

DRAFT

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
560 N. NIMITZ HIGHWAY, SUITE 200
(VIRTUAL MEETING - VIA ZOOM WEBINAR)

Due to COVID-19, the OHA Board of Trustees and its standing committees will hold virtual meetings until further notice. The virtual 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 UH Mānoa . All members of the public that wish to access the physical meeting location must wear a mask and follow all applicable COVID-19 requirements of the meeting venue.

**Minutes of the
O'AHU ISLAND COMMUNITY MEETING
MINUTES
Thursday, September 1, 2022
5:30pm**

ATTENDANCE:

Chairperson Carmen Hulu Lindsey
Trustee Dan Ahuna
Trustee Kaleihikina Akaka
Trustee Keli'i Akina
Trustee Luana Alapa
Trustee Brendon Kalei'āina Lee
Trustee Mililani Trask

ADMINISTRATION:

Casey Brown, COO
Everett Ohta, Interim General Counsel
Capsun Poe, Director of Community Engagement
Lei-Ming Ayat-Verdadero, BSA Mngr.
Tiger Li, IT Mngr.
Alice Silbanuz, Director of Communications
Erin Nakano, IT Support
Kamakana Ferreira, Lead Comp. Specialist
Joshua Koh, MM Designer
Jason Lee, MM Designer
Kaimo Muhlestein, BSA
Starr Kalilikane, BSA
Luci Meyers, BSA

BOT STAFF:

Amber Kalua, Trustee Aide
Kanani Iaea, Trustee Aide
Lehua Itokazu, Board Secretary
Crayn Akina, Trustee Aide
Kauikeaolani Wailehua, Trustee Aide
Brandon Mitsuda, Trustee Aide
Mark Watanabe, Trustee Aide
Dayna Pa, Trustee Aide
Pohai Ryan, Trustee Aide
Evalani Canto, Trustee Aide
Nathan Takeuchi, Trustee Aide
Anuheia Diamond, Trustee Aide

GUEST:

Professor Konia Freitas
Tina Tagad
Kahu Roddy Akau
Lehua Kinilau-Cano
Mark Crowe

Call to Order

Chair Hulu Lindsey Calls the Board of Trustees Meeting to order for Thursday, September 1, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. Board Secretary, please do a roll call.

MEMBERS			Present	TIME ARRIVED
TRUSTEE	LEINA‘ALA	AHU ISA	excused	
TRUSTEE	DAN	AHUNA		Arrived at 5:33pm
TRUSTEE	KALEI	AKAKA	X	
TRUSTEE	KELI‘I	AKINA	X	
TRUSTEE	LUANA	ALAPA	X	
TRUSTEE	BRENDON KALEI‘ĀINA	LEE	X	
TRUSTEE	MILILANI	TRASK	X	
TRUSTEE	JOHN	WAIHE‘E	excused	
CHAIRPERSON	CARMEN HULU	LINDSEY	X	
			6	

At the Call to Order, **six (6)** Trustees are PRESENT, thereby constituting a quorum.

Chair Hulu Lindsey Aloha kākou and welcome to our third O‘ahu Island Community Meeting this year. We are focusing on our Papakōlea community. Tonights meeting can be viewed by livestream on OHA’s website, www.oha.org/livestream. Before we begin, I would like to ask each Trustee to introduce themselves and their staff at this time.

Introductions

Trustee Alapa Aloha, I am Luana Alapa I am the Trustee for Moloka‘i/ Lāna‘i. I am here tonight with my Aide, Pohai Ryan. Thank you.

Trustee Trask Aloha, I am Mililani Trask the Trustee for Hawai‘i Island and my Aide here on O‘ahu is Kauai Wailehua.

