

Brickwood Galuteria - Chairperson
Kaleihikina Akaka - Vice Chair

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KE'ENA KULEANA HAWAII
BENEFICIARY ADVOCACY AND EMPOWERMENT COMMITTEE
560 N. Nimitz Hwy., Suite 200
Honolulu, HI 96817

**MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON BENEFICIARY ADVOCACY AND
EMPOWERMENT**

DATE: Wednesday, August 26, 2026

TIME: 9 A.M.

PLACE: Remote Meeting by Interactive Conference Technology

Viewable at <https://www.oha.org/livestream> OR

Listen by phone: (213) 338-8477 Webinar ID: 992 5483 6796

This meeting can be viewed via livestream on OHA's website at www.oha.org/livestream or listened to by phone using the call-in information above. Additionally, this meeting can be viewed live on 'Ōlelo Community Media <http://olelo.org>. A physical meeting location, open to members of the public who would like to provide oral testimony or view the meeting, will be available at 560 N. Nimitz Hwy., Suite 200, Honolulu, HI 96817.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Minutes

A. February 18, 2026

B. April 1, 2026

III. Presentation by the Malu Project Ad Hoc Committee and Administration – Status Update and Discussion regarding the Malu Project, including implementation, current activities, coordination, and next steps.

IV. Presentation by Administration – International Repatriation Update. Informational briefing on upcoming OHA Europe and U.S. repatriation activities: 1) Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz (Berlin, Germany), and Musée National d'Histoire Naturelle (Paris, France) – October 13 to 21; and, 2) American Museum of Natural History (New York) – Late September 2026 – OHA Compliance Enforcement staff.

V. Executive Session§

Update on Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument and Sanctuary. The BAE Committee anticipates convening in an executive meeting pursuant to HRS § 92-5(a)(4) to consult with its legal counsel regarding the Board's powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities on potential litigation related to defense of resource protections in Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument and Sanctuary.

VI. Community Concerns and Celebrations

VII. Announcements

VIII. Adjournment

If you need an auxiliary aid/service or other accommodation due to a disability, please contact Keola Fong at (808) 626-5484 or by email at keolaf@oha.org as soon as possible. Requests made as early as possible have a greater likelihood of being fulfilled. Upon request, this notice is available in alternate/accessible formats.

In the event that the livestream public broadcast is interrupted and cannot be restored, the meeting may continue as audio-only through the phone number and Webinar ID provided at the beginning of this agenda. Meeting recordings will be made available on OHA's website

<https://www.oha.org/about/leadership/board-of-trustees/> as soon as practicable after the meeting.

Public Testimony will be called for each agenda item and must be limited to matters listed on the meeting agenda. Community Concerns and Celebrations is not limited to matters listed on the meeting agenda. Hawai'i Revised Statutes, Chapter 92, prohibits Board members from discussing or acting on matters not listed on the meeting agenda.

* The board packet will be available for the public to inspect at OHA's main office located at 560 N. Nimitz Hwy., Suite 200, Honolulu, HI 96817, no later than three full business days before the meeting. The board packet will also be made available on OHA's website, <https://www.oha.org/bac>, as soon as practicable thereafter.

§ Notice: This portion of the meeting will be closed pursuant to HRS § 92-5

Testimony can be provided to the Board of Trustees either as: (1) *written testimony* or (2) live, oral testimony online, by telephone, or at the physical meeting location during the remote meeting.

- (1) Persons wishing to provide *written testimony* on items listed on the agenda should submit testimony via email to botmeetings@oha.org or via postal mail to Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Attn: Board of Trustees Meeting Testimony, 560 N. Nimitz Hwy., Suite 200, Honolulu, HI 96817. Testimony is requested to be received at least twenty-four hours prior to the scheduled meeting to allow board members with sufficient time to review the testimony before the meeting. *Please note that all written testimony will be posted on OHA's meeting website. Please omit or redact any personal information (e.g., name, email address, phone number, home address, or materials) that you do not want to be disclosed publicly online.*

- (2) Persons wishing to provide *oral testimony online* during the remote meeting, please click on the link: <https://zoom.us/j/99254836796>

To provide oral testimony online, you will need:

- (1) a computer or mobile device to connect to the remote meeting, internet access, and
- (2) a microphone to provide oral testimony.

Persons wishing to provide oral testimony by telephone during the remote meeting may dial the phone number listed at the beginning of this agenda and enter the corresponding Webinar ID. Telephone participants will be able to provide oral testimony during the meeting.

Persons wishing to provide oral testimony at the physical meeting location can sign up the day of the meeting at the physical meeting location.

If you willfully disrupt the meeting, support staff will remove you from the Zoom meeting. You can continue to view the remainder of the meeting on the livestream or by telephone, as provided at the beginning of this agenda.

Oral testimony online, by telephone or at a physical meeting location will be limited to five (5) minutes.



Trustee Brickwood Galuteria, Chair
Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment

Date: 8/19/26



Beneficiary Advocacy & Empowerment Committee

II. Approval of Minutes

A. February 18, 2026

B. April 1, 2026

COMMITTEE ON BENEFICIARY ADVOCACY AND EMPOWERMENT (BAE)

February 18, 2026
9 a.m.
(via Interactive Conference Technology)

To view this meeting's recording, please click on the link below:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JxBShenw63E&t=7s>

MINUTES

TRUSTEES PRESENT

Brickwood Galuteria, Chair
Kaleihikina Akaka, Vice Chair
Keli'i Akina
Luana Alapa (arr. 9:30 a.m.)
Kaiali'i Kahele
Carmen Hulu Lindsey
Keoni Souza
John Waihe'e, IV

TRUSTEE EXCUSED

Dan Ahuna

BAE STAFF

Kyla Hee
Lei-Ann Stender Durant
Mark Watanabe
Nathan Takeuchi

GENERAL COUNSEL

Everett Ohta

ADMINISTRATION

Summer Sylva, Interim CEO
K. Sean Kekina, COO
Bill Brennan
Deja Ostrowski
Ku'uleianuhe Awo-Chun
McKenna Woodward
Kyle Saucier

BOARD OF TRUSTEES STAFF

Anuhe Diamond
Carina Lee
Pōhai Ryan
Pohailani Kealoha
Remy Keli'ihō'omalū

BOARD COUNSEL

Kapono Kiakona

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Galuteria called the February 18, 2026 meeting of the Committee on Advocacy and Empowerment (BAE) to order at 9:03 a.m.

Chair Galuteria shared his thoughts about the BAE Committee:

“Through advocacy and collaboration, we build pathways for empowerment. This committee's kuleana spans many areas including education, health, housing, culture, and economic well-being. We also work in close partnership with the Hawai‘i State Legislature as we move further into the [2026 legislative] session.”

(Time Stamp: 6:46/1:10:09)

Chair Galuteria acknowledged his staff, Trustee Aide Lei-Ann Stender Durant (serving as the committee recording secretary) and Secretary Kyla Hee (serving as the committee technology and information specialist).

Chair Galuteria asked Lei-Ann to call the roll

Roll Call

Present: Vice Chair Akaka, Trustees Akina, Kahele, Lindsey, Souza, Waihe’e IV, Chair Galuteria

Excused: Trustee Ahuna

Not Present during Roll Call: Trustee Alapa

With seven (7) board members present, a quorum was established.

(Time Stamp: 7:22/1:10:09)

II. STATUS OF OHA ACTIVITIES

a. Administration Update: Act 292 (2025) restrictive Housing Working Group and Act 241 (2024) Clean Slate Expungement Task Force – Progress and Participation by Advocacy Staff

(Time Stamp: 8:58/1:10:09)

Public Testimony

None

Presentation

Chair Galuteria invited **Public Policy Advocate, McKenna Woodward**, to join the Trustees at the Board table.

McKenna stated that she and Public Policy Manager, Deja Ostrowski, would be presenting both items regarding the status of OHA activities. Both initiatives directly advance OHA’s strategic priority to reduce Native Hawaiian involvement in the criminal legal system and to mitigate its long-term harms.

Subject: Justice System Policy Initiatives Update

Focus Area: Clean Slate Task Force and Restrictive Housing Working Group

McKenna opened with a broad overview of the Hawai‘i criminal legal system, emphasizing its disproportionate impact on Native Hawaiians (NH):

- Native Hawaiians represent approximately 37% of the incarcerated population, despite comprising only 21% of the state population.
- Solitary confinement (restrictive housing) remains a significant concern:
 - Some individuals have been held for months or years.
 - Documented impacts include severe psychological harm.
- Native Hawaiians already experience elevated rates of:
 - Depression
 - Anxiety
 - Suicide
- These conditions heighten the harm caused by restrictive housing practices.
- Criminal records create long-term barriers to:
 - Employment
 - Housing
 - Economic stability

Conclusion: The initiatives discussed address both:

- Incarceration conditions (restrictive housing)
- Post-release reintegration barriers (clean slate policy)

Clean Slate Task Force (Act 241)

Purpose and Framework

- Act 241 established the Clean Slate Task Force to develop recommendations for a state-initiated record-clearing program.
- Clean Slate policies aim to:
 - Automatically expunge or seal eligible records
 - Apply after sentence completion and a conviction-free period
- Comparable programs exist in 13 other states.

Key Policy Considerations

- Current Hawai‘i system is petition-based, which:
 - Impose administrative and financial burdens
 - Leads to low utilization and inequitable outcomes
- **Central debate:**
 - Fully automated expungement vs. personnel-driven processes

Task Force Status (as of early 2026)

- Still in consensus-building phase
- **Timeline:** Recommendations ongoing through 2027

Adopted Recommendation

- Expunged records should remain accessible to:
 - Criminal justice agencies
 - Law enforcement
- **Purpose:** Maintain public safety safeguards

OHA Advocacy Contributions

- Active participation in:
 - Monthly meetings
 - Subcommittees reviewing national best practices
- Successfully advocated for:
 - Inclusion of two justice-impacted individuals on the Task Force
- Drafted (September) policy recommendations including:
 - Automatic expungement for eligible offenses
 - Retroactive record clearing
 - Clear waiting periods
 - Defined exclusions
 - Secure implementation systems
 - Phased rollout (2026–2027)

****Note: These recommendations have not yet been adopted but are aligned with national best practices and OHA priorities.***

Coalition Engagement

- Participation in Clean Slate Hawai‘i Campaign Steering Committee, including partner organizations.
- **Role:**
 - Align messaging and legislative strategy
 - Ensure Native Hawaiian priorities remain centered

Restrictive Housing Working Group (Act 292, 2025)

Legislative Overview

- **Act 292** restricts use of restrictive housing effective July 1, 2026.
- Restrictive housing is defined as:
 - 20+ hours per day isolation (including solitary confinement)
- Establishes:
 - Enhanced oversight
 - Protections for vulnerable populations
- Represents a major policy shift toward limiting harmful isolation.

