

-STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
560 N. NIMITZ HIGHWAY, SUITE 200
(In-Person Meeting)

The OHA Board of Trustees meeting can be viewed and observed via livestream on OHA's website at www.oha.org/livestream or listened by phone: (213) 338-8477.

A physical meeting location open to the general public will be available at the
A physical meeting location open to the general public will be available at 560 N. Nimitz Hwy.,
Suite 200, Honolulu HI 96817.

This meeting can be viewed at:

Video 1: https://www.youtube.com/live/fjCzzYhBETc?si=kXU_IC9OqshBVYY

Video 2: <https://www.youtube.com/live/kSRA5o0h9L4?si=cGpplbhFZAFT5ia2>

Video 3: <https://www.youtube.com/live/fb1WkL8fFG0?si=zh9FQJKI1dqPMpr->

**Minutes of the
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
MINUTES
August 21, 2025
9:00 a.m.**

ATTENDANCE:

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

ADMINISTRATION:

Stacy Ferreira, CEO
Everett Ohta, General Counsel
Kaponi K., External Counsel
Hailama Farden, Dir. Hawaiian Cultural Affairs
Royce Cambell, Operations Mngr.
Bill Brennan, Dir. of Communications
Chris Stanley, Procurement Mngr.
Sandra Stancil, EA
Daniel Santos, IT
Arlene Aguinaldo, IT

BOT STAFF:

Summer Sylva, Chief of Staff (COS)
Alena Auyoung, Deputy COS
Lehua Itokazu, Board Secretary
Pohailani Kealoha, Trustee Aide
Kauai Robello, Trustee Aide
Richelle Kim, Trustee Aide
Remy Keli'hoomalu, Trustee Aide
Pohai Ryan, Trustee Aide
Sommer Soares, Secretary
LeiAnn Durrant, Trustee Aide
Mark Watanabe, Trustee Aide
Anuheia Diamond, Trustee Aide
Yvonne Mahelona, Trustee Aide

(00:3:35 | 9:04 am)

Call to Order

Chair Kaiali'i Kahele Calls the Board of Trustees Meeting to order for Thursday, August 21 2025 at 9:04 a.m. Board Secretary, please do a roll call.

MEMBERS			Present	Notes
TRUSTEE	DAN	AHUNA	X	
TRUSTEE	KALEI	AKAKA	X	
TRUSTEE	KELI'I	AKINA	X	
TRUSTEE	LUANA	ALAPA	X	
TRUSTEE	BRICKWOOD	GALUTERIA	X	
TRUSTEE	CARMEN "HULU"	LINDSEY	X	
TRUSTEE	KEONI	SOUZA	X	
TRUSTEE	JOHN	WAIHE'E		Joins meeting at 9:12 am
CHAIRPERSON	KAIALI'I	KAHELE	X	
			8	

At the Call to Order, **EIGHT (8)** Trustees are PRESENT, thereby constituting a quorum.

Chair Kaiali'i Kahele This meeting can be viewed via live stream on all his website at www.oha.org/livestream For those joining us on Zoom to testify or listen, please note that we are using the webinar platform rather than the standard Zoom meeting format. As an attendee, you will be able to watch and listen to the proceedings. If you wish to testify on a specific agenda item, please follow these steps:

1. Raise your hand to indicate that you would like to speak.
2. We will change your status from attendee to panelist when it is your turn. This may take a few seconds, so we appreciate your patience.
3. As a panelist, you will have the option to turn on your camera and unmute yourself to provide testimony.
4. Once you have finished testifying, please mute yourself, and you will be returned to attendee status.

In addition to this, I would like to remind everyone to please silence your cell" this meeting is being conducted in compliance with HRS Chapter 92, OHA Bylaws, and Robert's Rules of Order for Small Boards, as modified by applicable statutes and rules. A few reminders as we begin:

- Trustees must be recognized by the Chair before speaking.
- Members may raise a hand instead of standing when seeking to obtain the floor and may remain seated while making motions or speaking.
- Motions need not be seconded.
- Public testimony will be called on each agenda item and limited to five minutes per speaker.
- Chair may fully participate in discussion and vote.

I would like to recognize our Ka Pouhana, Stacy Ferreira. Stacy would you like to introduce any Administrative staff that are with us today?

Stacy Ferreira, CEO Introduces Staff.

(00:5:58 | 9:07 am)

Approval of Minutes

A. May 15, 2025

Trustee Souza Moves to approve the May 15, 2025 minutes.

No second is needed. Roll call is taken.