Trustee Akina Aloha kākou everyone, I am Trustee-at-large, Trustee Keli‘i Akina and I am here with my Aide, Evalani Canto. I want to thank you so much for caring for our people and our ‘āina. This place is special to me because I’ve seen this place before when it was a quarry and we are just blessed by all that has happened on this premises. I have two of my degrees from University of Hawai‘i so I feel at home here. I grew up here on O‘ahu and I feel like I can do a good job along with my fellow Trustees hearing your concerns tonight, aloha.

Trustee Akaka Aloha Pumehana, I am Kalei Akaka and I am honored to serve as your OHA O‘ahu Trustee as well as the OHA Chair of the Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment. Joining me today is my staff, Brandon Mitsuda and Mark Watanabe. I also have my ‘ohana, my husband Tyler and our baby **Aeiwaiwa**. Mahalo for joining us this evening we are looking forward to hearing your mana‘o, your presentations and seeing how we can further collaborate together. Mahalo nui.

Trustee Ahuna Aloha mai kākou, I am Dan Ahuna and I represent the island Kaua‘i and Ni‘ihau. I am originally from Papakōlea but now reside on Kaua‘i, with me today is my Aide Anuhea Diamond.

Trustee Lee Aloha mai kākou, I am Brendon Lee, I am the At-Large Trustee for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. Joining me this evening is my Aide, Dayna Pa, mahalo

Chair Hulu Lindsey Aloha again, my name is Carmen Hulu Lindsey and I am the Maui Trustee and serve as Chair of the Board. My staff here is Lehua Itokazu-Board Secretary, Kanani Iaea and Amber Kalua-my Aides. Thank you again for all of you coming this evening. I would like to turn the time over to Trustee Akaka as this is her community meeting.

Trustee Akaka Mahalo Chair Hulu Lindsey. We will now continue with the status of OHA, Lehua do we have anyone signed up for this item?

Board Secretary No one is signed up to speak on this item.

Trustee Akaka I will call on Casey Brown.

Status of OHA Activities

Casey Brown, COO Mahalo, if it is okay I will take a quick moment to introduce our staff with us this evening. We have our BSA staff: Starr Kalilikane, Kaimo Muhlestein, and Luci Meyers. Our Beneficiary Services Manager – LeiMing Ayat – Verdadero, Communication Director – Alice Silbanuz, Interim-General Counsel – Everett Ohta, Community Engagement Director – Capsun Poe, IT Mngr – Tiger Li, and Multi-Media Designers – Joshua Koh and Jason Lee, and one more person supporting us online Erin Nakama, our IT support. There is no status updates.

Community Presenters

1. Hawai‘inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge

Professor Konia Freitas Welcomes everyone to Kamakakūokalani Center, she is a specialty faculty member at the school and a former Director of the center. She shares that the Board meeting is taking place in hālau o haumea. Childbirth and fertility are probably Haumea’s most famous traits. She shares that it is in the honor of fertility that they invite people to come to hālau with the understanding that it is the fertility of ideas, bringing debate, and decision making, by doing all of this with the inspiration of Haumea. She expresses that it is their honor to host everyone.

2. Papakōlea Community Development Corporation – Lilia Kapuniai, Executive Director

Trustee Akaka Announces that Papakōlea Community Development Corporation is unable to join tonight's meeting.

3. Hālau o Huluena project – Tina Tagad, Executive Director and Roddy Akau, Kahuna Lā‘au Lapa‘au

Tina Tagad She introduces herself and Kahu Roddy Akau and thanks the Trustees for providing a space for them to share their program and grateful they are to OHA. She shares that opportunities like the one given to them allows projects like theirs to stand up where they may not have had the opportunity. The intention of their program was preservation and perpetuation of authentic lā‘au lapa‘au. Kahu Roddy Akau comes from long line

of lineal decendants where it started in Kamananui Valley. The program is amazing and a blessing and I will have Kahu Roddy Akau share with you.