OHA Participation

- Active in:
 - Monthly working group meetings
 - Site visit to Hawai‘i Correctional Facility (October)

Legislative Defense Efforts

- OHA reviewed proposed Department of Corrections amendments that would have weakened **Act 292**.
- **Recommended:** *Oppose* amendments included in **SB2381**.
- Board adopted this recommendation as its official position.
- **Status:**
 - Referred to policy committees
 - Not scheduled for hearing (may no longer advance)

Data and Transparency Issues

- OHA formally requested baseline data including:
 - Number of individuals in restrictive housing
 - Duration of confinement
 - Demographics
 - Release conditions
- **Status:**
 - Received monthly facility logs
 - Additional requested data remains outstanding

Advocacy Priorities Moving Forward

- Protect integrity and intent of **Act 292**
- Improve transparency and accountability
- Secure complete data reporting
- Advance evidence-based, public health-centered policies

Definition of Vulnerable Populations (Act 292**)**

Statutorily defined groups include:

- Pregnant individuals
- Individuals under age 21
- LGBTQ+ individuals (perceived or identified)
- Individuals with behavioral or physical disabilities

Not currently included:

- Native Hawaiians
- Economic disadvantage

****Note: OHA is working within the group to expand and refine these definitions.***

Board of Trustees Questions and Responses

Gender Breakdown in Incarceration

- Question: Request for statistics separating male and female populations.
- Response: Not available at time of meeting; will be provided later.

Definition of “Vulnerable Populations”

- Clarified as defined in Act 292
- Acknowledgement that Native Hawaiians are not explicitly included.
- Economic disparity is also not included in current statute.

Additional Administrative Update

- Clarification regarding submission of testimonies via Rapid Response (RR):
 - Testimonies previously discussed (BAE meeting, February 11) were submitted.
 - Submission occurred despite lack of full Board ratification.
 - Action characterized as administrative/housekeeping.
- These items will proceed to the Board of Trustees (BOT).

Closing

- No further questions or discussion.
- Presentation concluded with acknowledgment and transition to next agenda item.

(Time Stamp: 11:01/1:10:09)

II. STATUS OF OHA ACTIVITIES (continued)

b. Administration Update – 2026 Legislative Session and Rapid Response Approval testimony submittal updates – No deliberation or decision-making

(Time Stamp: 19:50/11:10:09)

Chair Galuteria invited **Public Policy Manager, Deja Ostrowski**, to join the Trustees at the Board table.

Public Testimony

None

Presentation

Subject: Advocacy Update – Rapid Response Testimony Submittal and 2026 Legislative Session

Testimony Submission Update (Rapid Response Process)

Presentation Overview

- **Deja** provided an administrative update regarding testimony submissions.
- The update was characterized as routine/housekeeping in nature.

Background

- The Board had not formally ratified the full BAE (Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment Committee) matrix.
- Despite this, previously discussed testimonies (from February 11 BAE meeting) were:
 - Submitted through the Rapid Response (RR) process
 - Distributed to board members prior to the meeting

Clarifications Provided

- The submitted testimonies:
 - Reflected prior committee discussions
 - Had not changed substantively since review at last BAE meeting
- Purpose of update:
 - Ensure board awareness of submissions made without full board ratification
 - Maintain transparency regarding procedural steps

Procedural Status

- Testimonies are scheduled to proceed to the:
 - Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting for further consideration

Board Engagement

- Opportunity for discussion was offered.
- No substantive discussion or objections were raised.

Board Discussion

- Chair solicited:
 - Questions
 - Comments
- None were offered.

Legislative Session Overview and Matrix Briefing

Introduction to Legislative Update

- **Deja** provided an overview of:
 - Current legislative session status

Publication Constraints and Sunshine Law Compliance

- Timing Constraints
 - The matrix publication:
 - Occurred on Wednesday concurrent with BAE meeting (Feb. 11)
 - Due to a Monday holiday, the publication deadline was moved to an earlier time due to Sunshine Law compliance

Operational Impact

- Simultaneous obligations:
 - Legislative presentation occurred while matrix was being finalized
- Result:
 - Matrix represents a “snapshot in time” as required under Sunshine Law

Legislative Status Update

Key Deadlines

- Triple Referral Deadline:
 - Had passed
 - Resulted in a significant number of bills failing (dying)
- Upcoming Lateral Deadline:
 - Will further determine bill viability

Bill Tracking Approach

- Some bills that failed were retained in the matrix for tracking purposes because:
 - Previously deferred bills have shown the ability to be:
 - Revived (resurrected) in later hearings
- This reflects a cautious monitoring strategy

Matrix Revisions and Updates

Differences from Previously Published Matrix

- The packet provided included the following:
 - Minor housekeeping corrections
 - Updated bill information
- Format remains largely consistent for continuity

Highlighting System

- Changes were visually identified for clarity into two categories:
 - Bills that had:
 - Moved forward
 - Undergone significant amendments
 - Potentially required position changes
 - Bills flagged for:
 - Board attention and discussion
 - Discussion on leadership (Chair/Vice Chair) input

Board Action Strategy – Position Adjustments

Rationale

- Original matrix included:
 - A broad set of recommended positions across all tracked bills
- **Purpose:**
 - Allow flexibility in responding to rapidly changing legislation

Advocacy Approach

- **Deja** described strategy as:
 - Anticipating bill movement and viability
 - Adjusting recommendations dynamically based on:
 - Amendments
 - Legislative progress

Requested Board Action:

- Board was asked to:
 - Consider table changes (position adjustments) on specific bills
 - Focus especially on:
 - Bills that had materially changed in content

General Observations

- Legislative advocacy process is:
 - Highly dynamic and time-sensitive
 - Constrained by:
 - Statutory deadlines
 - Transparency laws
- **Staff maintained:**
 - Continuous monitoring
 - Adaptive strategy to align with evolving bill language and movement

Transition

- **Deja** indicated intention to:
 - Proceed through bill-by-bill review (not included in this segment)

(Time Stamp: 19:27/1:10:09)

III. NEW BUSINESS

a. 2026 OHA State Legislative Bill Package – Matrix 1

(Time Stamp: 24:15/1:10:09)

Public Testimony

None

Subject: Legislative Matrix Review – **Matrix 1**

Matrix 1 Overview

Identification of Package Bills

- **Public Policy Manager, Deja Ostrowski**, directed members to **Matrix 1**, noting specific items:
- **HB2100** Proposing an Amendment to the Hawai‘i State Constitution to Prohibit Destructive Live-Fire Military Training on Public Lands and
- **HB2105** Relating to Rent Stabilization represents OHA package bills that did not advance due to legislative deadlines and did not receive committee hearings prior to the referral deadlines.

Status of Package Bills

Package Bill HB2105

- **Deja** indicated:
 - The bill was anticipated to be challenging to advance
- **Next steps:**
 - OHA will continue efforts during the interim (off-session period)
 - Engagement planned with state agencies to:
 - Refine the bill
 - Improve likelihood of future hearings
- **Status:**
 - Not advancing this session, but active for future development
- **Commitment:**
 - OHA remains committed to pursuing the measure

HB2100 Relating to Constitutional Amendment (Military Training)

- **Proposal:**
 - Amendment to the Hawai‘i State Constitution to:
 - Prohibit live-fire military training
- **Summary of legislative activity:**
 - Conflicting indications were received regarding whether the bill would be scheduled for hearing.
 - OHA staff, including Chief Advocate, Leinā‘ala Ley, actively engaged at the Capitol and advocated for scheduling a hearing.
- **Outcome:**
 - Committee chairs ultimately did not schedule a hearing
- **Status:**
 - Bill did not advance

Status of Other OHA Bills

Active Measures

- **Deja** confirmed:
 - Other OHA-supported bills remain active
- Notable example:
 - **Aquarium Bill**
 - Scheduled for committee hearings (same day):
 - Morning session
 - Afternoon session
 - Significant community mobilization underway
 - OHA support activities included:
 - Providing lunch for community participants
 - Supporting testimony and presence at the Capitol

HB2120 Relating to Historic Preservation

- **Status:**
 - Original legislative vehicle was unlikely to pass (likely dead)
 - Ongoing efforts:
 - Working with legislators to identify an alternative vehicle
 - Seeking to advance the same policy concepts through other bills
 - Outlook:
 - Working with legislators to identify an alternative vehicle
 - **Deja** indicated anticipated continued movement

****Note: Bill was not highlighted as inactive due to these ongoing efforts***

Opportunity for Questions

- Chair invited:
 - Questions from members regarding **Matrix 1**
- **No questions were raised**

Recommended Actions

- **Deja** confirmed:
 - No proposed position changes for **Matrix 1**
- As a result:
 - **No vote required**
 - **No formal board action taken on this matrix**

Summary of Matrix 1 Status

- Package bills:
 - Not advancing this session
- Other OHA measures:
 - Continuing to move through the legislative process
- Strategic approach:
 - Maintain flexibility through:
 - Monitoring bill movement
 - Identifying alternative legislative vehicle

III. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

b. 2026 Legislature: OHA Position on Bills Naming OHA – Matrix 2

(27:17/1:10:09)

Subject: **Matrix 2** Review – Previously Approved Positions (Status Updates & Highlighted Bills)

Presentation: **Public Policy Manager, Deja Ostrowski**, provided an overview of **Matrix 2**, noting that this matrix reflects previously approved legislative positions, with updates

highlighting the status of select measures. The focus was on identifying bills that are actively moving and clarifying OHA's current stance.

