

Brickwood Galuteria - Chairperson
Kaleihikina Akaka - Vice Chair

MEMBERS

Dan Ahuna
Keli'i Akina, Ph.D.
Luana Alapa
Kaial'i Kahele
Carmen "Hulu" Lindsey
Keoni Souza
John D. Waihee IV



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OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
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, September 9, 2026

TIME: 9:00 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: 952 2073 6147

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. March 18, 2026
- B. April 15, 2026
- C. April 29, 2026
- D. May 13, 2026

III. New Business

- A. **Update 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. Executive Session§

A. Approval of Executive Session Minutes:

- April 29, 2026
- June 24, 2026

- B. **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.

V. Community Concerns and Celebrations

VI. Announcements

VII. 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.imitz 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.imitz 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/95220736147>

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: 9/02/26



Beneficiary Advocacy & Empowerment Committee

II. Approval of Minutes

- A. March 18, 2026
- B. April 15, 2026
- C. April 29, 2026
- D. May 13, 2026

COMMITTEE ON BENEFICIARY ADVOCACY AND EMPOWERMENT (BAE)

March 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=81sFIo0o6WU&t=69s>

MINUTES

TRUSTEES PRESENT

Brickwood Galuteria, Chair
Kaleihikina Akaka, Vice Chair
Keli'i Akina
Luana Alapa
Kaiali'i Kahele
Carmen Hulu Lindsey
Keoni Souza (arrived 9:16 a.m.)
John Waihe'e, IV

TRUSTEE EXCUSED

Dan Ahuna

BAE STAFF

Lei-Ann Stender Durant
Mark Watanabe
Nathan Takeuchi
Remy Keli'ihō'omalū
(Aide to Trustee Akina)

BOT STAFF

Kanani Iaea
Pōhai Ryan
Pōhailani Kealoha
Richelle Kim

ADMINISTRATION

K. Sean Kekina, COO
Daniel Santos
Deja Ostrowski
Ku'uleianuheā Awo-Chun
Rozelle Agag
Sommer Soares

BOARD COUNSEL

Kapono Kiakona

GENERAL COUNSEL

Everett Ohta

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Galuteria called the March 18, 2026 meeting of the Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment to order at 9:07 a.m.

Chair Galuteria welcomed everyone to the day's meeting and acknowledged his trustee aide, Lei-Ann Stender Durant, serving as the Committee Recording Secretary and Trustee Akina's aide, Remy Keli'ihō'omalū, serving as the Committee Technology and Information Specialist.

Chair Galuteria called for the roll to confirm attendance:

Roll Call

Present: *Trustees Ahuna, Akaka, Akina, Alapa, Kahele, Lindsey, Waihe'e IV, Chair Galuteria*

Excused: *Trustees Ahuna and Souza*

With seven (7) persons in attendance, a quorum was established.

(Time Stamp: 9:21/1:02:26)

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. January 14, 2026

(Time Stamp: 10:46/1:02:26)

Public Testimony

None

Motion was made by **Chair Galuteria** to approve the January 14, 2026 meeting of the Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment.

(Time Stamp: 10:57/1:02:26)

Discussion

None

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

Roll Call

Motion carried (7 – 0)

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

Excused: *Trustees Ahuna and Souza*

(Time Stamp: 11:09/1:02:26)

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation on Wai'anāe Coast Student Outcomes – Presentation by Germaine Meyers regarding student outcomes along the Wai'anāe Coast, including publicly available data from the Hawai'i Department of Education's Strive HI reports and community observations relating to schools serving the Wai'anāe Coast.

(Time Stamp: 11:44/1:02:26)

Public Testimony

None

Presentation by Germaine Meyers (Community member and Wai‘anae Coast Education Advocate)
(Time Stamp: 13:35/1:02:26)

Summary

- Presenter shared publicly available DOE Strive HI performance data for 11 Wai‘anae Coast schools serving approximately 8,000 students, including about 4,900 Native Hawaiian students (61% of enrollment).
- Noted that the schools serve one of the state's highest concentrations of Native Hawaiian students and many students from economically disadvantaged households.
- Reviewed three key indicators from DOE Strive HI reports:
 - English Language Arts (ELA) proficiency
 - Math proficiency
 - Percentage of economically disadvantaged students
- Reported consistent patterns of low ELA and math proficiency across elementary, intermediate, and high schools in the region.
- Observed that many students advance through grade levels without reaching proficiency, resulting in cumulative learning gaps.
- Identified schools showing comparatively stronger outcomes, including:
 - Leihoku Elementary School
 - Mā‘ili Elementary School
 - Wai‘anae High School (ELA performance)
- Highlighted that some higher-performing schools achieve stronger results despite serving large populations of economically disadvantaged students.
- Stated that historical Strive HI data dating back to 2020 shows some improvement but continuing academic challenges, with proficiency rates remaining below statewide averages.
- Emphasized the need for targeted and sustained interventions to improve Native Hawaiian student outcomes.