Kahu Roddy Akau He shares the last time he spoke in front of the Trustees was in 2008 at Kaka‘ako Makai. He shares the studying with Papa Henry Auwae to strengthen his spiritual foundation and helped sustained him through his students so that he can continue to do this work and protect it. He honored his calling. Once you take on the spiritual vowel, things start coming. With this spiritual foundation, Papa Auwae set the course for me. His students have helped him get through this because there is no way he could get through it himself. They spend a lot of time in Kamananui Valley. He shares stories of Moanalua Gardens and where his family is buried. He thanks the Trustees for helping Hālau Huluenathis past year. The assistance will allow him to start his third cohort.

4. Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL) – Nicole Lehua Kinilau-Cano, NAHASDA Government Relations Programs Mgr.

Lehua Kinilau-Cano She shares that she is thankful to be here tonight and that she is a graduate of the Center of Hawaiian studies. She gives honor to Dr. Haunani K. Trask and shares that building we are holding our meeting in would not exist if it was not for her. She shares that the focus for the month of July on Hawaiian Homes Commission website is Papakōlea. This where you can find the most updated information. In Papakōlea slope stabilization and sewer improvements are what has been the primary focus and what the department has been working on. These are very old homestead communities, phase I was \$13 million dollars and phase II is \$45 million dollars.

She explains the \$600 million dollars is to address those on the waitlist. The older existing homesteads need to look for other funding sources and they will have to go back to the legislature to ask for funding for the existing homestead communities. The commission also approved the regional plan for Papakōlea in July of 2020. The priority projects identified by the papakōlea Kalawahine and Kewalo communities are the Native Hawaiian Education and Cultural Community center as well as the Hawaiian Homestead kupuna supportive living center. They want to build a new community center, a carehome for kupuna, and a traffic safety program. Traffic safety is something you will see more of across the homestead communities. She shares that beyond Papakōlea they have the Isenberg development that went out for an RFP (Request for Proposal). Stanford Carr was selected as the developer to provide rental housing to their Native Hawaiian beneficiaries.

She also states that on August 25th the Hawaiian Homes Commission approved the preliminary strategic plan approach for the \$600 million dollars as well as the budget that they will approve annually. The commission plans to move forward in order to extend those funds. They will continue to provide that information and keep the community as informed as they can. They are using their 2020 beneficiary study to inform where their applicants are most interested in housing for location and what type of housing they are interested in. Majority of the people on their list is interested in single family homes or lots and very little interested in rentals. There is also interest in multi-family and she shares that they can do some but that is not where the greatest demand is. She is open to answer any questions by the trustees.

Trustee Akina Thank you for all the good work you are doing with DHHL. Throughout the years, OHA and DHHL had varying levels of communication and working together. What do you think are ways we, as an OHA board could be of benefit to our beneficiaries in DHHL?

Lehua Kinilau-Cano We definitely share the same beneficiaries. OHA serves the larger Native Hawaiian but within that is the subset group that DHHL serves. She shares that she recently attended an Alaska housing innovative summit and was impressed on how they collaborated. The coordination with resources are on a timeline because they have few months of summer, they serve communities in rural and remote locations where maybe only one barge comes in for the entire year. She would like to see some degree to increase that type of collaboration amongst Hawaiian organizations or within government. While she was there she met with the Alaska Finance Housing Program and learned how closely they work with the American Indian Tribes. The example she shares is the emergency relief funding that the State of Alaska received. Instead of each tribe doing their own disbursement of funds they did "One Alaska". So the State of Alaska disbursed all the assistance funds to the tribal communities. They gave the tribes the options; we disburse the money for you or we can send them to you to disburse. Most opted to have the state disburse the funds to reduce the amount of administration cost. None of the tribes were charged any administrative fees. This is just one basic example. When I look at DHHL and how we got our rental assistance funds out, I think to myself if we could have done a better job by collaborating? For many of us, we are trying to get the money out of the door. It is easier said than done, I understand that.

Trustee Alapa I want to know the various things I see online regarding the tiny homes and the prefab homes, the cost for it is much less than the traditional homes. Do you see a possibility of these prefab homes a way to get more of our Hawaiian families off the list?