Highlighted Measure – HB2231 Relating to Island Burial Councils

- **Description:**
 - **HB2231** proposes to transfer full authority over the Island Burial Council membership process to OHA, including the authority to appoint large landowner representatives.
- **Current Status:**
 - The bill is active and moving, with a hearing scheduled imminently.
- **OHA Position (Existing):** *Comment*
- **Staff Clarification of Position:**
 - OHA's advocacy recommendation under the comment position is:
 - Trustees were invited to provide input or discuss whether to affirm or revisit this position.
 - **No changes to the existing position were proposed during this segment.**

Public Land Trust (PLT) Bills

- **Description:**
 - Two key Public Land Trust (PLT) measures were identified as priority bills.
- **Status:**
 - Both bills are actively moving through the legislature
- **Advocacy Actions:**
 - Community action alerts have been issued encouraging support
 - Trustee testimony has been submitted in support
- **OHA Position:** *Support* (unchanged)

Clarification

- **Matrix 2 Amendments**
 - Staff explicitly clarified that:
 - No general amendments are being proposed to **Matrix 2** positions
 - The matrix largely reflected existing, previously adopted position.

Proposed Amendment

- **Measure:**
 - **SB 2903** Relating to a Clean Energy Economy
- **Proposed Change (Housekeeping Amendment):**
 - Change OHA position from current designation (unspecified in discussion segment) → *Monitor*

- **Clarification Requested:**
 - **Chair Galuteria** requested confirmation on other amendments:
- **Staff Confirmation:**
 - **SB2903** is the sole recommended amendment

Summary of Key Points

- **Matrix 2** consists of status updates only, with minimal proposed changes for **HB2331**
 - OHA maintains a Comment position with a nuanced stance:
 - Neutral on landowner appointments
 - Retain authority over Moku representatives
- **PLT Bills:**
 - Continue under active support with ongoing advocacy
- **Only amendment proposed:**
 - **SB2903** change position to Monitor

Motion made by **Chair Galuteria** to Approve OHA Staff's Bill Position
Recommendations for Bills Naming OHA as presented in **Matrix 2**, **except for:**
SB2903 Relating to a Clean Energy Economy from No Position → Monitor
(Time Stamp: 29:12/1:10:09)

Discussion

HB2046 Relating to the 'Ōlelo Hawai'i Commission

- **Vice Chair Akaka** reported her prior consultation with Larry Kimura, emphasizing the importance of strengthening representation within the proposed commission.
- It was noted that while the bill identifies various entities and stakeholder groups, it should explicitly include the Hawaiian Language Lexicon Committee.
- Members discussed the importance of maintaining 'Ōlelo Hawai'i as a living language, noting:
 - The need to preserve words from earlier generations.
 - The importance of ongoing word creation and adaptation to reflect modern contexts.
- Further discussion highlighted the importance of including recognized long-standing leaders (including kūpuna and mānaleo) in the movement, particularly those who have historically guided Hawaiian language revitalization efforts.
- Members also referenced the inclusion of the University of Hawai'i campuses (Hilo and Mānoa) but reiterated that practitioners and cultural leaders must also be represented.

Position Consideration

- The committee discussed whether to:
 - Maintain Support and incorporate recommendations into testimony, or
 - Amend the position to Support with Amendments.

- It was noted that:
 - Testimony had already been submitted on the bill.
 - The measure was moving forward legislatively and expected to be heard again.
 - Aligning the committee position with anticipated concerns of leadership (including **Vice Chair Akaka**'s priorities) would be beneficial

Motion Sequence

- **The prior motion was withdrawn by Trustee Souza** to allow for modification of the bill position.
(32:22/1:10:09)

[**Motion** made by **Trustee Souza** to approve OHA Staff's Bill Position Recommendations for Bills Naming OHA as presented in **Matrix 2**, **except for: SB2903** Relating to a Clean Energy Economy from No Position → Monitor]
(Time Stamp: 29:12/1:10:09)

**Note: Motion to withdraw prior motion (see above) was approved by mutual consent*

- **A new motion was introduced:**

Vice Chair Akaka moved to Approve OHA Staff's Bill Position Recommendations for Bills Naming OHA as presented in **Matrix 2**, **except for: SB2903** Relating to Clean Energy Economy designated as No Position → Monitor and **to amend HB2046** Relating to the 'Ōlelo Hawai'i Commission from a position of Support → Support with Amendments.
(Time Stamp: 32:28/1:10:09)

There being no further discussion, **Chair Galuteria** called for the vote.

Roll Call

Motion carried (8 – 0)

Yes: Trustees Akaka, Akina, Alapa, Kahele, Lindsey, Souza, Waihe'e IV, Chair Galuteria

Excused: Trustee Ahuna

(Time 33:09/1:10:09)

III. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

c. 2026 Legislature: OHA Position on Bills Affecting the Public Land Trust – Matrix 3

(Time Stamp: 33:40/1:10:09)

Public Testimony

None

Presentation

Review and Recommended Changes to Published Legislative Matrix Positions

Public Policy Manager, Deja Ostrowski, reported that three bills were previously included in the published legislative matrix with a Comment position. At the time of publication (approximately one week prior), these measures were flagged for further discussion at the Board table, which was why no final position had been adopted. Following additional review, monitoring, and evolving developments, **Deja** presented the Board with recommended position changes as outlined below:

SB 2692 Relating to Public Land

Subject: Acquisition through eminent domain of leasehold interest for the Grand Naniloa Golf Course.

Background:

- This bill relates to broader issues concerning Banyan Drive, which has been under active monitoring by staff.
- The matter was also previously discussed at the Board table
- Staff and advocacy teams had already provided testimony, including Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) testimony and Board-requested testimony submitted the prior day.

Recommendation:

- Change position from Comment → Monitor

Rationale:

- Current engagement efforts are focused on broader structural issues related to Banyan Drive, rather than commenting on this specific measure at this time.
- Continued monitoring is warranted given ongoing developments. **SB 3288** Relating to the Country Club Apartment Building, Hilo, Hawai‘i

Subject: Provides funding to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to remove the country club building.

Recommendation:

- Change position from Comment → Monitor

Rationale:

- This measure is also tied to the Banyan Drive area considerations.

- Consistent with the approach taken for **SB 2692**, **Deja** recommended the position of Monitor, rather than a position of Comment, while focusing advocacy on broader policy issues affecting the area. (Updated position recommendation: Comment → Monitor)

HB 1722/SB 2061 Relating to Residential Condominiums

Subject: Relating to residential leasehold terms (99-year lease)

Background:

- The published legislative matrix listed a position of Comment
- During Board deliberations, a decision was made to change the position to Oppose
- Due to Sunshine Law timing requirements, the matrix publication and Board decision occurred simultaneously, resulting in a discrepancy.

Recommendation:

- Officially update position from Comment → Oppose

Rationale:

- Aligns the official published matrix with the Board's earlier decision
- Ensures consistency and accuracy in official records.

Motion made by **Trustee Waihe'e IV** to approve OHA staff's bill position recommendations for Bills Affecting the Public Land Trust as presented in **Matrix 3**, **except for:**

SB2692 Relating to Public Land from Comment → Monitor

SB3288 Relating to the Country Club Apartment Building, Hilo, Hawai'i
from Comment → Monitor

HB1722 / SB2061 Relating to Environmental Assessments from Support with Amendments → Oppose
(Time Stamp: 36:13/1:10:09)

Discussion

None

There being no further discussion, **Chair Galuteria** called for the vote.

Roll Call

Motion carried (8 – 0)

Yes: Trustees Akaka, Akina, Alapa, Kahele, Lindsey, Souza, Waihe'e IV, Chair Galuteria

Excused: Trustee Ahuna

(Time Stamp: 37:07/1:10:09)

III. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

d. 2026 Legislature: OHA Position on Bills Affecting Natural Resources and Native Hawaiian Traditional and Customary Practices – Matrix 4

(Time Stamp: 37:43/1:10:09)

Public Testimony

None

Presentation

Public Policy Manager, Deja Ostrowski, provided informational highlights:

SB 3148 Relating to the Use of Public Lands

Staff Report:

- This measure is part of the Governor’s legislative package and was moving forward despite not being expected to advance.
- The bill was a direct response to ongoing litigation concerning the use of public lands, specifically involving the Kahala Hotel’s long-standing permit (50+ years) for a wedding chapel situated on public land.
- The measure proposed to redefine “public use,” effectively allowing the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to determine public use at its discretion if approved by the agency.
- Staff noted the bill references existing statutory authorities that permit uses such as hotel operations and mining.

Existing Position:

- Oppose (no change recommended)

Key Concerns Identified:

- Potential for expanded DLNR authority to reclassify or redefine land use without clear limitations.
- Risk of privatization of public lands under a broadened interpretation of “public use.”
- Significant community opposition and public concern have been expressed.

Trustee Clarification:

- **Chair Galuteria** summarized the bill’s implication that the Governor wants to grant DLNR power to rezone or change land use classifications broadly, which staff confirmed as an accurate interpretation.

Deja reported that several bills previously published in the matrix had since received hearings, prompting recommended position adjustments based on committee developments and incorporation of prior testimony.

Recommended Position Changes Following Hearings:

HB 1947 Relating to Tourism

Subject: Destination management and tourism governance (context includes HTA and County roles).

Previous Position: *Support*

Recommended Position: *Monitor*

Rationale:

- Multiple competing destination management measures are under consideration.
- Staff recommended deferring active engagement pending further clarity and coordination among stakeholders, including county governments and the Hawai‘i Tourism Authority (HTA).

HB 2593 / SB 3310 Relating to Mauna Kea

Previous Position: *No Position* (placeholder pending review)

Recommended Position: *Oppose*

Rationale:

- The bill extends not only master leases, but also associated permits, which raises concerns.
- Staff expressed that the broader extension of permits presents policy and management concerns beyond initial expectations.

HB 2433 Relating to Hawaiian Language

Subject: Establishes interpretive authority between Hawaiian-language and English-language versions of statutes.

Previous Position: *Support*

Recommended Position: *Comment*

Rationale:

- Committee amendments altered the measure.
- Staff recommended transitioning to a position of *Comment* to reflect nuanced concerns and align with positions taken by entities such as University of Hawai‘i at Hilo and other experts.
- Allowed continued engagement while addressing implementation and interpretive considerations.

SB 2322 Relating to Environmental Assessments

Previous Position: *Support with Amendments*

Recommended Position: *Support*

Rationale:

- All amendments proposed by OHA were adopted during the hearing process.
- Staff confirmed that the bill reflected OHA’s policy recommendations in full.

