any incident of sex discrimination or gender-based violence to the campus Title IX Coordinator. Although the Title IX Coordinator and I cannot guarantee confidentiality, you will still have options about how your case will be handled. My goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and have access to the resources and support you need.

For more information regarding sex discrimination and gender-based violence, the University's Title IX resources, and the University's Policy, Interim EP 1.204, go to manoa.hawaii.edu/titleix/