

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

COMMITTEE ON BENEFICIARY ADVOCACY AND EMPOWERMENT

January 8, 2025

9 a.m.

**(In-person in OHA Maui Ola Boardroom and via Interactive Conference
Technology viewable at www.oha.org/livestream)**

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

CEO

Stacy Ferreira

COO

Kehaulani Pu'u

BAE STAFF

Kyla Hee
Lei-Ann Durant
Mark Watanabe
Nathan Takeuchi

BOARD OF TRUSTEES STAFF

Carina Lee
Crayn Akina
Jasmine Branco
Kanani Iaea
Kauai Wailehua
Mele Moniz
Melissa Wennihan
Pohai Ryan
Remy Keli'ihō'omalu
Richelle Kim
Sommer Soares

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Arlene Aguinaldo
Elena Farden
Everett Ohta
Hailama Farden
Kamakana Ferreira
Kevin Chak
Ku'uleianuheha Awo-Chun
Leina'ala Ley
Lei Vaughn-Sekona
Nietzsche Ozawa
Poni Askew
Ramona Hinck

Chair Brickwood Galuteria called the meeting of the Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment to order on Wednesday, January 8, 2025, at **9 a.m.**

Roll Call – Seven board members were present and constituted a quorum

Trustee Keli'i Akina arrived at 9:03 a.m.

Trustee John Waihe'e, IV arrived at 9:09 a.m.

Chair Galuteria welcomed committee members and shared his vision for the future of this committee (see attached).

II. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Island Burial Council Nominations: Action Item #25-01 (9:16:21 a.m.)**

MOTION 1: 1st – Trustee Dan Ahuna

2nd – Trustee John Waihe'e, IV

To approve the individuals listed in Section I. above as the Office of Hawaiian Affairs's 2025 nominations to the O'ahu Burial Council, Hawai'i Island Burial Council, Maui Island Burial Council, Moloka'i Island Burial Council and the Kaua'i Island Burial Council and to authorize the Administration to timely transmit these nominations to the Governor.

- o *There were no testifiers on this subject*

DISCUSSION

Kamakani Ferreira, OHA's lead compliance specialist, shared OHA's process regarding burial council policies and procedures. OHA is mandated by HRS 6E-43.5 which specifies that candidates should have knowledge of burial practices and Hawaiian cultural practices; Kamakana and his team engineered a scoring rubric around that. Applicants submitted a letter of intent (optional), a resume, and completed an on-line application. Each applicant was scored according to HRS 6E-43.5.

Committee members included **Kamakana Ferreira**, **Kai Markell** (Compliance Enforcement Manager), and **Ku'ikeokalani Kamakea-Ohelo** (Strategy and Implementation).

Chair Galuteria asked if the vetting process was based on academic or culture and past practices of the candidates. **Kamakana** responded that scoring was based on experience with ‘iwi kupuna issues, research or knowledge of Hawaiian burial practices, experience with historic preservation laws, and experience with Hawaiian Burial Councils. Candidates were also scored on their resumes, on-line application, and experiences.

CEO Stacy Ferreira asked Kamakana to share the process once the selections were made. **Kamakana** said that OHA has the final say and the names are submitted to the Governor [Josh Green].

Chair Galuteria confirmed that two agencies are involved – OHA and DLNR.

Trustee Akina asked about the number of names that will be appointed to each burial council on the 20%. He asked if 20% is dedicated to each island burial council or if 20% covered all island councils. It is **Kamakana**’s belief that 20% given is the total for all islands. **Trustee Akina** asked for clarification that there was no assurance that the names given by OHA would be selected. **Kamakana** confirmed that was the case; but in his experience, which was not the practice.

There being no further discussion, **Chair Galuteria** called for the vote. (9.22.44 a.m.)