Motion made by **Trustee Waihe'e, IV** to approve staff's bill recommendations affecting Natural Resources and Native Hawaiian Traditional and Customary Practices – **Matrix 4, except for:**
HB 1947 Relating to Tourism from Support → Monitor

HB 2433 / SB2314 Relating to Hawaiian Language from Support → Comment

HHB 2593 / SB 3310 Relating to Maunakea from No Position → Oppose

SB 2322 Relating to Environmental Assessments from Support with Amendments → Support
(Time Stamp: 43:41/1:10:09)

Discussion

None

There being no further discussion, **Chair Galuteria** called for the vote.

Roll Call

Motion carried (6 – 1)

Yes: *Trustees Akaka, Alapa, Kahele, Lindsey, Souza, Waihe'e IV, Chair Galuteria*

Abstain: *Trustee Akina*

Excused: *Trustee Ahuna*

(Time Stamp: 43:53/1:10:09)

Key Themes & Observations

- Increased vigilance regarding public land use and governance authority, particularly in response to **SB3148**.
- Strategic shift toward monitoring or calibrated engagement where policy landscapes were still evolving (e.g., tourism).
- Continued emphasis on ensuring OHA recommendations were incorporated into legislation, with positive outcomes noted (**SB 2322**).
- Willingness to strengthen opposition where expanded authority or lease extensions raised substantive concerns.

III. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

d. 2026 Legislature: OHA Position on Bills Affecting Native Hawaiian Housing – Matrix 5

(Time Stamp: 44:25/1:10:09)

Public Testimony

None

Presentation

Public Policy Manger, Deja Ostrowski, explained that the following recommended amendments to **Matrix 5**, based on prior Board discussions, testimony received, and committee amendments adopted during the legislative process:

- **SB 2061 Relating to Residential Condominiums**

Staff reported that **SB 2061** involved one of several measures concerning 99-year leasehold condominium proposals previously discussed by the Board. To ensure consistency with prior Board direction, staff recommended changing the position on the bill from Comment to Oppose. Staff explained that this amendment was a housekeeping correction to accurately reflect the Board's earlier discussion and intent.

Staff also reported that **SB 2061** involved one of several measures concerning 99-year leasehold condominium proposals previously discussed by the Board. To ensure consistency with prior Board direction, staff recommended changing the position on the bill from Comment to Oppose. Staff explained that this amendment was a housekeeping correction to accurately reflect the Board's earlier discussion and intent.

- **SB 2957 Relating to Housing**

Staff next addressed **SB 2957**. Staff explained that the Office continued to support the House version of the measure, which would provide existing tenants of publicly financed housing projects that are later privatized with priority consideration and an opportunity to apply for housing units. Staff noted that the policy was viewed as a mechanism to help residents remain in their communities.

Staff reported that the Senate version had been amended to establish a working group rather than implement the substantive policy provisions originally supported. Because the Office was already supporting several housing-related working groups and did not believe additional support for another working group was warranted, staff recommended changing the position on the Senate version from Support to Comment. Staff clarified that the House version remained acceptable and continued moving forward in the form originally supported.

Regarding **SB 2957**, staff explained that OHA continued to support the House version of the measure, which would provide existing tenants of publicly financed housing projects that are later privatized with priority consideration and an opportunity to apply for housing units. Staff noted that the policy was viewed as a mechanism to help local residents remain in their communities.

However, staff reported that the Senate version had been amended to establish a working group rather than implement the substantive policy provisions originally supported. Because the Office was already supporting several housing-related working groups and did not believe additional support for another working group was warranted, staff recommended changing the position on the Senate version from Support to Comment. Staff clarified that the House version remained acceptable and continued moving forward in the form originally supported.

Staff concluded that these were the only recommended amendments to **Matrix 5**.

Motion was made by **Trustee Waihe'e, IV** to approve the recommendations for bills presented in **Matrix 5**, with the following amendments:

SB 2061 (Residential Condominiums): Change position from Comment → Oppose.

SB2957 (Housing) : Change position from Support → Comment.
(Time Stamp: 43:50/1:10:09)

Discussion

None

There being further discussion, **Chair Galuteria** called for the vote.

Roll Call

Motion carried (8 - 0)

Yes: *Trustees Akaka, Alapa, Kahele, Lindsey, Souza, Waihe'e IV, Chair Galuteria*

Excused: *Trustee Ahuna*

(Time Stamp: 43:53/1:10:09)

III. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

f. 2026 Legislature: OHA Position on Bills Affecting Native Hawaiian Health – Matrix 6

(Time Stamp: 46:47/1:10:09)

Public Testimony

None

Presentation

Staff reported that two recommended amendments were proposed primarily due to staff capacity, workload considerations, and available resources. The recommended changes reflected a reduction in advocacy efforts rather than substantive opposition to the measures.

- **SB 2010 Relating to Vehicle Impoundment**

Staff reported **SB 2010** would authorize the impoundment of vehicles following certain traffic violations. Staff noted that OHA had originally taken an Oppose position because reliable access to a vehicle is critically important for many beneficiaries. However, due to workload and prioritization concerns, staff recommended changing the position from Oppose to Comment.

- **SB 2047 Relating to Pharmacy Benefit Managers**

Staff explained the measure concerned pharmacy benefit managers and was intended to improve access to medications. Staff stated that while the OHA generally supported the policy objectives of ensuring medication accessibility and workload demands, the volume of testimony being submitted necessitated a reduction in active advocacy. Accordingly, staff recommended changing the position from Support to Monitor at this time. Staff emphasized that the recommendation was based on resource constraints and testimony workload rather than a change in the OHA's underlying assessment of the bill's merits.

Staff concluded that these were the only proposed amendments under the Native Hawaiian Health matrix.

Staff presented several recommended amendments to **Matrix 6** based on prior Board discussions, testimony received, and committee amendments adopted during the legislative process.

- **SB 2061 Relating to Residential Condominiums**

Staff reported that SB 2061 involved one of several measures concerning 99-year leasehold condominium proposals previously discussed by the Board. To ensure consistency with prior Board direction, staff recommended changing the position on the bill from Comment to Oppose. Staff explained that this amendment was a housekeeping correction to accurately reflect the Board's earlier discussion and intent.

- **SB 2957 Relating to Housing**

Staff explained that the Office continued to Support the House version of the measure, which would provide existing tenants of publicly financed housing projects that are later privatized with priority consideration and an opportunity to apply for housing units. Staff noted that the policy was viewed as a mechanism to help local residents remain in their communities.

However, staff reported that the Senate version had been amended to establish a working group rather than implement the substantive policy provisions originally supported. Because the Office was already supporting several housing-related working groups and did not believe additional support for another working group was warranted, staff recommended changing the position on the Senate version from Support to Comment. Staff clarified that the House version remained acceptable and continued moving forward in the form originally supported.

Staff concluded that these were the only recommended amendments to **Matrix 5**.

Motion made by **Trustee Waihe'e** to approve OHA staff's bill position recommendations for bills as presented in **Matrix 5** except for:

SB 2061 Residential Condominiums from Comment → Oppose.

SB 2957 Housing, Senate Version from Support → Comment.

Discussion

None

There being no further discussion, **Chair Galuteria** called for the vote.

Roll Call

Motion carried (8 – 0)

Yes: *Trustees Akaka, Alapa, Kahele, Lindsey, Souza, Waihe'e IV, Chair Galuteria*

Excused: *Trustee Ahuna*

(Time Stamp: 46:33/1:10:09)

III. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

f. OA Position on Bills Affecting Native Hawaiian Health

(Time Stamp: 46:57/1:10:09)

Public Testimony

None

Staff Presentation

Public Policy Manager, Deja Ostrowski, reported that two recommended amendments were proposed primarily due to staff capacity, workload considerations, and available resources. The recommended changes reflected a reduction in advocacy efforts rather than substantive opposition to the measures.

- **SB 2010 Relating to Vehicle Impoundment**
Staff explained this bill would authorize the impoundment of vehicles following certain traffic violations. Staff noted that OHA originally took an Oppose position because reliable access to a vehicle is critically important for many beneficiaries. However, due to workload and prioritization concerns, staff recommended changing the position from Oppose to Comment.
- **SB 2047 Relating to Pharmacy Benefit Managers**
Staff reported his measure concerned pharmacy benefit managers and was intended to improve access to medications. Staff stated that while OHA generally supported the policy objectives of ensuring medication accessibility, workload demands and the volume of testimony being submitted necessitated a reduction in active advocacy. Accordingly, staff recommended changing the position from Support to Monitor at this time. Staff emphasized that the recommendation was based on resource constraints and testimony workload rather than a change in OHA's underlying assessment of the bill's merits.
Staff concluded that these were the only proposed amendments under the Native Hawaiian Health matrix.

Motion made by **Trustee Akaka** to approve OHA staff's bill position recommendations for bills as presented in **Matrix 6** except for:

SB 2010 Relating to Motor Vehicles from Comment → Oppose.

SB 2047 Relating to Pharmacy Benefit Managers from Support → Monitor

(Time Stamp: 49:27/1:10:09)

Discussion

None

There being no discussion, Chair Galuteria called for the vote.

Roll Call

Motion carried (8 – 0)

Yes: *Trustees Akaka, Alapa, Kahele, Lindsey, Souza, Waihe'e IV, Chair Galuteria*

Excused: *Trustee Ahuna*

(Time Stamp: 49:00/1:10:09)

III. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

g. 2026 Legislature: OHA Position on Bills Affecting Native Hawaiian Education – Matrix 7

(Time Stamp: 49:27/1:10:09)

Public Testimony

None

Presentation

No changes in positions

Motion made by, **Trustee Waihe'e, IV** to approve OHA staff's bill position recommendations for bills as presented in Matrix 7.

(Time Stamp: 51:08/1:10:09)

Discussion

None

There being no discussion, **Chair Galuteria** called for the vote.

Roll Call

Motion carried (8 – 0)

Yes: *Trustees Akaka, Alapa, Kahele, Lindsey, Souza, Waihe'e IV, Chair Galuteria*

Excused: *Trustee Ahuna*

(Time Stamp: 51:18/1:10:09)

III. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

h. 2026 Legislature: OHA Position on Bills Affecting Native Hawaiian Economic Stability – Matrix 8

Public Testimony

None

Presentation

No changes in positions

Motion made by **Trustee Lindsey** to approve OHA staff's bill position recommendations for bills as presented in **Matrix 8**.