Request to OHA

- Acknowledged that OHA does not control the Department of Education.
- Cited OHA's advocacy role under HRS Chapter 10 regarding Native Hawaiian beneficiary well-being, including education.
- Requested OHA considers a place-based pilot partnership focused on the Wai‘anae Coast.
- Suggested OHA:
 - Convene DOE, OHA, and community stakeholders.
 - Support data transparency and accountability for Native Hawaiian student outcomes.
 - Advocate for targeted support strategies, including tutoring, extended learning opportunities, and early literacy and math interventions.
 - Examine and replicate successful practices occurring within higher-performing Wai‘anae Coast schools.

Closing

- Presenter emphasized that the proposal is a focused community pilot rather than a statewide initiative.
- Expressed readiness of the Wai‘anae Coast community to partner with OHA and requested OHA's support and leadership.
- Mahalo extended to the Chair, Vice Chair, and Trustees for the opportunity to present.

Discussion and Presenter Response

(Time Stamp: 25:16/1:02:26)

Trustee Comments

- Trustee Akina expressed concern regarding the significant educational achievement gaps affecting Wai‘anae Coast students and thanked the presenter for highlighting the issue.
- Asked how OHA's community-based efforts and partnerships could help address educational challenges on the Wai‘anae Coast.

Presenter Response

- Recommended that OHA strengthen partnerships with community leaders, neighborhood boards, parents, and community members actively engage in education advocacy.
- Asserted that some community members and parents experience barriers to meaningful participation in school decision-making processes.
- Referenced School Community Councils (SCCs) and Act 51, emphasizing the importance of community input in academic and financial planning.
- Suggested OHA support community stakeholders by:
 - Facilitating communication and collaboration among stakeholders.
 - Supporting compliance with School Community Council requirements.
 - Advocating for Native Hawaiian-focused educational programs and initiatives.
 - Assisting with legislative efforts informed by community-level input.
- Stated that existing DOE resources could be utilized to implement targeted educational support programs.

Additional Testimony

- Presenter shared personal observation from working in the community, noting concerns regarding some students' basic math skills and financial literacy.
- Linked academic challenges to factors such as chronic absenteeism, economic hardship, and missed foundational learning opportunities.
- Requested additional academic support and intervention programs for students who fall behind due to personal or family circumstances.

Trustee Response

- Trustee Akina acknowledged the concerns raised and described the request for additional support as reasonable.
- Indicated that OHA may have existing programs that could align with the recommendations presented.
- Thanked the presenter for sharing the data and community perspective.

Closing Comments

- Trustees expressed appreciation for the presentation and noted the seriousness of the educational challenges reflected in the Wai‘anae Coast data.

Trustee Comments

- **Trustee Akina** expressed concern regarding the significant educational achievement gaps affecting Wai‘anae Coast students and thanked the presenter for highlighting the issue.
- Asked how OHA's community-based efforts and partnerships could help address educational challenges on the Wai‘anae Coast.

Presenter Response

- Recommended that OHA strengthen partnerships with community leaders, neighborhood boards, parents, and community members actively engage in education advocacy.
- Asserted that some community members and parents experience barriers to meaningful participation in school decision-making processes.
- Referenced School Community Councils (SCCs) and Act 51, emphasizing the importance of community input in academic and financial planning.
- Suggested OHA support community stakeholders by:
 - Facilitating communication and collaboration among stakeholders.
 - Supporting compliance with School Community Council requirements.
 - Advocating for Native Hawaiian-focused educational programs and initiatives.
 - Assisting with legislative efforts informed by community-level input.
- Stated that existing DOE resources could be utilized to implement targeted educational support programs.

Additional Testimony

- Presenter shared personal observation from working in the community, noting concerns regarding some students' basic math skills and financial literacy.
- Linked academic challenges to factors such as chronic absenteeism, economic hardship, and missed foundational learning opportunities.
- Requested additional academic support and intervention programs for students who fall behind due to personal or family circumstances.

Trustee Response

- **Trustee Akaka** acknowledged the concerns raised and described the request for additional support as reasonable.
- Indicated that OHA may have existing programs that could align with the recommendations presented.
- Thanked the presenter for sharing the data and community perspective.

Closing Comments

- Trustees expressed appreciation for the presentation and noted the seriousness of the educational challenges reflected in the Wai‘anae Coast data.
- **Chair Galuteria** suggested **Vice Chair Akaka** check back with Germaine Meyers to follow-up on the education issues brought before the Committee.

III. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

B. OHA Positions on 2026 Legislative Bills and Measures

(Time Stamp: 33:02/1:02:26)

***Presentation** by Public Policy Manager, *Deja Ostrowski*

1. 2026 OHA State Legislative Bills and Measures – Matrix 1

(Time Stamp: 33:34/1:02:26)

Public Testimony

None

Matrix 1 – OHA Bill Package

***There will be no motion or vote on Matrix 1**

(Time Stamp: 34:02/1:02:26)

Staff provided a legislative session update following crossover, noting that OHA’s package bills and the two Public Land Trust (PLT) bills are all House measures that have crossed over to the Senate and are continuing to move through the legislative process. Trustees were thanked for participating in key legislative meetings and advocacy efforts.