9:07 a.m. Trustee Ahuna moves to approve the minutes						
A. May 15, 2025						
Vote: 9:07 a.m.	1	2	‘AE (YES)	‘A‘OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
TRUSTEE DAN AHUNA	X		X			
TRUSTEE KALEI AKAKA			X			
TRUSTEE KELI‘I AKINA			X			
TRUSTEE LUANA ALAPA			X			
TRUSTEE BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA			X			
CHAIRPERSON HULU LINDSEY			X			
TRUSTEE J. KEONI SOUZA			X			
TRUSTEE JOHN WAIHE‘E						
CHAIR KAIALI‘I KAHELE			X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT			8			
MOTION: <input type="checkbox"/> UNANIMOUS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PASSED <input type="checkbox"/> DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/> FAILED						
Motion passes with EIGHT (8) Yes votes, Zero (0) No votes						

Chair Kahele announces that the Board will recuse themselves to executive session pursuant to HRS 92-584 to meet with its legal counsel regarding the Board's powers, duties and liabilities with respect to following matters.

(00: 6:47 | 9:07 am)

Executive Session

There is one person signed up to testify on the executive session items. Full testimony started at 9:08 am and can be watched here: https://www.youtube.com/live/fjCzzYhBETc?si=kXU_1C9OqshBVYY

(00:7:30 | 9:11 am)

Germaine Meyers *summarized* At the BOT meeting on July 25, 2025, Chair Kahele raised concerns during the discussion on the proposal to appoint Elena Farden and Hailama Farden as Co-Interim Chief Operating Officers for 30 days with compensation consistent with other interim appointments. Chair Kahele stated his objection was based on the fact that the proposed appointees are a married couple, noting that this could present internal and external concerns, including optics, best practices, and potential perceptions of conflict of interest.

It was noted that Hawaii Revised Statutes §378-2 prohibits discrimination in employment based on marital status, which is a protected characteristic under Hawaii’s Employment Practices Act. Examples of marital status discrimination include denial of promotions, unequal pay, or adverse employment actions. Hawaii courts have previously ruled that “no-spouse policies,” where employers take adverse action against employees because of their spouse’s employment, constitute marital status discrimination. Concerns were expressed that Chair Kahele’s remarks regarding the Fardens’ marital status in relation to their eligibility for interim appointment may be inconsistent with these legal protections.

Vice Chair Souza Moves to excuse the Board into executive session pursuant to HRS Section 92-5(a)(4)

The Board recuses into Executive Session at 9:14 am

Motion to recuse into executive session pursuant to HRS Section§92-5						
	1	2	‘AE (YES)	‘A‘OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
TRUSTEE DAN AHUNA			X			
TRUSTEE KALEI AKAKA			X			
TRUSTEE KELI‘I AKINA			X			
TRUSTEE LUANA ALAPA			X			
TRUSTEE BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA			X			
TRUSTEE CARMEN HULU LINDSEY			X			
TRUSTEE KEONI SOUZA	X		X			
TRUSTEE JOHN WAIHE‘E			X			
CHAIRPERSON KAI KAHELE			X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT			9			
MOTION: [X] UNANIMOUS [] PASSED [] DEFERRED [] FAILED						
Motion passes with a NINE (9) Yes votes, Zero (0) No votes and Zero (0) Excused vote.						

Board returns to open session at 12:27 p.m

(00:00:25 | 12:27 pm)

Trustee Kahele A discussion in an executive session pursuant to HRS 92-5A4.

To meet with its legal counsel regarding a board's powers, duties, and liabilities with respect to the following matters. Consultation or recommendation on a concurrent violation involving Office of Hawaiian Affairs Office. Discussion on recent intergovernmental and cultural exchange travel. No action was taken on any of these items.

- A discussion update on formal legal counsel. The Board voted unanimously to adopt the recommendations provided by Paul Alston and the Denton Law firm.

I instructed Paul Olson to act on those recommendations. As well as any other legal items.

Recess is taken at 12:28 pm

Meeting Reconvenes at 1:19 pm

Next video link for this section: <https://www.youtube.com/live/fb1WkL8fFG0?si=rSNEj5DoZA4e87rk>

(00:1:36 | 1:20 pm)

New Business

A. Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment

1. Action Item BAE #25-06: Approval of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs' 2025 Nominees for the Moloka'i Island Burial Council (MIBC), and to authorize the Administration to timely transmit these nominations to the Governor: (i) La'akea K. Poepoe, Nominee for Moloka'i Island Burial Council; (ii) Luann Mahili Lankford-Faborito, Nominee for Ho'olehua-Pala'au Representative Moloka'i Island Burial Council

(00:1:20 pm) **Trustee Galuteria** reads the following motion:

Your Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment, having met _on August 20, 2025, and after full and free discussion, recommends approval of the following motion to the Board of Trustees:

To approve the Office of Hawaiian Affairs' 2025 Nominees for the Moloka'i Island Burial Council (MIBC) and to authorize the Administration to timely transmit these nominations to the Governor:

La'akea K. Poepoe, Nominee for Moloka'i Island Burial Council

Luann Mahili Lankford-Faborito, Nominee for Ho'olehua-Pala'au Representative, Moloka'i Island Burial Council

No second is needed. Roll call is taken.