[**MOTION 1:** 1st – **Trustee Dan Ahuna** 2nd – **Trustee John Waihe’e, IV**
To approve the individuals listed in Section I. above as the Office of Hawaiian Affairs’
2025 Burial Council, Moloka’i Island Burial Council, and the Kaua’i Island Burial Council
and to authorize the Administration to timely transmit these nominations to the Governor.]

All trustees present voted yes. MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE of 9-0.

II. New Business (continued)

- b. Public Land Trust Bill – Action Item BAE #25-02 (9:23:21 a.m.)

MOTION 2: 1st – **Trustee Souza** 2nd – **Trustee Alapa**
Approve the bill relating to the Public Land Trust Working Group recommendation for inventory and audit funding as drafted in Attachment A.

- *There were no testifiers on this subject.*

DISCUSSION

Trustee Akina asked for clarification that this Act [226] makes these allocations of funds exempt from the procurement process; and if that is the case, he asked that someone share the rationale behind it.

CEO Ferreira said that this request for \$1M was a recommendation from the Public Land Trust Working Group (PLTWG) so this is deliverable from that working group. \$1M will enable OHA to start the audit. OHA will follow the procurement procedure which is OHA's standard practice. The recommendation, which came from the Public Land Trust, was given during the last session at a much lower amount. The request for \$1M is an estimated cost to at least start the inventory audit.

Similarly, there will be another request for the same amount of \$1M. \$750K will come from the Governor [Josh Green]; and if approved by this board, OHA will be putting \$250K into its budget that will match this bill with appropriation. The Administration wanted to have as many opportunities as possible - it is *that* important that we get this approved in order to get an accurate inventory [of ceded land].

*The substantial change from last year's bill is the requirement for an increase of \$1M in order to provide accuracy, self-reporting, and verifying the revenues from each department.

OHA Interim General Counsel, Everett Ohta, corrected that this bill does include an exemption of the procurement process because we are reintroducing the same bill that was previously given by the PLTWG that sought the same type of funding as last year [2024]. Although OHA is part of the working group, this is not something OHA gave on its own. It is a carry-over of sorts which is a little unusual, but it does call for an exemption from those services. This exemption would allow OHA not to use state procurement code 103D.

Trustee Akina said his question was not about the increased funding. He was asking why we must go outside the procurement process to get the results we want. He wanted to ensure that the safeguard usually put in place with the procurement process would be adhered to. **Everett** said that the exemption spoke to the specialized work regarding both the inventory as well as the financial reporting received by the agencies to confirm its accuracy.

This is specialized reporting and is not a generalized annual audit done by the agencies. OHA is looking to have those funds transferred to OHA to minister, through a contract, to a vendor who is doing that kind of work. The work will take a considerable amount of time, but the agency will need that information to do its work. Given past reviews, there is a lot of work that needs to be done with the agencies.

Trustee Dan Ahuna said that this adds a little protection and prevents the state from stealing the land.

Chair Galuteria thanked Chair Emerita Hulu [Lindsey] for leading the charge to get OHA to this point through her years of working on this issue. **Chair Emerita** said that it has been an interesting two years working with the PLTWG and she felt working with the State helped her understand a few things. About the \$1M, the Governor [Josh Green] sent a message via one of his employees working with the PLTWG, that he would be willing to put his \$750K into his personal message to the Legislature which is encouraging. The Governor said he wants to give the Legislature the idea that OHA and the State are working together. Hopefully, that will encourage them to give OHA the money. **Chair Emerita** thanked Chair Galuteria for his work with the PLTWG.

CEO Ferreira clarified that if we got the \$750K from the Legislature, those funds along with OHA's \$250K, will need to go through the procurement process. Those funds will be appropriated to DLNR and expended by OHA.

There being no further discussion, **Chair Galuteria** called for the vote. (9:36:42

a.m.) **[MOTION 2: 1st – Trustee Souza 2nd – Trustee Alapa**
Approve the bill relating to the Public Land Trust Working Group recommendation for inventory and audit funding as drafted in Attachment A.]

All trustees present voted yes. MOTION PASSED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF 9-0.

