

**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
560 N. NIMITZ HWY., STE. 200
HONOLULU, HI 96817**

COMMITTEE ON BENEFICIARY ADVOCACY AND EMPOWERMENT

February 5, 2025

9 a.m.

**(via Interactive Conference Technology and
In-person at OHA Maui Ola Boardroom)**

MINUTES

TRUSTEES PRESENT

Brickwood Galuteria, Chair
Kaleihikina Akaka, Vice Chair
Dan Ahuna
Keli'i Akina
Luana Alapa
Kaiali'i Kahele
Carmen Hulu Lindsey
Keoni Souza
John Waihe'e, IV

BAE STAFF

Kyla Hee
Lei-Ann Durant
Mark Watanabe
Nathan Takeuchi

ADMINISTRATION

Stacy Ferreira, CEO
Kehaulani Pu'u, COO

Kamakana Ferreira, Lead
Compliance Specialist

Leina'ala Ley, Chief Advocate

BOARD COUNSEL

Na'iwi Wurdeman

CORPORATE COUNSEL

Everett Ohta

To view this meeting's recording, please click on the link below:
https://www.youtube.com/live/Hxvw-iDvLNk?si=kmlOQcZUo_vcZe-s

I. CALL TO ORDER

CALL FOR ATTENDANCE (Committee Chair Galuteria – 9:08:26 a.m.)

Eight (8) trustees (Ahuna, Akaka, Akina, Alapa, Lindsey, Souza, Waihe'e) in attendance which constitutes a quorum

Excused: Trustee Kaiali'i Kahele

Chair Galuteria asked all members to please take the time, especially during the legislative session, to follow what is happening at the Capitol since the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) is responsible for talking to the Legislature on behalf of the Lahui.

Each year, approximately 3,000 bills are introduced during the legislative session; and as time passes, bills stay active, or they don't. He asks that all members follow those bills that are listed in OHA matrices and to follow them as long as they remain active.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the January 22, 2025, meeting minutes of the Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment (BAE) (9:15:07 a.m.)

MOVED: Trustee Akina (9:15:09 a.m.)

SECOND: Trustee Souza (9:15:12 a.m.)

DISCUSSION - None

CALL FOR THE VOTE (9:18:18 a.m.)

MOTION PASSED by a VOTE OF 8-1 (9:18:55 a.m.)

Yes - Trustees Ahuna, Akaka, Akina, Alapa, Lindsey, Souza, Waihe'e, Chair Galuteria

Excused – Trustee Kahele

I. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **2025 OHA State Legislative Package * (9:25:07 a.m.)**

○ *Testifier: **Germaine Meyers (9:18:56 a.m.)***

Regarding SB534 – expressed concern that neither the BAE Committee nor the Board of Trustees discussed this bill prior to presenting it to the Legislature. She also expressed concern that Chair Kahele was not available for questions or to hear position –support or opposition – of proposed amendments on the bill. She also expressed her deep concern about SB379 because of the possibility of housing being in perpetuity because it would handicap the developer as well as the person any of the 50+ 1% units. Also of concern is that of the danger of developing in the flood zone and the fact that low-income families would not be able to live oceanside because of cost.

OHA's Chief Advocate, **Leina'ala Ley**, reported that those bills in OHA's Legislative Package are moving and have been successfully advanced out of the first committee and the Kaka'ako Makai bill is the only one that had a triple referral from Water and Land, Hawaiian Affairs, and Housing. These committees voted to advance this bill.

This package does not need to be voted on because the Board voted on the package when it was first presented [in the January 8 meeting].

The budget bill was moving on both sides and passed unanimously out of committee.

The Public Land Trust (PLT) bill is only moving in the House, and the 'iwi bill is only moving in the Senate; but both are moving with unanimous support as well.

In answer to **Trustee Lindsey's** questions, Leina'ala reported that the Housing Committee passed the bill out of committee; Judiciary and Water and Land had not scheduled a hearing yet.

