

**STATE OF HAWAI‘I
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Wow Farms
64-793 Ainahua Alanui St.
Waimea, HI. 96743**

**Hawai‘i Island Site Visit 3 Summary
of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs
Board of Trustees
Summary Report
Septemeber 14, 2023 – 2:30 pm**

ATTENDANCE:

Trustee Hulu Lindsey
Trustee Kalei Akaka
Trustee Keli‘i Akina
Trustee Luana Alapa
Trustee Dan Ahuna
Trustee Keoni Souza
Trustee Galuteria
Trustee Mililani Trask

BOT STAFF:

Lehua Itokazu, Board Secretary
Kanani Iaea, Trustee Aide
Amber Kalua, Trustee Aide
Richelle Kim, Trustee Aide
Crayn Akina, Trustee Aide
Ruben Sierra, Trustee Aide
Lei-Ann Durant, Trustee Aide
Kahelelani Keawekane, Trustee Aide
Nathan Takeuchi, Trustee Aide
Anuheia Diamond, Trustee Aide

ADMINISTRATION:

Colin Kippen, Interim CEO
Casey Brown, COO
Alice Silbanuz, Director of Communications

GUEST:

Mike Hodson
Patricia Kainoa Hodson
Sonny Shimaoka
Aunty Kanani
Dr. Claren Kealoha – Beaudet
Dr. Franco Acquaro

I. Call to Order

Site visit starts at 3:30 p.m.

II. Site Visit

Wow Farm

Trustees meet Mike Hodson at Wow Farms and he shares that COVID really did a number on his crops and sales. The Trustees travel through the Homestead to hear about future plans with various partnerships for a new graveyard and an emergency operation center.

During the discussion, it is shared that as an Association, they are fulfilling what they believe the Hawaiian Homes Act was intended to be. One of the things that stood out in the Act was community lands for economic engines, to be viable for their region. In their Homestead community, they have 17 divisions and approximately 70 board members. Some of the divisions they have are Agriculture, Kūpuna Council, Health clinic, and Social Services.

Mike shares a new road and infrastructure are being put in along with a water line. They are partnering with the County, Pōhakuloa, Civil defense, and FEMA to build an Emergency Operations Center (EOC). This will be the only EOC on the north side of the island. There is also plans to implement a 10-acre cemetery. This project has been in the works for the last 70 years. It has taken him 11 years to find the right partners and funding to finish the infrastructure. They shared that they did a survey in their community, 368 members. The number one project was a cemetery, number two was a laundromat, and the third top project was a kūpuna center. He personally plans to work on the cemetery first.

The health clinic shares that they have two psychologists, one psychiatrist, three primary care providers. They offer lā'au lapa'au and lomilomi. The idea is to focus on Native Hawaiian Health in collaboration with the Hawaiian Homestead. A \$5 million dollar grant was just awarded and they plan to build their new facilities. They would be the first homestead owned, operated, and lead by a 80% beneficiary board. One of the special things they have to offer is the use of a transcranial magnetic machine, the only one on the island. At the moment, only O'ahu offers this procedure. They have learned over time that Hawaiians do not respond well to psychotropic medications. This machine can help individuals with PTSD and untreatable depression. The results they are seeing are phenomenal. They are seeing people come off of their medication. They are also the only stand alone clinic that has rural health designation which means they are allowed to get Federal health reimbursements and they are not tied to any hospitals. The health clinic has gotten four grants in the past. One of the grants they received was for lā'au lapa'au and lomilomi. They identified 90 Native Hawaiian chronic care patients and some were addicted to opioids. They were able to transition these patients from being addicted to opioids to using lomilomi and lā'au lapa'au. It has been very successful. They expressed to the Trustees that they are not able to apply for any grants due to the new process in place at OHA. You need 60% of your service to be Native Hawaiian but they live in an area code that their patients are 22% Native Hawaiians and their patient panel is 42%. They have 100% extra representation based on the demographic but they are still not available to apply. They hope that these requirements change so that they can apply again.

III. Public Testimony

None

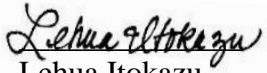
IV. Announcements

None

V. Adjournment

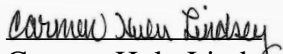
The site visit ends.

Respectfully submitted,



Lehua Itokazu
Board Secretary

Site Visit Summary Approved at Board of Trustees Meeting on May 9, 2024



Carmen Hulu Lindsey
Chairperson, Board of Trustees