Lehua Kinilau-Cano I see the City and County of Honolulu more familiar with that than other counties. I am not familiar with that myself but I know it can be done. Unfortunately, DHHL has not done too much in that arena. As you know, we deal with a State that is very strong with unions and supporting labor force. It is a difficult conversation to have but whatever we can do to help our families get their homes as quick as possible. The department went from doing turnkey homes and then some of the response was it is too expensive. Then we went to vacant lots and that process is not easy to navigate through. Anything that we can do to help speed the process up and having conversations with the County by stating you need to put DHHL projects on the top of the pile and process those permits. I think these are the tough but straight conversations we need to have.

Trustee Trask Thank you for returning our calls. Some years ago I help kupuna do some repairs on their home. The \$600 million that came down last legislation, is there any chance we can go in for an amendment? Maybe get a few million, it is for kupuna repair for their homes. It does not make sense to me that we are going to focus on new houses and at the same time have kupuna's that have their floors falling apart. If a landlord that was private owned these houses and the Department of Health went there, they would shut them down and leave the person from that house homeless. Shouldn't we just repair the kupuna housing? I want to access available funding. If you look at the kupuna many of them are on a low budget. We need to help our kupuna.

Lehua Kinilau-Cano What I would encourage is instead of the \$600 million, we do have Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act funds (NAHASDA). Our NAHASDA allocation was \$2 million a year but thank you to Senator Schatz that amount has been increased to \$22 million. We have identified the oldest homesteads, including those in Keaukaha, Kaua'i, Moloka'i, Honoka'a, Waimanalo, and Papakolea. We have already done some home assistance projects. We give up to \$100,000 in a grant form to the family and anything over the \$100,000 is a 1% interest loan. We have helped a number of families. I must say that NAHASDA is fantastic; some of the challenges is we have to do our environmental review and that process can be lengthy. Recently, we have partnered with Habitat for Humanity on O'ahu. I did not get back to yet about the last one but I'll be more than happy to speak to you, I am not too happy about jumping on those small airplanes to Moloka'i.

Trustee Trask Did you just say that you are going to accept our request that you will do the workshop with us?

Lehua Kinilau-Cano Yes.

Trustee Trask Mahalo, I will call you to follow up.

Trustee Hulu Lindsey I am curious if you have active building permits that are not approved in the County?

Lehua Kinilau-Cano I believe we have a number of them. As an example, in Honolulu, the process can take up to a year. My understanding is that Kau'i is a little quicker and every County is different. We are trying to work with the Mayors and asking them if they can fast track.

Trustee Ahuna Besides fixing the houses can you folks help kupuna fix their steps? They need their steps to get to their houses. They don't have permits but they just need the stairs.

Lehua Kinilau-Cano If you don't have to pull a permit then we can go forward with those types of improvements.

Announcements

Trustee Akaka Mahalo nui for everyone coming out this evening. Mahalo nui to UH Manoa for hosting us this evening.

Adjournment

Trustee Ahuna Moves to adjourn the meeting.

Trustee Hulu Lindsey Seconds the motion.

Adjournment							
TRUSTEE		1	2	'AE (YES)	A'OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
LEINA'ALA	AHU ISA						X
DAN	AHUNA	X		X			
KALEIHIKINA	AKAKA			X			
KELI'I	AKINA			X			
LUANA	ALAPA			X			
BRENDON KALEI'ĀINA	LEE			X			
MILILANI	TRASK			X			
JOHN	WAIHE'E						X
CHAIR CARMEN HULU	LINDSEY		X	X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT				7			

Chairperson Carmen Hulu Lindsey Adjourns the Board of Trustees meeting at 6:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lehua Itokazu
Board Secretary

As approved by the Board of Trustees on XXXXXX 2022.

Carmen Hulu Lindsey
Chairperson, Board of Trustees

Attachments:

1. Excused Memo – Trustee Ahu Isa
2. Excused Memo – Trustee Waihe‘e