Regarding the matrices, **Trustee Akaka** asked that the matrices include page numbers, item numbers, color coding/shading for any new bills. OHA COO, **Kehaulani Pu'u**, assured Trustee Akaka that due to very limited staffing, the staff has many things that are of high priority, they try to do their best to address those priorities in addition to simultaneously trying to be responsive to drafting and submitting testimony. She added that these are challenging times because OHA is operating with limited capacity, but she wanted the Trustees to understand that they will continue to try to provide material that is easy for the Trustees to navigate.

Leina'ala informed the Trustees that the Office of Information Practices (OIP) recently rendered their opinion that the matrices now must be filed with BAE's agenda which gives advocacy a shorter window within which to work to get the Board the most up-to-

date information they can at the time of filing. She also added that the matrices do not include the many bills they are tracking; bills in the matrices are those bills that are moving.

Trustee Souza thanked her for her work despite the shortage of employees. **Trustee Ahuna** encouraged the Administration to provide Leina'ala and the Advocacy team with filling the vacancies to help her. **Trustee Akaka** added her concerns about OHA's need for administrative assistance as well as needed employees in Policy. She thanked them for the good job they are doing despite the struggles; she expressed her appreciation for their work.

Chair Galuteria inquired about the timeline to fill vacant positions; Kehau reported that a temporary assistant would be starting February 10 to help Leina'ala, and she hoped to have two other assistants that would be shared across seven paia by month's end.

Note: Matrix 1 was meant to be for informational purposes only so no vote was taken.*

b. 2025 Legislature: OHA Position on Bills Naming OHA * - Matrix 2 **

- *No testifiers*

DISCUSSION

Leina'ala pointed out a new bill, **HB1476, regarding the Space X aircraft that launches from Texas** has the risk of debris dropping around Papahānaumokuākea National Monument and proposed that OHA should support the concept and the idea that future environmental reviews would consider the impacts on the National Monument and consult with OHA.

SB1193 relates to land restoration and proposes an Aloha 'Aina Land Trust to receive back lands from the United States military when those lands are decommissioned. We support, in concept, many of the aspects of this bill include making sure the land comes back to kuleana landowners as well as to state and then, preferably, to OHA. **Leina'ala** explained that it is a complicated bill, thus OHA's support with comments. OHA should support certain aspects of the bill, but other aspects of the bill require refinement.

HB780 also has a **companion bill relating to desalination. OHA will monitor.**

HB603 relates to Native Hawaiian business marketing (branding) that OHA will support with comments. A working group will examine this proposal rather

requiring immediate implementation. In response to Chair Galuteria's question, Leina'ala explained that it is proposed that OHA led the working group to look at establishing a brand for Native Hawaiian made products so that Native Hawaiian entrepreneurs help capture that part of the market that is interested in buying products from Native Hawaiian owned businesses.

Trustee Akina asked for clarification on **SB63 and SB543 which addresses the Commission on Water Resource Management and the OHA CEO appointing one member to the Commission.**

Trustees asked for clarification as to the difference between the CEO appointing a member versus the Board of Trustees playing that role. He further inquired about their fiduciary duty and if there was any functional difference regarding that.

Corporate Counsel, Everett Ohta, clarified that the statutory language will guide who designates who have oversight. He explained that to the extent there is a specified appointment to be made by the CEO, he/she does not seek board approval. **Leina'ala** added that in terms of making the recommendation, if the Board wants to be informed, the law may have to be amended to make it workable. **Trustee Akina** said, based on Leina'ala's insight, it might be more functionally efficient to have the CEO play the role of recommender. Further, even if the legislation named OHA as the responsible party, it was worth exploring that approach OR delegating that job to the CEO. He also said that he would feel safer if legislation would simply name OHA without designating the party in OHA that would make the selection. **Leina'ala** will propose that amendment.

Trustee Akaka inquired about OHA's Hawaiian registration card program and its benefits – is the program still active or will we activate it again? Regarding SB199 regarding Hawaiian Culture, **Trustee Akaka** was wondering if the dates indicated in the bill were reasonable dates and if the expectations on OHA were reasonable. **Leina'ala** explained that the bill was heard and amended to just be one cultural center by 2050 which seems to be a realistic expectation; it's moving and OHA's work with the committee has been successful so the final will be as OHA would like to see it.