III. New Business (continued)

c. Kaka'ako Makai Bill – Action Item #25-03 (9:37:35 a.m.)

MOTION 3: Approval of the bill relating to the Hawai'i Community Development Authority (framework for residential development in portions of Kaka'ako Makai), as drafted in Attachment A.

Chair Galuteria recognized Germaine Meyers to present her testimony (9:39:07 a.m.)

III. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, **Chair Galuteria** called for a motion and roll call to adjourn the meeting.

**MOTION: 1st – Trustee Ahuna 2nd – Trustee Akina (9:47:18)
TO ADJOURN JANUARY 8, 2025 MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON BENEFICIARY
ADVOCACY AND EMPOWERMENT**

All trustees present voted yes. MOTION PASSED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF 9-0

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: 22JAN2025



Lei-Ann Durant
Trustee Aide



Trustee Brickwood Galuteria,
Committee Chair

(no subject)

1 message

Brickwood Galuteria <brickwoodg@gmail.com>
To: Brickwood Galuteria <brickwoodG@gmail.com>

Wed, Jan 8, 2025 at 6:23 AM

Chairperson: Before we proceed with the agenda, I would like to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude to the previous Board and Committee Leadership. We owe a special debt of gratitude to Chair Emeritas Hulu Lindsey, our previous Board Chair, and former BAE Chair Kaleikina Akaka for their unwavering commitment and we thank you sincerely for your service. Your dedication, vision, and hard work have been instrumental in guiding our organization through numerous challenges and achievements. You have laid a strong foundation upon which we can continue to build and thrive. As we move forward, we are excited to embark on a new chapter. This is a time of renewal and opportunity, and we are confident that with the collective wisdom and energy of this entire Board, we will achieve even greater heights." Let us work collaboratively to create a brighter future for OHA and the Lahui we serve."

Today, we will revisit the purpose and goals of the Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment. Our primary mission is to ensure that the needs and rights of our beneficiaries are represented and advocated for effectively. We aim to empower them through support, resources, and education. We will continue to work on initiatives to raise awareness about the rights of our beneficiaries...to conduct workshops and community outreach programs, and explore new avenues for advocacy. Our focus has been on providing resources and support to empower our beneficiaries. We have developed training programs and collaborated with local organizations to offer mentorship opportunities. We recommend expanding these programs and seeking additional partnerships while continuing relationships within and outside the Lahui. Beneficiary Advocacy is clear. Beyond that, I've been trying to wrap my head around Empowerment and what that really means. Empowerment within the context of indigenous peoples involves providing the tools, resources, and opportunities necessary to take control of their own lives and destinies. It encompasses several key aspects:

Firstly, Empowerment means supporting our right to self-determination 'Ea, to govern ourselves, make decisions about our land, culture, and future, and maintain our sovereignty. Safeguarding our language, traditions, and cultural practices. This includes promoting and revitalizing our cultural heritage to ensure it is passed down to future generations. Empowering and providing opportunities for economic independence is crucial. This includes access to education, job training, and support for Native Hawaiian businesses, enabling them to thrive. You've heard me constantly mention "Poitical Musularity." Ensuring that we have a voice in local, national, and international political arenas is vital. This helps us advocate for our rights, influence policies affecting our Lahui, and participate fully in decision-making processes. Our

rights to our ancestral lands and resources is fundamental to our identity, livelihood, and well-being. Providing equitable access to quality education and healthcare services empowers the lahui to improve our overall quality of life and ensures that future generations are well-equipped to succeed. And finally, addressing historical injustices and ongoing discrimination is essential. The dispossession was real, and must and will continue to be acknowledged. But we will not subscribe to a "woe is me" mentality. Empowerment is promoting social justice, equity, and human rights ensuring that all be treated with dignity and respect. Empowerment is a multifaceted approach that requires collaboration, respect, and a commitment to justice and equity, so let's get to work.

Are there any questions or discussions regarding the the Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment?"