

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

**COMMITTEE ON BENEFICIARY ADVOCACY AND EMPOWERMENT (BAE)**

**August 20, 2025**

**9 a.m.**

**(Via Interactive Conference Technology and In-Person at OHA Maui Ola Boardroom)**

To view this meeting's recording, please click on the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=89v5FyD3tLw&t=272s>

**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 Ferriera, CEO  
Bill Brennan  
Daniel Santos  
Elena Farden  
Hailama Farden  
Kamakana Ferreira  
Kevin Chak  
Ku'ike Kamakea-Ohelo  
Leina'ala Ley

**GENERAL COUNSEL**

Everett Ohta

**Meeting Conducted in Compliance With: HRS Chapter 92 (Sunshine Law) and OHA Bylaws**

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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**Welcome and Staff Acknowledgment**

**Time:** 9:03am

Chair welcomed attendees and acknowledged staff:

- Trustee Aide: Lei-Ann Stender Durant (on assignment)
- Trustee Secretary: Kyla Hee

Lei-Ann Stender Durant is serving as Committee Meeting Recording Secretary. Kyla Hee, Trustee Secretary, will conduct roll call.

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**Roll Call**

**Time:**

9:04:34am

Roll call conducted by Kyla Hee:

<b>Trustee Name</b>	<b>Status</b>
Trustee Ahuna	Present
Vice Chair Akaka	Present
Trustee Akina	Present
Trustee Alapa	Present
Trustee Kahele	Present
Trustee Lindsey	Present
Trustee Souza	Excused
Trustee Waihe'e	Excused
Chair Galuteria	Present

**Quorum Confirmed:** Yes (Time: 9:05 AM)

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**Meeting Procedures**

**Time:** 9:13am

Chair reviewed procedures per Article 12 of the Bylaws and Robert's Rules of Order for Small Boards.

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## **II. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Repatriation Update**

**Time:** 9:09am

**Presentation by:** Kamakana Ferreira, Lead Compliance Specialist and Ku‘ike Kamakea-Ohelo, Director of ‘Oiwi Well-Being and ‘Āina Momona

**Topic:** Update on completed repatriation efforts (April 22 – May 3, 2025)

**Public Testimony:**

- **Time:** 9:11am

Committee Recording Secretary confirmed **no testifiers** signed up in person or online

**Summary:**

- Repatriation trips to Europe and the U.S. East Coast were previously budgeted and approved.
- Internal activation memo issued January 2025.
- Presentation to BAE occurred in April 2025.
- Negotiated shared stewardship agreement with Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation (Berlin).
- Successfully repatriated 27 ‘iwi kūpuna and 12 funerary objects in 2022.
- Two ‘iwi kūpuna remained outstanding and were addressed during this trip.

**Discussion Highlights:**

- Concerns raised about record-keeping and access for lineal descendants.
- Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for repatriation are under revision to improve transparency and access.
- Trustees emphasized inclusive stewardship and shared knowledge.

**Action Items:**

1. Revise SOP for repatriation (due: next BAE meeting).
2. Explore centralized registry for iwi kūpuna (report due: October 2025).
3. Draft communication protocol for descendant outreach (due: November 2025).

**Decision:**

Trustees agreed by consensus to proceed with SOP revisions and registry exploration.

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## **II. NEW BUSINESS (continued)**

### **B. 2026 Legislative Package Development**

**Time:** 11:34am

**Presentation by:** Leina‘ala Ley, Chief Advocate

**Topic:** Key steps and deadlines for OHA’s 2026 Legislative Package

**Public Testimony:**

- **Time:** 11:36am

Committee Recording Secretary confirmed **no testifiers** signed up in person or online

**Summary:**

- **Timeline Overview:**
  - September–October 2025: Internal drafting and Trustee consultations
  - November 2025: Community listening sessions
  - December 2025: Final package approval
  - January 2026: Submission to State Legislature
- **Priority Areas Under Consideration:**
  - Native Hawaiian housing and land access
  - Education equity and Hawaiian language revitalization
  - Health and well-being initiatives
  - Cultural preservation and repatriation support
  - Economic development and workforce training
- **Engagement Strategy:**
  - Collaboration with Native Hawaiian Organizations (NHOs) and community leaders
  - Integration of feedback from previous legislative cycles
  - Use of digital platforms for public input

**Action:**

1. Trustees to submit initial legislative proposals to Advocacy by **September 15, 2025**.
2. Administration to schedule **community listening sessions** on all major islands by **October 31, 2025**.
3. Draft legislative package to be reviewed at **December 2025 Board meeting**.

**Decision:**

Trustees acknowledged the timeline and committed to submitting proposals by the September deadline.

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**II. NEW BUSINESS (continued)**

**Item B (continued): Legislative Package Development**

**Time:** 11:53am

**Presentation by:** Chief Advocate Leina’ala Ley

**Topic:** Legislative Engagement Strategy and Timeline

**Summary:**

Chief Advocate, Leina’ala Ley, provided a detailed overview of the advocacy team's strategy for developing and finalizing OHA’s 2026 legislative package. The presentation emphasized beneficiary engagement, Trustee alignment, and strategic outreach to legislators.

**Key Points:**

- **Beneficiary Survey:**
  - Distributed to gather input on legislative priorities.
  - Modeled after DHHL’s outreach approach.
  - Deadline for responses: **September 15, 2025**
  - Trustees encouraged to share surveys with their networks and NHOs.