(Time Stamp: 52:12/1:10:09)

Discussion

None

There being no discussion, Chair Galuteria called for the vote.

Roll Call

Motion carried (7 – 1)

Yes: *Trustees Akaka, Alapa, Kahele, Lindsey, Souza, Waihe'e IV, Chair Galuteria*

Abstained: *Trustee Akina*

Excused: *Trustee Ahuna*

(Time Stamp: 52:26/1:10:09)

i. 2026 Legislature: OHA Position on Bills Affecting Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter 6E (Iwi Kūpuna and Historic Preservation) – Matrix 9

(Time Stamp: 52:27/1:10:09)

Public Testimony

None

Presentation

No changes in positions

Motion made by **Trustee Akaka** to approve OHA staff's bill position recommendations for bills as presented in **Matrix 9**.

(Time Stamp: 53:24/1:10:09)

Discussion

None

There being no discussion, Chair Galuteria called for the vote.

Roll Call

Motion carried (8 – 0)

Yes: *Trustees Akaka, Akina, Alapa, Kahele, Lindsey, Souza, Waihe'e IV, Chair Galuteria*

Excused: *Trustee Ahuna*

(Time Stamp: 53:35/1:10:09)

Amendment to Matrix 3 Bills Affecting the Public Land Trust (HB 2592)

(Time Stamp: 54:09/1:10:09)

Chair Galuteria indicated that the Committee would return to **Matrix 3** to address concerns raised by **Trustee Akaka** regarding a previously approved legislative position.

Trustee Akaka moved to reconsider the committee's approval of **Matrix 3** as it related specifically to **HB 2592**, concerning the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority.

Trustee Akaka explained that, upon further review, provisions previously identified as problematic remained within the bill, despite subsequent amendments. Specifically, the bill continued to require the University of Hawai'i to transfer various Mauna Kea Astronomical Observatory Conservation District Use Permits to the new authority.

Trustee Akaka noted that at the prior meeting the committee had changed OHA's position from *Support* to *Comment* due to those concerns. The published matrix, however, did not reflect that change and needed correction to maintain consistency with the board's earlier action.

During discussion, trustees and staff clarified the parliamentary procedure. Rather than a formal reconsideration of the entire action, the matter was characterized as an amendment to a specific portion of a previously approved motion. **Chair Galuteria** summarized the action as a housekeeping correction necessary to accurately reflect the Board's prior direction.

Motion made by **Trustee Akaka** to reconsider the position taken at the February 11, 2026 BAE meeting relating to **Matrix 3 Bills Affecting the Public Land Trust (HB 2592)** to correct the position of *Support* to the position of *Comment* to be consistent with the prior vote taken.
(Time Stamp: 57:06/1:10:09)

Discussion

None

There being no discussion, **Chair Galuteria** called for the vote.

Roll Call

Motion carried (8 – 0)

Yes: *Trustees Akaka, Akina, Alapa, Kahele, Lindsey, Souza, Waihe'e IV, Chair Galuteria*

Excused: *Trustee Dan Ahuna*

(Time Stamp: 57:33/1:10:09)

III. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

i. Action Item BAE #26-04 – Authroization of Sign-On to Letter of Support for the Hawai'i Alliance Task Force

(Time Stamp: 58:00/1:10:09)

Motion made by **Trustee Souza** to authorize the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees to sign the letter of support for the Hawai'i Education Alliance Task Force on behalf of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA).

Public Testimony

None

Presentation

Ku'uleianuhea Awo-Chun, Director of Education and Culture-Based Learning

(Time Stamp: 59:04/1:10:09)

Ku'uleianuhea (aka **Staff**) provided background on the **Hawai'i Education Alliance Task Force**, a collaborative initiative co-led by OHA and Keiki o Ka 'Āina.. She reminded the Board that **Phase One** of the task force had previously been presented to the Trustees, outlining initial findings and recommendations.

Staff further explained that **Phase Two** focused on transitioning from assessment to implementation. Representatives from participating organizations met to develop coordinated action plans based on the Phase One findings. The work resulted in specific, actionable

recommendations intended to strengthen Hawai‘i's education system amid growing fiscal uncertainty.

Key outcomes of Phase Two included:

- Development of a comprehensive fiscal mapping of how federal education funds flow throughout Hawai‘i's education system.
- Identification of potential impacts should federal funding become reduced or uncertain.
- Creation of a coordinated communications strategy spanning:
 - Early childhood education (Pre-K);
 - K–12 education;
 - Higher education; and
 - Community education organizations.

Staff explained that the strategy was intended to ensure organizations serving Native Hawaiian education interests could communicate and advocate with a unified voice.

Staff reported that 27 participating organizations formally endorsed the Phase Two findings and signed a joint support letter.

The action before the Board requested authorization for OHA to sign onto the coalition letter.

Staff clarified that:

- Signing the letter would not obligate OHA to provide funding;
- The letter does not legally bind OHA to implement any of the recommended actions;
- Signing simply indicates OHA's agreement with the task force's findings, priorities, and

Ku‘uleianuhe further noted that while the letter itself does not create financial commitments, it encourages Hawaiian trust organizations to begin coordinating and discussing potential funding strategies to address anticipated service gaps affecting Native Hawaiian communities.

As an example, she cited funding uncertainties facing Family Child Interaction Learning (FCIL) Centers, including programs such as Tūtū and Me and Nā Pono ‘Ohana, explaining that closure of these early childhood programs would disproportionately affect young learners in rural and underserved Native Hawaiian communities.

Staff emphasized that any future funding decisions would require separate consideration by the Board and that the current action was limited solely to supporting the task force's recommendations through the coalition letter.

Staff concluded the presentation and invited questions from the Trustees.

Discussion

(1:02:45 – 1:04:11)

Chair Galuteria reminded Trustees that a motion was already pending and opened the floor for questions and comments.

Trustee Akaka expressed appreciation for both the intent and structure of the proposed letter of support. The Vice Chair observed that the document appropriately:

- Signals organizational alignment;
- Demonstrates consistency and steadiness among participating organizations;
- Affirms shared priorities;
- Endorses collaborative strategic direction.

Trustee Akaka commented that OHA could benefit from developing similar collaborative advocacy efforts beyond education, particularly regarding matters central to OHA's mission, including:

- County, state, and federal advocacy initiatives;
- Crown and Government Lands;
- The Public Land Trust revenue issues; and
- Other Native Hawaiian policy priorities.

She further stated that pursuing comparable coalition-based advocacy would align with OHA's Strategic Plan and organizational mission. **Trustee Akaka** suggested that organizations participating in the education coalition could also become valuable partners in broader Native Hawaiian advocacy initiatives.

She voiced support for the action item and thanked staff for bringing the recommendation before the Board. **Trustee Akaka** concluded by encouraging continued integration of coalition-building efforts into OHA's public policy, advocacy, and community engagement strategies, emphasizing the importance of collective advocacy and unified Native Hawaiian voices.

Chair Galuteria expressed support for the collaborative nature of the Hawai'i Education Alliance Task Force, noting the value of organizations communicating and working together, particularly in light of the current federal climate and uncertainty surrounding education funding. The **Chair** stated that collaboration allows organizations to learn from one another and avoid repeating mistakes, characterizing the partnership as a positive and worthwhile effort.

There being no further discussion, Chair Galuteria called for the vote.

Roll Call

Motion carried (7 – 0)

Yes: *Trustees Akaka, Akina, Alapa, Lindsey, Souza, Waihe'e IV, Chair Galuteria*

Excused: *Trustees Ahuna, Kahele*

(Time Stamp: 1:04:56/1:10:

IV. COMMUNITY CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

(Time Stamp: 1:05:31/1:10:09)

None

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Time Stamp: (1:05:57/1:10:091)

Chair Galuteria shared several announcements:

Kūpuna Programming Initiative

Beginning March 4, 2026, OHA would launch kūpuna programming on the second floor outside the Trustee suite during Board meetings.

Programs will include:

- Lauhala weaving;
- Yoga;
- Hanafuda card activities;
- Digital literacy instruction provided through Tech Savvy Teens and
- Tai Chi classes begin March 11, 2026.

The **Chair** stated that the programming would provide meaningful opportunities for kūpuna engagement while Board meetings are in session.

Staff Recognition

Chair Galuteria recognized the dedication and importance of OHA staff, describing the organization as one extended ‘ohana and announced that his secretary, **Kyla** [Hee], would be leaving OHA after her final Budget and Administration/Executive Committee meeting to pursue a career in acting.

The **Chair** acknowledged that her departure would be a significant loss to the office, extended heartfelt appreciation for her service, and wished her success in her future endeavors. Trustees shared lighthearted comments during the announcement.

Chair Galuteria concluded by encouraging everyone to value relationships within their office "families."

(Time: 1:08:08 – 1:10:09)

Trustee Akaka highlighted attendance at the **Kūkahakalā** event held the previous Saturday at **Nā Lama Kukui**.

She reported that the gathering brought together mānaleo (native Hawaiian language speakers) and community members committed to strengthening ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i. The event featured:

- Hawaiian language competitions
- Speeches
- Cultural presentations
- Recognition and honoring of native speakers
- Community engagement centered on Hawaiian language revitalization

Trustee Akaka remarked that it was especially meaningful to hear Hawaiian being spoken throughout the OHA building and expressed appreciation for the event's success in celebrating and perpetuating the Hawaiian language.

No additional announcements were offered by Trustees.

Adjournment

(Time: 1:08:56 – 1:10:09)

With no further business before the Committee, the **Chair** requested a motion to adjourn.

Motion made by **Trustee Waihe’e** to Adjourn the February 18, 2026
Meeting of the Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment.
(Time Stamp: 1:09:02/1:10:09)

Discussion

None

There being no discussion, **Trustee Galuteria** called for the vote.