Trustee Akaka asked about **SB1301 relating to historic preservation**. OHA's compliance expert, **Kamakana Ferreira**, acknowledged that additional resources from OHA will be needed to carry out the project. Someone in the compliance paia would most likely oversee the project so hiring an administrative assistant would help us be successful. The concern is that when stipulations are made and OHA does not have the capacity to carry out those stipulations, then success is not truly reasonable. Because of the line of work in compliance, he wants to be considerate of his team.

Chair Galuteria and **Leina'ala** confirmed for **Trustee Akaka** that the bills they would be voting on were the bills presented to be voted on, not the ones that say support, comments, or whatever else.

MOTION: To adopt or amend the approval of staff's recommendations for position on bills naming OHA as reflected in Matrix 2**

MOVED: Trustee Souza (9:54:17 a.m.)

SECOND: Trustee Lindsey (9:54:18 a.m.)

DISCUSSION: None

CALL FOR THE VOTE (9:54:19 a.m.)

MOTION PASSED by a vote of 8-1 (9:54:54 a.m.)

Yes – Trustees Ahuna, Akaka, Akina, Alapa, Kahele, Lindsey, Souza, Waihe'e, Chair Galuteria

Excused – Kahele

c. OHA Position On Bills Affecting the Public Land Trust* - Matrix 3 (9:55:19 a.m.)**

- *No testifiers*

Leina'ala Ley explained that since BAE's last meeting [January 22, 2025], there was a change to a bill. It is just one change, but the bill is listed twice because it is a house bill with a **companion senate bill relating to Mauna Kea**. There are two different sets of bills **HB143 and SB 769; OHA supports one and opposes the other**. OHA's Mauna Kea lawsuit states the authority should not be the entity overseeing the lands and the leases at Mauna Kea. The trust responsibility should remain with DLNR. OHA's position of Support was a clerical error; the position of support is corrected to a position of OPPOSE.

MOTION: To adopt/amend the approval of staff's recommendations for position on bills affecting the Public Land Trust as reflected in Matrix 3**

MOVED: Trustee Lindsey (9:56:56 a.m.)

DISCUSSION

Trustee Akaka inquired about **HB317 relating to State Parks' Special Fund**. Last year, OHA took a position of support with amendments; this year, it's comments. **Leina'ala** explained that the categories of positions are overlapping, and OHA supports the bill as far as expending money for environmental protection. She further explained that with any bill that touches on public lands, funds cannot be used solely for environmental protection because it has to have OHA's pro rata share so COMMENT is consistent with SUPPORT WITH COMMENT because OHA supports the environmental protection fee subject to getting its 20% pro rata share.

Regarding **SB5** through **5**, **SB1188 (relating to federal land)** shows a position of **SUPPORT**. **Trustee Akaka** suggested **SUPPORT WITH COMMENT** would be better so OHA can work toward being a member of the advisory committee. **Leina'ala** agreed and will indicate so when the updates are made.

Board Chair Kahele arrives at the meeting (9:59:49 a.m.)

Chair Galuteria refers to the motion made by Trustee Lindsey and calls for a second to the motion. **(9:59:55 a.m.)**

[MOTION: To approve/amend the approval of staff's recommendations for position on bills affecting the Public Land Trust as reflected in Matrix 3**

MOVED: Trustee Lindsey (9:56:56 a.m.)

SECOND: Trustee Souza (10:00:11 a.m.)

DISCUSSION: None

CALL FOR THE VOTE (10:00:14 a.m.)

MOTION PASSED by a UNANIMOUS VOTE (10:00:16 a.m.)

d. 2025 Legislature: OHA Position on Bills Affecting Natural Resources and Native Hawaiian Traditional & Customary Practices* - Matrix 4 (10:00:22)**

- *No testifiers*

DISCUSSION

Leina'ala reported that there were no changes on this matrix.

Trustee Akaka inquired about HB123 and SB22 relating to fisheries and asked for mana'o on the position of opposition. **Leina'ala** explained that the feedback from staff, and I agreed with them, was that OHA should not have management of fisheries exempted from environmental review. This is a standard operating procedure to ensure that different impacts are considered, and it isn't an opposition to our fishery industry. **Leina'ala** added that OHA is supporting the Ahi bill which relates to a labeling requirement that would help people identify fish caught in Hawai'i. It also supports our local businesses that way. Our position supports good management principles.