- **Trustee Engagement:**
  - One-on-one meetings scheduled with Trustees the week of **September 8–12, 2025.**
  - Purpose: Identify informational needs, follow-up issues from prior sessions, and align priorities before public discussion.
- **Initial Legislative Concepts:**
  - To be presented on **September 17, 2025**, based on survey data and trustee meetings.
  - This will not be the final bill package, but a conceptual framework for board alignment.
- **Legislative Reception:**
  - Originally scheduled for September 17, now moved to **September 29, 2025** due to scheduling conflicts.
- **Bill Drafting and Review:**
  - Staff will begin drafting bills after receiving Board alignment.
  - Draft legislative package to be presented as a BAE Action Item on **October 15, 2025.**
- **Community Feedback:**
  - Tentative package to be presented at the **Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs** meeting in late October.
  - Final legislative package to be voted on during **November 12 BAE Committee Meeting; and, if passed, ratified at the November 13, 2025 BOT meeting.**
- **Community Empowerment Forums:**
  - Scheduled for **November–December 2025.**
  - Advocacy Team to coordinate with other paia to identify optimal locations and partners for outreach.
- **Submission and Introduction:**
  - Final package submitted to legislative leadership by end of December.
  - Bills introduced via the **Native Hawaiian Caucus**, not through the Governor’s package.
- **Advocacy Team Focus Areas:**
  - Staff are now assigned to core subject areas to ensure coverage and expertise during session.
  - Areas include housing, education, health, cultural preservation, and economic development.
- **Action:**
  1. **Trustees to share beneficiary surveys** with their networks and NHOs.
  2. **Trustee aides to confirm availability** for one-on-one meetings during September 8–12.
  3. **Advocacy team to present initial legislative concepts** on September 17.
  4. **Draft bill package to be reviewed** on October 15–16.
  5. **Final legislative package to be voted on** November 12–13.
  6. **Community forums to be scheduled** for November–December in coordination with other paia

**Decision:**

Trustees acknowledged the timeline and agreed to participate in one-on-one meetings and outreach efforts.

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**III. NEW BUSINESS (continued)**

**C: Island Burial Council Nominations**

**Time:** 1:03pm

**Action Item: BAE #25-06 – Approval of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs 2025 nominees for the Moloka‘i Island Burial Council and authorization for administration to transmit nominations to the Governor.**

**Nominees Presented:**

- **La‘akea K. Poepoe – Nominee for Moloka‘i Island Burial Council**
- **Luanne Mahili Langford-Fabarito – Nominee for Ho‘olehua Pala‘u Representative, Moloka‘i Island Burial Council**

**Public Testimony:**

- **Time:** 1:04pm
- Committee Recording Secretary confirmed **no testifiers** signed up in person or online.

**Motion:**

- **Time:** 1:04pm
- **Motion to approve Action Item BAE 25-06 made by Trustee Lindsey**
- No discussion raised

**Roll Call Vote:**

- Trustee Ahuna – ‘Ae
- Vice Chair Akaka – ‘Ae
- Trustee Akina – ‘Ae
- Trustee Alapa – Excused
- Chair Galuteria – ‘Ae
- Trustee Kahele – ‘Ae
- Trustee Lindsay – ‘Ae
- Trustee Souza – Excused
- Trustee Waihe’e – Excused

**Excused:** *Trustees Alapa, Souza, and Waihe’e*

**Result:**

**Motion Passed (6-0)**

**ACTION ITEM BAE #25-06 PASSED**

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#### **IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

##### **Motion to enter Executive Session**

**Time:** 1:05pm

**Motion by:** Trustee Lindsey

**Purpose:** To discuss updates on **Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument**

- Committee Recording Secretary confirmed **no testifiers** signed up in person or online.

##### **Chair's Proposal:**

Before entering Executive Session, Chair Galuteria requested to take **Agenda Item 4: Community Concerns and Celebrations** out of order.

##### **Unanimous Consent:**

Granted by Trustees. No objections.

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#### **IV. COMMUNITY CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS**

**Time:** 1:06pm

- No concerns or celebrations were raised.
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#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION UPDATE**

**Time:** 1:07pm

**Chief Advocate Leina‘ala Ley confirmed there were no new updates on Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument**

- Trustee Lindsey withdrew motion to enter executive session.

**Executive Session Item III.a. DEFERRED**

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#### **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Time:** 1:07pm

**Presented by:** Vice Chair Akaka

##### **Summary:**

- On **August 19, 2025**, the Hawai‘i County Council’s Policy Committee on Environmental and Natural Resource Management held a hearing on a resolution regarding Pōhakuloa.
- Resolution was introduced by **Councilmember Rebecca Villegas** and supported by **eight voting council members**.
- Mahalo extended to beneficiaries and public testifiers.
- Vice Chair Akaka emphasized OHA’s **constitutional mandate** to advocate for Hawaiian Kingdom Crown and Government lands.
- Encouraged further Board and Administrative discussion on how to advance advocacy efforts.

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**V. ADJOURNMENT**

**Time:** 1:09 PM

**Motion to Adjourn:** Made by Trustee Akaka

**Roll Call Vote:**

<b>Trustee Name</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Trustee Ahuna	‘Ae
Vice Chair Akaka	‘Ae
Trustee Akina	‘Ae
Trustee Alapa	Excused
Chair Galuteria	‘Ae
Trustee Kahele	‘Ae
Trustee Lindsey	Excused
Trustee Souza	Excused
Trustee Waihe’e	Excused

*Excused: Trustees Alapa, Lindsey, Souza, and Waihe’e*

**Result:**

**Motion Passed (5-0)**

**MEETING ADJOURNED at 1:10pm**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lei-Ann Stender Durant".

Lei-Ann Stender Durant, Trustee Aide  
Committee Recording Secretary

A handwritten signature consisting of a stylized letter 'B' followed by a horizontal line.

Brickwood Galuteria, Trustee At-Large  
Committee Chair

Date Approved: 10/1/2025