Roll Call

Motion carried (8 – 0)

Yes: *Trustees Akaka, Akina, Alapa, Kahele, Lindsey, Souza, Waihe’e IV, Chair Galuteria*

Excused: *Trustee Ahuna*

(Time Stamp: 1:09:08/1:10:09)

Chair Galuteria announced that the meeting adjourned at approximately **10:07 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lei-Ann Stender Durant, Trustee Aide
Committee Recording Secretary

Brickwood Galuteria, Trustee At-Large
Chair, OHA Committee on Advocacy and Empowerment (BAE)

Approved:

COMMITTEE ON BENEFICIARY ADVOCACY AND EMPOWERMENT (BAE)

April 1, 2026
9 a.m.
(via Interactive Conference Technology)

To view this meeting's recording, please click on the link below:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9wEO8dV1sAI&t=1581s>

MINUTES

TRUSTEES PRESENT

Brickwood Galuteria, Chair
Kaleihikina Akaka, Vice Chair
Dan Ahuna
Keli'i Akina
Luana Alapa (9:20am arrival)
Kaiali'i Kahele (9:58am departure)
Carmen Hulu Lindsey
Keoni Souza
John Waihe'e, IV (10:08am arrival)

BAE STAFF

Lei-Ann Stender Durant
Mark Watanabe
Momi Ka'aihue
Nathan Takeuchi

BOT STAFF

Carina Lee
Kanani Iaea
Pōhai Ryan

ADMINISTRATION

Summer Sylva, Interim CEO
Sean Kekina, COO
Bill Brennan
Carla Hostetter
Deja Ostrowski
Hailama Farden
Kyle Saucier
Leinā'ala Ley

BOARD COUNSEL

Kapono Kiakona

GENERAL COUNSEL

Everett Ohta

I. CALL TO ORDER

The April 1, 2026 meeting of the Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment was called to order at 9 a.m.

(Time Stamp: 3:29/1:16:25)

Roll Call

Quorum established (7-0)

Present: *Trustees Ahuna, Akaka, Akina, Kahele, Lindsey, Souza, Chair Galuteria*

Not Present for roll call: *Trustees Alapa and Waihe'e IV*

(Time Stamp: 4:06/1:16:25)

**Note: Trustee Kahele excused from meeting at 9:58 a.m.*

II. NEW BUSINESS

Public Testimony – Given for New Business Items A. and B.

The Unity Party (Pikachu Billionaire) – Supported all items on the Agenda, recognized the Trustees for all their hard work, and thanked the Board for all the work they do.

(Time Stamp: 6:38/1:16:25)

**Note: There was no discussion, deliberation, or decision-making on the following items.*

A. Administrative Update – 2026 Legislative Session and Rapid Response Approval (RRA) Testimony Submittal Updates – No deliberation or decision-making.

(Time Stamp: 7:47/1:16:25)

Presentation – Chief Advocate, Leinā'ala Ley

RRA Update

Staff reported that two RRA testimony submissions were made during the past week and distributed through the 48-hour notice and included on the meeting matrixes.

1. SR 84 - Halawa Facility Rehabilitation

- Testimony was submitted in support of a resolution encouraging that, if Halawa Correctional Facility is upgraded, consideration be given to operating it as a rehabilitative facility rather than focusing solely on incarceration.
- The position was consistent with prior OHA advocacy regarding the disproportionate impact of the criminal justice system on Native Hawaiians and support for cultural diversion courts and other rehabilitation-focused approaches.
- The resolution is listed on Matrix 6 for further Board discussion and approval.

2. HR 189 / HCR 199 - Return of Federal Surplus Lands

- Testimony supported the intent of the resolution, which requests the return of surplus federally held lands under existing federal law.
- OHA recommended removing language by directing the Public Land Trust (PLT) Working Group to conduct a fair market value assessment of federally held lands.
- Staff explained that such an assessment falls outside the scope of the PLT Working Group's mandate, which focuses on state-held lands, and noted that Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) previously estimated the cost of conducting such an assessment at approximately \$2 million, a cost for which the Working Group has no funding.
- The requested amendment would remove references to the PLT Working Group from the resolution.
- Staff noted that one of the resolutions is listed on **Matrix 3** for discussion and indicated that the items could be flagged when the Board reaches the appropriate matrix for further discussion.

Action: No Board action was required. The report was provided for informational purposes only. Staff will identify the resolutions during the matrix discussions should Trustees wish to discuss them further.

II. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

B. Administrative Update – 2026 Federal and County Level Legislative Proposals Affecting Native Hawaiians – No deliberation or decision-making
(Time Stamp: 10:36/1:16:25)

Public Testimony

Pikachu Billionaire: urged DLNR to defer rulemaking until the conclusion of the legislative session and allow the Legislature to act on the issue before proceeding.

Presentation – Chief Advocate Leinā‘ala Ley

Staff provided two advocacy updates regarding activities outside the legislative session:

1. Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument

- Staff testified at a Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (WestPac) meeting in opposition to reopening the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument to commercial fishing.
- The testimony was consistent with prior Board of Trustees positions and OHA's role as co-trustee of Papahānaumokuākea.

2. HB2101 – Relating to Commercial Aquarium Collection

- Staff testified at a Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) public hearing regarding a proposed aquarium collection rulemaking package.
- Staff expressed concern that the proposed rulemaking was inconsistent with OHA's legislative package bill, **HB2101**, which remains active during the

current legislative session.

Trustees confirmed that the advocacy positions presented were consistent with previously adopted OHA positions.

Chair Galuteria reminded Trustees that ten matrixes were on the agenda, noted that no motion would be made on **Matrix 1**, and advised that discussion and voting would occur on agenda items associated with **Matrixes 2 through 10**.

Action: Informational update only; no Board action taken.

II. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

C. OHA Positions on 2026 Legislative Bills

1. 2026 OHA State Legislative Bill & Measures Package - Matrix 1

(Time Stamp: 12:34/1:16:25)

Public Testimony

None

Presentation – Chief Advocate, Leinā‘ala Ley, and Public Policy Manager, Deja Ostrowski

(Time Stamp: 12:57/1:16:25)

**Note: There was no motion or vote on Matrix 1*

Staff reported on the status of OHA's 2026 legislative package measures and noted that no motion or vote would be taken on **Matrix 1**.

OHA's six package bills:

- **HB2101 - Relating to Commercial Aquarium Collection** remains active under its original bill number and is scheduled for its final hearing before the Senate Committees on Energy, Commerce and Consumer Protection and Judiciary. OHA submitted written testimony in support. If approved, the measure will advance to conference committee.
- **HB2104 – Relating to Island Burial Councils** also remains active and is awaiting scheduling for its final hearing before the Senate Committee on Water and Land.
- **HB2102 - Relating to Historic Preservation** no longer remains active under its original bill number; however, its substantive language was incorporated into **HB1710 - Relating to Historic Preservation**. Staff explained that **HB1710** is an appropriate legislative vehicle for the language, allowing the proposal to continue moving through the legislative process.

- During Trustee discussion, staff clarified that while only **HB2101 – Relating to Commercial Aquarium Collection** and **HB 2104 – Relating to Island Burial Councils** remain alive under their original numbers, three OHA package proposals continue to advance substantively due to the incorporation of **HB 2102 – Relating to Historic Preservation** language into **HB 1710**.

Trustees acknowledged that legislative concepts are frequently consolidated into other measures as the session progresses. Staff further noted that the subject matter of **HB 1710** aligns closely with the intent of **HB 2102**, making the transfer of language appropriate.

Action: *Informational update only. No motion was made and no vote was taken.*

II. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

C. OHA Positions on 2026 Legislative Bills

2. 2026 Legislature: OHA Position on Bills & Measures Naming OHA - Matrix 2 (Time Stamp: 15:49/1:16:25)

Public Testimony

None

Presentation - Chief Advocate, Leinā‘ala Ley, and Public Policy Manager, Deja Ostrowski

(Time Stamp: 16:15/1:16:25)

Staff highlighted several bills and resolutions for trustee awareness and potential position updates:

Informational Items

SB2313 – Relating Public Financing for Elections

- Staff reported continued advocacy for parity in public election financing between OHA trustee elections and the Lieutenant Governor's race.
- Amendments to the bill would increase funding available for OHA elections but would still not place OHA on equal footing with the Lieutenant Governor's race.
- OHA will continue submitting testimony supporting its preferred amendments.

HCR19 – Relating to Surplus Military Lands

- Staff noted prior testimony had been submitted before a board-approved position was established.
- Discussion focused on the availability of a reliable inventory of federally held lands.
- Staff clarified that the Public Land Trust Working Group addresses state-held lands only and does not include federally held lands.
- The resolution concerns federal lands that may be surplus to defense needs and potentially subject to return to the State under Public Law 88-233.
- Examples discussed included lands near the Hale Koa Hotel and recreational-use

military lands such as Bellows.

Trustees discussed whether lands used for non-defense purposes should be evaluated for surplus status and possible return to the State.

Recommended Position Changes

HB 2046 - Relating to the Ola Hawai'i Commission

- Staff recommended changing OHA's position from Support to Support with Amendments.
- The recommendation was made to provide flexibility for OHA to support amendments being advanced by community stakeholders.

HB 2584 - Relating to the Public Land Trust

- Staff reported OHA's continued support for a temporary two-year increase in annual Public Land Trust funding. Trustees were advised that OHA was seeking appropriation.
- Staff reported OHA's continued support for a temporary two-year increase in annual Public Land Trust funding.
- Trustees were advised that OHA is seeking appropriation of approximately **\$55 million** currently held in the State's carryover trust account, representing revenues previously identified by state agencies as owed to OHA.
- Staff further reported that language previously opposed by the Attorney General had been removed from the measure. The revised bill now specifies a funding amount rather than referencing a percentage entitlement, which staff stated simplifies administration while maintaining the bill's intended purpose.

SCR 117 – Nominating John D. Waihe'e, III, for Induction into the Aloha Order of Merit

- Staff informed trustees of a scheduled hearing before the Hawaiian Affairs Committee on **SCR117**, which nominates former Governor John D. Waihe'e, III, for induction into the Aloha Order of Merit. OHA intends to submit testimony in support.

Trustees discussed the history, purpose, and significance of the Aloha Order of Merit.

Motion made by **Chair Galuteria** to approve OHA staff positions for bills and measures naming OHA as presented in **Matrix 2**, except for: **HB 2046 - Relating to the 'Ōlelo Hawai'i Commission** by changing OHA's position from Support to Support with Amendments.

HB 2584 – Relating to the Public Land Trust by changing OHA's position from Support to Support with Amendments

(Time Stamp: 25:55/1:19:25)

Discussion

None

There being no discussion, **Chair Galuteria** called for the vote.