Trustee Akaka asked the amendments to HB512. There are very specific comments about how this would affect existing protected areas. There are different types of community-based fisheries and different management areas, and this bill seems like it would affect that. The concern was that this bill would not negatively affect community-based fisheries and existing management programs that OHA has participated in supporting.

Trustee Kahele asked if the fishery related bills that specifically talk about exempting requirements from all fisheries, were meant to address the Supreme Court decision in 2017 that requires environmental reviews for commercial aquarium collection. **Leina'ala** said that was a concern about this bill.

Trustee Kahele asked if all fisheries would assume near shore fisheries and pelagic fisheries. When asked if near shore fisheries and commercial aquarium applicants would not be subject to the environmental review process, **Leina'ala** answered that was another concern she and staff had about this bill. He shared that he thought they had made the right decision.

Trustee Akaka asked about a bill relating to commercial or reef fish, **Leina'ala** said that there isn't a commercial aquarium ban bill this year.

Kealoha Pisciotta (Hilo office) affirmed that the uhu bill was difficult because uhu is fish food and is important to our ecosystem. They affect not only Native Hawaiians' ability to fish for the uhu, but we are at a point that we don't want regulations to our traditional and customary practices. Kealoha and her team went at length to explain the difficulty of making this decision because the excessive taking of the aquarium trade is forcing us to make this decision because uhu and hinalea are target species of this trade. Their excessive taking is creating a problem with our uhu that helps manage and protect our reefs. The team also made sure to include that information because local communities are sacrificing because of the excessive taking of all kinds of commercial fishing extractions, aquarium trade, etc. Kealoha wants to affirm that OHA needs to be very careful in supporting bills like this that don't include certain information. Information is so vague about fisheries that it isn't well known which fisheries are being spoken to and why there needs to be an exemption.

Trustee Akaka felt it would make sense to have this bill with the parrot fish bill (SB244) instead of taking the position of support and change it to support with comment so OHA can list reasons how this affects us and to have it on record that we, as people, are sacrificing our Native Hawaiian rights and customary traditions because we are having to deal with overfishing for commercial purposes and not for sustenance.

MOTION: To approve/amend the approval of staff's recommendations for position on bills affecting Natural Resources and Native Hawaiian Traditional and Customary Practices as reflected in Matrix 4 (10:10:5**

MOVED: Trustee Waihe'e (10:10:56 a.m.)

SECOND: Trustee Alapa (10:10:57 a.m.)

DISCUSSION: None

CALL FOR THE VOTE (10:11:01 a.m.)

MOTION PASSED by a UNANIMOUS VOTE (10:11:05 a.m.)

**e. 2025 Legislature: OHA Position on Bills Affecting Native Hawaiian Housing*
-Matrix 5** (10:11:05 a.m.)**

○ **Testifier: Shane Pali (10:11:28 a.m.)**

*Commended the staff for their work at the legislature, for being out in the community where OHA is appreciated, and for the resources put on OHA's website. **Shane** appreciates the matrices that are on the website and "mailed to community members. Because **HB606 is not in OHA's matrix, he wanted to bring the bill to the trustees' attention.** This bill seeks to appropriate \$600M to the Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL); the funding is crucial to address the long-standing housing crisis that continues to displace native Hawaiians. 29,000 individuals remain on the DHHL waitlist. Taking the 'ohana into account, the number is impacted. Generations of families have been forced into overcrowded living conditions and the Native Hawaiian diaspora is growing at an alarming rate. More money is needed from the State and OHA's support is appreciated. **HB606 recently passed out of the House Committee on Housing and is awaiting a hearing with the House Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs.** If passed, this funding will directly support housing development and placement for Hawaiian beneficiaries who have been waiting for so long. **Shane** asks the trustees to keep this bill on their radar and continue advocating for resources that uplift our beneficiaries and support long-term solutions for housing access. In response to **Trustee Akaka's** inquiry, **Shane** confirmed that **HB606** is part of the Hawaiian Caucus package.*