1:20 p.m. Trustee Galuteria moves

To approve the Office of Hawaiian Affairs' 2025 Nominees for the Moloka'i Island Burial Council (MIBC) and to authorize the Administration to timely transmit these nominations to the Governor:

La'akea K. Poepoe, Nominee for Moloka'i Island Burial Council

Luann Mahili Lankford-Faborito, Nominee for Ho'olehua-Pala'au Representative, Moloka'i Island Burial Council

Vote: 1:21 a.m.	1	2	‘AE (YES)	‘A‘OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
TRUSTEE DAN AHUNA			X			
TRUSTEE KALEI AKAKA			X			
TRUSTEE KELI‘I AKINA			X			
TRUSTEE LUANA ALAPA						
TRUSTEE BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA	X		X			
CHAIRPERSON HULU LINDSEY			X			
TRUSTEE J. KEONI SOUZA						
TRUSTEE JOHN WAIHE‘E			X			
CHAIR KAIALI‘I KAHELE			X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT			7			
MOTION: <input type="checkbox"/> UNANIMOUS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PASSED <input type="checkbox"/> DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/> FAILED						
Motion passes with SEVEN (7) Yes votes, Zero (0) No votes						
9:12 a.m.						

(00:58:15 | 1:25 pm) Germaine Meyers testifies – in audible.

Chair Kahele request to take the agenda out of order and take up action item BOT #25-11 first. The is no objection by the board

Action Item BOT #25-11: Revisions to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs Board of Trustees Bylaws (Updated as of March 20, 2025) to establish an optional Board Legal Counsel position under Article XIV (Board of Trustees Staff) to serve as a full-time, in-house legal advisor and resource to the Board of Trustees exclusively, and other miscellaneous revisions to ensure consistency and clarity. (1st reading)

Action Item BOT #25-10: Revisions to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs Board of Trustees Executive Policy Manual (Updated as of May 31, 2025), relating to Trustee Duties, Responsibilities, and Conduct—including Delegation of Authority (Signatory, Operational, and Disbursements) and Trustee-Administration Interaction Policy; Administrative Processes—including Work Plans, Planning, Programming, and Budgeting System; Biennium Budget Realignment and Adjustments; Executive Session Briefings on Internal Investigations; and other miscellaneous revisions to ensure consistency and clarity. (1st reading)

(1:26 pm) Chair Kahele shares with the Board of Trustees that he does not plan to take action on both BOT action items #25-10 and #25-06 at today’s Board meeting. Today’s meeting will focus on discussion and any amendments the Trustees would like to add. A new meeting will be added for next week, Thursday, August 28, 2025.

(00:13:40 | 1:30 pm) Discussion takes place among all Trustees. You can find the full discussion in video 3.

Community Concerns and Celebrations

(03:05:50 | 4:25 pm) Germaine Meyers testified regarding concerns of unlawful discrimination at OHA based on marital status, citing comments made at the July 25, 2025 BOT meeting that singled out two senior directors from the same household. She expressed that such remarks, along with selective enforcement of testimony rules by the Chair, reflect discriminatory practices that undermine trust in the Board. Meyers noted that while some individuals are allowed extended testimony and dialogue, others are cut off, which she described as silencing Native Hawaiian voices. *Full testimony can be heard here:*

<https://www.youtube.com/live/fb1WkL8fFG0?si=rSNEj5DoZA4e87rk>

Announcements (3:11:09 | 4:28 pm)

Chair Kahele Next Board of Trustees meeting will be next week August 28, 2025 at 10:00 am.

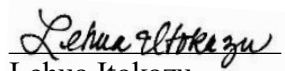
Adjournment (3:11:15 | 4:30 pm)

Chair Emerita Lindsey moves to adjourn the Board meeting.

Adjournment – vote at 4:31 pm							
TRUSTEE		1	2	'AE (YES)	A'OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
DAN	AHUNA			X			
KALEI	AKAKA			X			
KELI'I	AKINA			X			
LUANA	ALAPA						Left mtg at 1:19 pm
BRICKWOOD	GALUTERIA			X			
CARMEN HULU	LINDSEY	X		X			
KEONI	SOUZA			X			
JOHN	WAIHE'E						Left mtg at 4:00 pm
CHAIR KAIALI'I	KAHELE			X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT				7			

Chair Kahele Adjourns the Board of Trustees meeting at 4:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lehua Itokazu

Board Secretary

As approved by the Board of Trustees on October 16, 2025



Kaiali'i Kahele

Chairperson, Board of Trustees