Roll Call

Motion carried by unanimous vote (9 – 0)

(Time Stamp: 26:26/1:19:25)

II. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

C. OHA Positions on 2026 Legislative Bills

3. 2026 Legislature: OHA Position on Bills & Measures Affecting the Public Land Trust - Matrix 3

(Time Stamp: 26:55/1:16:25)

Public Testimony

None

Presentation – Chief Advocate, Leinā‘la Ley, and Public Policy Manager, Deja Ostrowski

(Time Stamp: 27:11/1:16:25)

Legislative Affairs Update and Matrix Revisions

- Staff reported that two highlighted table changes were administrative corrections rather than substantive policy changes. The first correction pertained to testimony clarifying that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) is not a state agency; and, therefore, would not be subject to proposed legislation limiting state government leases between governmental entities to no more than one dollar per year.
- The second correction addressed a staff error in which a bill was initially flagged for potential impacts on public, crown, and government lands; upon further review, staff determined the bill did not affect those lands. Staff noted that both corrections were made to maintain consistency with positions previously discussed and approved by the Board.
- Staff also provided an update on a significant measure concerning the establishment of a community development district within the Hawai‘i Community Development Authority (HCDA) to oversee redevelopment of the Banyan Drive area.
- Staff reiterated OHA’s previously approved position seeking a voting seat on the district board due to the area’s significant concentration of crown and government lands. OHA also continued to support community requests for a lineal descendant seat to ensure cultural, historical, and community interests are represented in district decisions. Staff reported that one committee version of the bill included a lineal descendant seat; however, no committee had yet added OHA as a voting member of the district board.

Motion made by **Chair Galuteria** to approve OHA staff legislative positions as presented in **Matrix 3** relating to the Public Land Trust except for:

SB2596 - Relating to Government Leases by changing OHA's position from *Monitor* to *Comment*.

(Time Stamp: 30:08/1:16:25)

Discussion

None

There being no discussion, **Chair Galuteria** called for the vote.

Roll Call

Motion carried by unanimous vote (9 – 0)

(Time Stamp: 30:35/1:16:25)

II. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

C. OHA Positions on 2026 Legislative Bills

4. 2026 Legislature: OHA Position on Bills & Measures Affecting Natural Resources and Customary Practices – Matrix 4

(Time Stamp: 30:59/1:16:25)

Public Testimony

None

Presentation – Chief Advocate, Leinā'ala Ley, and Public Policy Manager, Deja Ostrowski

(Time Stamp: 31:24/1:16:25)

Legislative Affairs Update

- Staff highlighted a new measure supporting the Native Hawaiian Intellectual Property Working Group's request for additional resources and an extension of its timeline. Staff explained that additional time is considered important to allow the working group to complete its work, regardless of whether additional resources are ultimately provided. Staff indicated *Support* for the measure and emphasized its importance to advancing the group's efforts.
- Staff also reported a previously published position change regarding a measure establishing an income tax credit for individuals using natural methods to manage coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB). The measure had originally been *Support* due to provisions related to niu (coconut) as a cultural resource. However, because the bill was amended to focus solely on an income tax credit, staff recommended changing OHA's position to *Monitor*. Staff noted OHA has generally supported approaches that place responsibility for CRB management with state agencies rather than individual landowners.

- Staff next discussed a measure relating to trespassing. OHA had previously opposed the bill because of concerns regarding impacts on Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, access rights, and legal hunting activities. Staff reported that the House Agriculture Committee had incorporated OHA's recommendations by limiting the forfeiture penalty to second offenses. As amended, staff concluded the bill would not adversely affect lawful hunting on private lands or Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practitioners.

While concerns remain regarding the severity of penalties for trespass and hunting violations on private lands, staff recommended changing OHA's position from Oppose to Comment.

Motion made by **Chair Galuteria** to approve staff positions on bills and measures affecting Natural Resources and Native Hawaiian Traditional and Customary Practices as presented in **Matrix 4**, except for:

SB2128 – Relating to Trespass by changing OHA's position from Oppose to Comment.

(Time Stamp: 34:03/1:16:25)

Discussion

None

There being no discussion, **Chair Galuteria** called for the vote.

Roll Call

Motion carried by unanimous vote (9 – 0)

(Time Stamp: 34:32/1:16:25)

II. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

C. OHA Positions on 2026 Legislative Bills

5. 2026 Legislature: OHA Position on Bills & Measures Affecting Native Hawaiian Housing - Matrix 5

(Time Stamp: 35:01/1:16:25)

Public Testimony

None

Presentation – Chief Advocate, Leinā'ala Ley, and Public Policy Manager, Deja Ostrowski

(Time Stamp: 35:14/1:16:25)

Legislative Affairs Update

- Staff highlighted **SB 2552 – Relating to the Individual Housing Account Program** - a measure supported by OHA that would allow individuals to establish and contribute to housing savings accounts for future home down payments.
- Staff noted that the proposal closely resembles OHA's 2018 legislative package measure and reflects OHA's longstanding support for programs that assist families in saving toward homeownership.
- Staff further emphasized the importance of down payment assistance and housing savings initiatives and expressed support for broader state investment in such programs in addition to OHA trust-funded efforts.
- Staff reported that the measure was scheduled for a hearing during the week and could advance to conference if it successfully cleared committee review.

Motion made by **Chair Galuteria** to approve staff position recommendations for bills and measures affecting Native Hawaiian housing as presented in

Matrix 5.

(Time Stamp: 36:10/1:16:25)

Discussion

None

There being no discussion, **Chair Galuteria** called for the vote.

Roll Call

Motion carried by unanimous vote (9 – 0)

(Time Stamp: 36:28/1:16:25)

II. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

C. OHA Positions on 2026 Legislative Bills

6. 2026 Legislature: OHA Position on Bills & Measures Affecting Native Hawaiian Health - Matrix 6

(Time Stamp: 36:56/1:16:25)

Public Testimony

None

Presentation – Chief Advocate, Leinā‘ala Ley, and Public Policy Manager, Deja Ostrowski

(Time Stamp: 37:04/1:16:25)

Legislative Update

- Staff highlighted **HB 1769 – Relating to Correctional Facilities** - a priority measure requiring the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to incrementally return individuals housed in private out-of-state prisons. An action alert had been issued,

and the bill was reported to be proceeding to conference committee.

- Staff also presented **HB 1875 - Relating to Healthcare - Matrix 6**
The measure would expand healthcare privacy protections by explicitly extending HIPAA-related protections to members of the māhū community and individuals who have received gender-affirming healthcare services. Staff noted the bill is consistent with prior OHA positions and recommended Support.

Motion made by **Chair Galuteria** to approve the staff position recommendations for bills and measures affecting Native Hawaiian health as presented in **Matrix 6**, except for:
HB 1875 - Relating to Healthcare by changing OHA's position from Monitor to Support.
(Time Stamp: 38:27/1:16:25)

Discussion

None

There being no discussion, **Chair Galuteria** called for the vote.

Roll Call

Motion carried (8 – 0)

Yes – Trustees Ahuna, Akaka, Akina, Alapa, Lindsey, Souza, Waihe'e IV, Chair Galuteria

(Time Stamp: 38:46/1:16:25)

Excused – Trustee Kahele

II. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

C. OHA Positions on 2026 Legislative Bills

7. 2026 Legislature: OHA Position on Bills & Measures Affecting Native Hawaiian Education - Matrix 7

(Time Stamp: 39:26/1:16:25)

Public Testimony

None

Presentation – Chief Advocate, Leinā'ala Ley, and Public Policy Manager, Deja Ostrowski

(Time Stamp: 39:43/1:16:25)

Recommended Changes to Matrix 7

1. HB1893 – Relating to Education

Charter School Teachers Incentives Program

- Staff recommended changing the position to Support with Amendments.

- OHA staff met with the Charter School Commission, which requested support for the same amendments.
- The recommendation aligns OHA's position with that of the Charter School Commission.

2. HR171/HCR181/SR153 – Requesting the Department of Education to Convene a Shared-Decision Making Committee to Develop an Action Plan to Establish a K-12 Kaiapuni School in Kapolei

- Staff initially recommended Support.
- After further consultation with stakeholders, staff determined that while there is support for establishing a Kaiapuni school in Kapolei, concerns exist regarding the proposed shared decision-making committee as the preferred mechanism.
- Staff recommended changing the position from Support to Comment, noting that other methods for establishing a Kaiapuni school may be preferable and emphasizing DOE's responsibility to provide access to Hawaiian immersion education.

Motion was made by **Chair Galuteria** to approve staff recommendations for bills and measures affecting Native Hawaiian education as presented in **Matrix 7**, except for: **HR171/HCR181 – Requesting the Department of Education to Convene a Shared-Decision Making Committee to Develop an Action Plan to Establish a K-12 Kaiapuni School in Kapolei** by changing OHA's position from Support to Comment.

Discussion

- Trustees sought clarification regarding the intent of **HR171/ HCR181**.
- Staff explained that the issue centers on the process for establishing a Kaiapuni school rather than funding, emphasizing DOE's obligation to provide Hawaiian immersion education.

Trustee Ahuna commented on previous experiences with the Kaiapuni program demand exceeding available capacity and supported the cautious approach reflected in the recommendation.

(Time Stamp: 43:11/1:16:25)

There being no further discussion, **Chair Galuteria** called for the vote.

Roll Call

Motion carried by unanimous vote (9 - 0)

(Time Stamp: 44:20/1:16:25)

II. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

C. OHA Positions on 2026 Legislative Bills

8. 2026 Legislature: OHA Position on Bills & Measures Affecting Native Hawaiian Economic Stability - Matrix 8

(Time Stamp: 44:46/1:16:25)

Public Testimony

None

Presentation – Chief Advocate, Leinā‘ala Ley, and Public Policy Manager, Deja Ostrowski

(Time Stamp: 45:00/1:16:25)

Requested Change

- Staff reported a requested table change for **Matrix 8, HB2172 – Relating to Employment of Retirants** - which establishes a five-year pilot program authorizing the Department of Education (DOE) to rehire retired teachers for hard-to-staff positions. Staff recommended changing OHA's position from Support to Monitor due to conference committee prioritization and because the measure had not yet appeared on a Ways and Means agenda.