*****Note: Trustees Alapa, Akana, and Souza agree with Shane and thank him for presenting this issue to the Committee. Trustee Souza suggested OHA take the position of HIGHLY MONITOR.**

○ **Testifier: Germaine Meyers (10:18:26 a.m.)**

Germaine asked for consideration of advocacy to change OHA's position on the following bills (Housing):

HB944 – change OHA position from COMMENT to SUPPORT. Her neighborhood boards currently give their senators and reps their CIP projects that they want them to support. The same with their councilmember for CIP projects. This bill expands their efforts by having the mayor and city council engage with the neighborhood board's recommendations for the city's CIP and operating budgets. Neighborhood boards are grassroots civic engagement groups for each community. Germaine would like OHA's

support of her neighborhood needs, especially the support of Hawaiian populated communities.

HB431- *change OHA position from SUPPORT to OPPOSE. To oppose HB431 is to support funding for the Governor's Kauhale Initiative which seeks to build temporary, transitional shelters that are exceedingly small with no private kitchens, bathrooms, or showers. This initiative does not include building permanent long-term homeless housing.*

DISCUSSION

Trustee Souza respectfully disagreed. He visited a couple of Kauhale that are being or were built under the direction of Governor Green are not temporary transitional structures but well-built homes. **Trustee Alapa** agreed with Trustee Souza and encouraged other trustees to visit the different sites to see for themselves how nice these buildings are and that they provide those who are less fortunate to be able to live with dignity. Trustee Alapa stated she would like to see OHA continue its support for this bill.

Trustee Lindsey inquired about the Kauhale across from the Governor's home; what happened to them? No one knew.

Trustee Kahele, while he appreciated her comments, stated that he respectfully disagreed with Germaine's comments, and **Trustee Kahele** did not agree with the language offered by Germaine and her community but **agrees with OHA's position of COMMENT**. In addition, **Trustee Kahele** commended Governor Green on his Kauhale Initiative and did as much as he could to address the issue. He also noted that 42 members of the House support this bill, and he stated that he would vote to support the bill.

Trustee Akaka was curious as to what the next steps are. **Chair Galuteria** suggested that OHA's comments will relay the concern of putting a time limit on transitional housing if that is the case. **Trustee Akaka** also expressed concern that the houseless are being flown into Hawai'i by other states, most likely because we have better weather conditions; but that puts a burden on Hawai'i's resources. She also suggested a bill banning other states from sending their houseless to our state. **Leina'ala** suggested that the Trustees not propose amendments unless we have a very specific language that fits into the statutory section. Chair Galuteria asked that we just see how it goes.

Trustee Akina added that when the Kauhale Initiative was established between Queen's Hospital and the Governor's Mansion, it was a pilot project launched for six months. Because it was a successful project, a dozen other kauhale were to be built as permanent structures. Even though these kauhale will not address all homeless issues, it gives some people the opportunity to become residents that have homes to live in.

Trustee Akaka and **Leina’ala** asked if **HB606** could be added to Matrix 5 at the time of the vote. **Corporate Counsel, Everett Ohta**, explained that although there was testimony on that bill, based on guidance from the Office of Information Practices (OIP), OHA revised its approach regarding our matrices. **Everett** recommended the BAE Committee not take action to add **HB606** position to Matrix 5 until the next BAE Committee meeting [March 5, 2025]. **Board Counsel, Na’iwi Wurdeman**, asked for confirmation that the chief advocate would consider the comments and present them to the Committee at the next meeting. **Everett confirmed.**

Trustee Akaka asked for any other advice OIP provided that the committee members may need to know. **Everett** explained that the guidance received from OIP regarding the BAE committee meeting agendas was that we provide the actual listing of bills to be discussed during every meeting. The BAE Committee and Board of Trustees agendas must include the bills listed along with their numbers, titles, and brief descriptions. That information must now be attached to the agendas when they are posted. This makes the agendas lengthier as well as restricts the ability of the committee/board members to adjust agendas and meeting folders to include new matters identified between the time of posting agendas and meetings being held.