During discussion, **Trustee Lindsey** questioned why an education-related bill was included under the Economic Stability Matrix. Staff acknowledged the placement appeared to be an error and stated that staff would review the matter and provide clarification. **Chair Galuteria** requested that **Trustee Lindsey** be notified of the outcome.

Motion was made by **Chair Galuteria** to approve OHA staff positions for bills and measures affecting Native Hawaiian economic stability as presented in **Matrix 8**, except for:

HB 2172 – Relating to Employment Retirants by changing OHA's position from Support to Monitor.

(Time Stamp: 46:18/1:16:25)

Discussion

None

There being no further discussion, **Chair Galuteria** called for the vote.

Roll Call

Motion carried by unanimous vote (9 – 0)

(Time Stamp: 46:49/1:16:25)

II. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

C. OHA Positions on 2026 Legislative Bills

9. 2026 Legislature: OHA Position on Bills & Measures Affecting Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter 6E (iwi kupuna and historic preservation) – Matrix 9
(Time Stamp: 47:13/1:16:25)

Public Testimony

None

Presentation – Chief Advocate, Leinā‘ala Ley, and Public Policy Manager, Deja Ostrowski

(Time Stamp: 47:34/1:16:25)

Recommended Position Change

- Staff reported a recommended change to **HB 1710 – Relating to Historic Preservation**, which now contains OHA package bill language.
- Staff recommended changing OHA's position on the measure from Comment to Support to advance the proposed language.
- Staff also noted two new resolutions:
HCR177/HR167 and **HCR167/HR177**– Urging the counties to establish, strengthen, or expand historic preservation functions within county government o complement and support statewide historic preservation efforts. These resolutions urge counties to strengthen their historic preservation capacity in response to recent changes to historic review responsibilities under HRS Chapter 6E that have delegated certain duties from the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) to county governments.
- Staff explained that counties are being encouraged to invest in qualified historic preservation professionals, citing Maui County's existing model, which includes archaeological expertise within its Department of ‘Ōiwi Resources.

Motion made by **Chair Galuteria** to approve OHA staff's recommended positions on bills and measures affecting HRS Chapter 6E, iwi kūpuna, and historic preservation as presented in **Matrix 9**, except for:

HB 1710 – Relating to Historic Preservation by changing OHA's position from Comment to Support.

(Time Stamp: 48:06/1:16:25)

Discussion

None

There being no discussion, **Chair Galuteria** called for the vote.

Roll Call

Motion carried (8 – 1)

Abstained: *Trustee Akina*

(Time Stamp: 49:57/1:16:25)

II. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

C. OHA Positions on 2026 Legislative Bills

10. 2026 Legislature: OHA Position on Governor's Messages for State Board and Commissions Confirmation - Matrix 10

(Time Stamp: 50:27/1:16:25)

Public Testimony

None

Presentation – Chief Advocate, Leinā‘ala Ley, and Public Policy Manager, Deja Ostrowski: (50:49/1:16:25)

Agenda Item: OHA Staff Recommendations on Confirmations to State Boards and Commissions (Matrix 10)

- Staff presented recommendations for support of several nominees to state boards and commissions. Newest recommended support nominations included:
 - **Lennea Bryant** for Kāne‘ohe Bay Regional Council, citing her background as a Native Hawaiian attorney, has held leadership positions in Hawaiian Civic Club organizations, is active at neighborhood board meetings, and is involved in marine resource issues.
 - **Martina Kamaka**, based on her involvement in Native Hawaiian health initiatives.
 - **Kaipulaumakaniolono Keala** (as recommended by staff) served on the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC)
 - **Noe Noe Wong Wilson** for the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority.
 - **Ku‘uleialoha Santos**, gubernatorial nominee for the Land Use Commission, citing her family's connection to the Hanapēpē salt beds.

(Time Stamp: 50:49/1:16:25)

Public Testimony

None

Staff confirmed there was no public testimony on the item.

Motion made by **Chair Galuteria** to approve staff recommendations (from Monitor to Support) on confirmations to state boards and commissions as presented in **Matrix 10**.
(Time Stamp: 52:59/1:16:25)

Discussion

During discussion, trustees requested additional information regarding several nominees currently designated as "monitors" and suggested consideration of additional support recommendations.

- Staff explained that support recommendations were based on available information demonstrating alignment with OHA priorities and service to the Native Hawaiian community.
- Staff also noted resource limitations in preparing support testimony.

Trustees proposed changing the following nominees from Monitor to Support:

- Melvin Kahele, Gubernatorial Nominee, Land Use Commission
- Philip Fernandez, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
- Paul Horner, Gubernatorial Nominee, Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority
- Joseph Pickard, Gubernatorial Nominee, Kāneʻohe Bay Regional Council
- Elena Bryant, Gubernatorial Nominee, Kāneʻohe Bay Regional Council
- Gilbert Kualīʻi, Gubernatorial Nominee, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
- Kuʻuleialoha Santos, Gubernatorial Nominee, Land Use Commission

Discussion (continued)

- The importance of Native Hawaiian representation and perspectives on state boards, particularly the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority.
- Whether OHA should proactively develop and submit future nominee recommendations to the Governor, even when not statutorily required.
- A recommendation that staff track board and commission term expirations and provide advance notice to the Board.
- Staff recommendations to potentially oppose certain nominees whose records were viewed as inconsistent with Native Hawaiian interests, including Nancy Carr Smith.

*[**Motion** made by **Chair Galuteria** to approve staff recommendations (from Monitor to Support) on confirmations to state boards and commissions as presented in **Matrix 10**, except to add:*

*#23 - GM 766,
#12 - GM 766
#17 – GM 650
#11 – GM 741
#20 – GM742*

(Time Stamp: 52:59/1:16:25)]

There being no further discussion, **Trustee Galuteria** called for the vote.

**Note: Trustee Kahele has been excused from the meeting.*

Roll Call

Motion carried (8 – 1)

Yes: *Trustees Ahuna, Akaka, Akina, Alapa, Lindsey, Souza, Waihe'e, Chair Galuteria*

Excused: *Trustee Kahele*

(Time Stamp: 1:08/1:16:25)

III. COMMUNITY CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

(Time Stamp: 1:09:04/1:16:25)

Public Testimony

'Ohana Unity Party – Pikachu Billionaire

(Time Stamp: 1:09:26/1:16:25)

The testifier expressed appreciation to the trustees, committee members, and staff for their work and support. The testimony focused on concerns regarding civic participation, election processes, public engagement, and policy implementation affecting the Native Hawaiian community.

Key points raised

- Concerns regarding barriers to participation in public office and allegations related to election processes
- Comments regarding OHA funding and revenue issues, including references to Public Land Trust revenues
- Observations about low levels of public participation in government processes, including testimony submission and civic engagement
- Remarks regarding legislative measures discussed during the session and concerns about the advancement of certain proposals through the legislative process
- Comments on bipartisan challenges in advancing legislation, regardless of political affiliation
- Disclosure that the testifier had previously applied for a position with OHA's Washington, D.C. office and views the position as important for advocating for Native Hawaiian interests at the federal level
- Discussion of efforts to secure funding and support for community projects, including work associated with the Ke'ehi Homestead Association and the Nānākuli Cemetery
- A request for continued support, creativity, and collaboration from OHA trustees in pursuing funding opportunities and community initiatives

- Encouragement for increased community engagement focused on policy development and implementation

The testifier thanked the trustees for their service and hard work and expressed hope for greater public involvement and engagement in the future. The testimony concluded with well wishes and an expression of aloha.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Time Stamp: 1:11:53/1:16:25)

Public Testimony

None

- **Chair Galuteria** announced that trustees and staff were invited to support beneficiary services and community engagement efforts related to activities at the Wailua Courthouse. Initial operating information was provided for weekend assistance efforts.
- Staff subsequently clarified that, in coordination with a community partner, operations would **not** open during the announced weekend period and would instead begin on Monday. Staff indicated that operating hours had not yet been finalized and would be aligned with partner operations.
- **Trustee Lindsey** sought clarification regarding staff participation on Sunday. Staff confirmed that operations would not be open on that Sunday and that staff would not be required to work that day. The trustee noted concerns about scheduling work on Easter Sunday, and the earlier announcement was acknowledged as premature.
- **Trustee Akaka** asked to be included in future planning discussions regarding activities occurring on O‘ahu, noting that they had not been informed in advance. Staff acknowledged the concern, advised that an initial planning meeting was taking place that day, and committed to providing updates to all trustees as planning progresses.
- **The Chair** and members agreed that when activities are being planned on a particular island, the respective island trustee should be consulted and included in related discussions.
- **Chair Galuteria** indicated they had no further comments.

V. ADJOURNMENT

(Time Stamp: 1:14:15/1:16:25)

Motion made by **Trustee Lindsey** to adjourn the April 1, 2026 meeting of the Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment.

(Time Stamp: 1:14:15/1:16:25)

Public Testimony

None

Discussion

None

There being no discussion, **Chair Galuteria** called for the vote.

Roll Call

Motion carried by a unanimous vote (8 - 0)

Yes: *Trustees Ahuna, Akaka, Akina, Alapa, Lindsey, Souza, Waihe'e IV, and Chair Galuteria)*

Excused: *Trustee Kahele*

(Time Stamp: 1:15:00/1:16:25)

The meeting of the April 1, 2026 Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lei-Ann Stender Durant, Trustee Aide
BAE Committee Secretary

Brickwood Galuteria, Trustee At-Large
BAE Committee Chair

Date Approved:



Beneficiary Advocacy & Empowerment Committee

- III. Presentation by the Malu Project Ad Hoc Committee and Administration –**
Status Update and Discussion regarding the Malu Project, including implementation, current activities, coordination, and next steps.

- IV. Presentation by Administration – International Repatriation Update.** Informational briefing on upcoming OHA Europe and U.S. repatriation activities: 1) Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz (Berlin, Germany), and Musée National d'Histoire Naturelle (Paris, France) – October 13 to 21; and, 2) American Museum of Natural History (New York) – Late September 2026 – OHA Compliance Enforcement staff.

- V. Executive Session§**
Update on Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument and Sanctuary.
The BAE Committee anticipates convening in an executive meeting pursuant to HRS § 92-5(a)(4) to consult with its legal counsel regarding the Board's powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities on potential litigation related to defense of resource protections in Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument and Sanctuary.

There is no material for the above items