In response to **Trustee Akaka’s** question, **Everett** clarified that in terms of getting updated legislative positions or materials, once meeting folders are distributed, updates cannot be shared with the Trustees until the beginning of the meeting. No additional material can be presented once the folders are distributed (two business days prior to the meeting).

MOTION: To approve/amend the approval of staff’s recommendations for position on bills affecting Native Hawaiian Housing as reflected in Matrix 5 (10:39:57 a.m.)**

MOVED: Trustee Alapa (10:40:01 a.m.)

SECOND: Trustee Waihe’e (10:40:03 a.m.)

DISCUSSION

Trustee Akaka asked about changing the Committee’s position on **HB944 regarding the Neighborhood Board (from COMMENT TO SUPPORT)** as suggested by Trustee Kahele. **Leina’ala** and **Trustee Kahele** confirmed.

CALL FOR THE VOTE (10:40:36 a.m.)

MOTION PASSED by a UNANIMOUS VOTE (10:40:41 a.m.)

f. 2025 Legislature: OHA Position on Bills Affecting Native Hawaiian Health * - Matrix 6 (10:42:03 a.m.)**

- No testifiers

DISCUSSION

Leina’ala explained that there was only one change on this matrix: **HB127 relating to bail**. OHA’s position on this bill is to **change our position from SUPPORT to MONITOR**.

Other criminal justice bills on this matrix are related to juvenile justice and protection and protection of sex trafficking victims (who are primarily girls).

Trustee Lindsey about the marijuana bill. **Leina’ala** said that the bill was not a bill that was being recommended at this time, it could be discussed at a future meeting if the Trustees choose to consider a recommendation. Such a bill would fit into this matrix because it seeks to reduce incarceration for nonviolent crimes. **Trustee Lindsey** shared with Leina’ala that she was approached by the city prosecutor last year; he asked that OHA oppose the bill.

Trustee Akaka inquired about bills **HB407 and SB37** relating to midwifery. She wanted to understand why **OHA has a position of HIGH MONITOR** (last year, OHA’s position was to support. **Trustee Akaka** inquired if bills HB407, SB370, SB274, HB1328, and HB407 were the same. Leina’ala explained that HB1328 was brought to the attention of the BAE Committee last year by Hanau Ea.

MOTION: To approve/amend the approval of staff’s recommendations for position on bills affecting Native Hawaiian Health as reflected in Matrix 6 (10:45:35 a.m.)**

MOVED: Trustee Waihe’e (10:48:46 a.m.)

SECOND: Trustee Lindsey (10:48:47 a.m.)

DISCUSSION: None

CALL FOR THE VOTE (10:48:47 a.m.)

MOTION PASSED by a UNANIMOUS VOTE (10:48:49 a.m.)

- g. **2025 Legislature: OHA Position on Bills Affecting Native Hawaiian Education* - Matrix 7**** (10:49:02 a.m.)

DISCUSSION

Leina'ala and her advocacy team made no changes to the matrix.

Corporate Counsel, Everett Ohta, advised Chair Galuteria to vote on this matrix even though there are no changes.

- *No testifiers*

MOTION: To approve/amend the approval of staff's recommendations for position on bills affecting Native Hawaiian Education as reflected in Matrix 7 (10:49:54 a.m.)**

MOVED: Trustee Waihe'e (10:51:39 a.m.)

SECOND: Trustee Lindsey (10:51:47 a.m.)

DISCUSSION: None

CALL FOR THE VOTE (10:51:56 a.m.)

MOTION PASSED by a UNANIMOUS VOTE (10:51:56 a.m.)

- h. **2025 Legislature: OHA Position on Bills Affective Native Hawaiian Economic Development * - Matrix 8**** (10:52:02 a.m.)

Leina'ala and her advocacy team made no changes to this matrix.

MOTION: To approve/amend the approval of staff's recommendations for position on bills affecting Native Hawaiian Economic Development as reflected in Matrix 8 (10:52:28 a.m.)**

MOVED: Trustee Lindsey (10:52:44 a.m.)

SECOND: Trustee Waihe'e (10:52:45 a.m.)

DISCUSSION: None

CALL FOR THE VOTE. (10:52:59 a.m.)

MOTION PASSED by a UNANIMOUS VOTE (10:53:00 a.m.)

i. **2025 Legislature: OHA Position on Bills Affecting HRS Chapter 6E (Iwi Kupuna) *
- Matrix 9** (10:53:05 a.m.)**

- *No testifiers*

DISCUSSION

Leina’ala and her advocacy team made no changes to this matrix.

Trustee Akaka asked about **HB737 relating to historic preservation**. **Compliance Officer, Kamakana Ferreira**, explained that historically, other bills like this have tried to amend the definition of “historic property.” OHA has commented that although we have been requesting that properties being requested to be placed on the Hawai’i Register should include sites that are important to Native Hawaiians. This year, that clause was included in the bill, so OHA has changed its position from SUPPORT WITH COMMENTS TO MONITOR this year.

MOTION: To approve/amend the approval of staff’s recommendations for position on bills affecting HRS Chapter 6E as reflected in Matrix 9 ** (10:55:46 a.m.)

MOVED: Trustee Waihe’e (10:55:50 a.m.)

SECOND: Trustee Alapa (10:56:01 a.m.)

DISCUSSION: None

CALL FOR THE VOTE. (10:56:10 a.m.)

MOTION PASSED by a UNANIMOUS VOTE. (10:56:15)

j. **2025 Legislature: OHA Position on Honolulu County Council Resolution 25-037 urging the State of Hawai’i to create a Hawaiian Language Commission * (10:56:18 a.m.)**

- *No testifiers*

DISCUSSION

Leina’ala clarified that this resolution is from the Honolulu City Council to create a working group in support of Hawaiian language. Leina’ala believes this resolution is in response to the controversy where an individual testified to the use of the

Hawaiian language. This resolution is a basic resolution to create a commission to support Native Hawaiian language. Leina'ala further stated that although this resolution comes from the City Council, it is the recommendation from Advocacy that OHA support it; there was mutual consensus from the Trustees.

MOTION: To approve/amend the approval of staff's recommendations for position on Honolulu City Council Resolution 25-037 urging the State of Hawai'i to create a Hawaiian Language Commission. * (10:57:32 a.m.)

MOVE: Trustee Waihe'e (10:57:49 a.m.)

SECOND: Trustee Souza (10:57:51 a.m.)

DISCUSSION: None

CALL FOR THE VOTE. (10:57:55 a.m.)

VOTE PASSED by a UNANIMOUS VOTE (10:58:02 a.m.)

DISCUSSION

Trustee Akaka asked the policy team to consider using Native Hawaiian Crown and Government lands rather than using the term, public lands. In addition, in the Committee on Water and Land hearing [held February 4, 2025], HB1358 (related to the Public Land Trust Working Group, Trustee Akaka suggested OHA might want to add those other bills to the matrices.

Leina'ala asked for clarification on adding that the bills heard in that same hearing by Trustee Akaka would be added to OHA's matrices at the next BAE meeting. **Trustee Akaka** responded 'yes.'

Leina'ala asked if Trustee Akaka was recommending a position on those bills or did she want Advocacy to just look at them. Trustee Akaka's list included the following:

- ~ HB1348 relating to public lands
- ~ HB1141 relating to updating public land leases issued pursuant to Chapter 171

Regarding revised statutes:

- ~ HB533 relating to historic property
- ~ H533 relating to historic property
- ~ HB 653 relating to non-general funds

Trustee Souza wanted to take a moment to encourage his fellow trustees to collaborate on items on the agenda prior to its filing or the committee meeting

because a lot of things could have been vetted prior to coming to the meeting.
Chair Galuteria added that it is at his pleasure that collaboration comes from both the BOT Suite and the Administration so we can avoid hurdles at meetings.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn the February 5, 2025, meeting of the Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment. (11:01:28 a.m.)

MOVED: Trustee Alapa (11:01:37 a.m.)
SECOND: Trustee Souza (11:01:38 a.m.)

DISCUSSION: None

CALL FOR THE VOTE (11:01:43 a.m.)
MOTION PASSED by a UNANIMOUS VOTE (2:02:02 a.m.)

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:02:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lei-Ann Durant
Trustee Aide

Date Approved: 05MARCH2024



Brickwood Galuteria,
Committee Chair