Staff reported that the Senate hearing deadline for triple-referred House bills was imminent, resulting in an expedited hearing and testimony schedule. Despite recent weather-related disruptions and power outages, testimony continued to be submitted for hearings.

Regarding OHA's legislative package:

- The **IBC (Island Burial Council)** bill has been scheduled for a Senate hearing
- The **LUC (Land Use Commission)** bill remains pending scheduling.
- The **Aquarium Ban** bill continues to face challenges but remains under active advocacy and outreach efforts. Staff noted ongoing engagement with allies and public discussion regarding aquaculture and aquarium fish collection.

Trustee Comments

Chair Galuteria reported that he and **Vice Chair Akaka** met with Senate Majority Leader Drew Kanuha regarding the aquarium bill. The Majority Leader expressed interest in the measure due to its impact on communities within his district, including the Kona Coast region.

Trustee Akaka described the meetings as productive and expressed appreciation for the support of Senate Majority Leader Drew Kanuha and Senator Tim Richards. **Trustee Akaka** also noted positive discussions relating to Crown Lands, the Public Land Trust Working Group (PLTWG), and burial council matters, stating that meaningful progress had been made.

The **Chair** acknowledged **Trustee Lindsey's** absence due to storm-related issues and conveyed greetings from legislators who had met with the trustees.

Action

- **No motion was made and no vote was taken on Matrix 1.** Discussion concluded and the meeting proceeded to the next agenda item.

**2. 2026 Legislature: OHA Position on Bills and Measures Naming OHA –
Matrix 2**
(Time Stamp: 37:40/1:02:26)

Public Testimony

None

Matrix 2: Bills and Measures Naming OHA

(Time Stamp: 37:47/1:02:26)

Staff provided a brief update on measures in **Matrix 2**.

- Staff reported that **SB2313**, Relating to Public Financing for Candidates to Elected Office, had a hearing and OHA continued to *Support* amendments intended to align OHA trustee elections with lieutenant governor election provisions.
- Staff also provided an update on **HB2582/SB3307**, Relating to Hawaiian Affairs and **HB2584**, relating to the Public Land Trust, noting continued trustee engagement and efforts to educate Senate members on the issues.

- Staff requested a position change for **HB2046** relating to the ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i Commission from Support with Amendments to Support, noting that OHA’s amendments had been incorporated.
- Staff reported the bill was advancing and emphasized the need for OHA to consider its future role and responsibilities should the commission be established within the Office of the Governor.
- No change to the current recommendation was proposed at this time; trustees were advised that OHA may need to reassess its position as additional information becomes available.

Motion made by **Chair Galuteria** to approve OHA staff recommendations for bills and measures naming OHA as presented in **Matrix 2** except for: **HB 2046** changing OHA’s position from Support with Amendments to Support.
(Time Stamp: 39:30/1:02:26)

Discussion

None

Roll Call

Motion carried (8 – 0)

Excused: *Trustee Ahuna*

(Time Stamp: 39:45/1:02:26)

III. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

B. OHA Positions on 2026 Legislative Bills and Measures

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

(Time Stamp: 40:13/1:02:26)

Public Testimony

None

Matrix 3: Bills and Measures relating to the Public Land Trust

(Time Stamp: 40:27/1:02:26)

Staff provided updates on four bills:

- **SB2001** relating to the **Banyan Drive Community Development District**. Hearing held and amendments adopted to make a lineal descendant a voting member of the commission, consistent with OHA's recommendation. OHA was not added as a commission member.
- **SB2799** relating to the **Kalaupapa Settlement** hearing held; bill deferred. Staff noted that **SB432**, a carryover bill previously supported by the Board, is now the preferred vehicle and will be added to future matrices.
- **SB2599** relating to **Development**. Banyan Drive provisions were removed. Staff recommended changing OHA's position from *Comment* to *Monitor*.
- **HB1842** relating to **Government**. Further research confirmed that the affected parcels are not Crown or Government Lands. Staff recommended changing OHA's position from *Comment* to *Monitor*.

Motion made **Chair Galuteria** to approve staff recommendations for bills and measures affecting the Public Land Trust as presented in **Matrix 3**, including:
Changing OHA's position on **SB2599** from *Comment* to *Monitor*.
Changing OHA's position on **HB1842** from *Comment* to *Monitor*.

(Time Stamp: 43:37/1:02:26)

Discussion

- Trustee Lindsey requested clarification regarding the Kalaupapa bill.
 - Staff explained that **SB2799** primarily sought a report regarding management issues, while **SB432** establishes a state historical area, authorizes Department of Health services, and requires future planning involving community organizations.
 - Discussion noted that Kalaupapa remains under federal management and includes Department of Hawaiian Home Lands interests.
 - It was noted that there is currently one remaining patient resident at Kalaupapa.
- (Time Stamp: 44:08/1:02:26)

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

Roll Call

Motion carried (8 – 0)

Excused: *Trustee Ahuna*

(Time Stamp: 46:59/1:02:26)

III. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

B. OHA Positions on 2026 Legislative Bills and Measures

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

(Time Stamp: 47:18/1:02:26)

Public Testimony

None

Matrix 4: Bills and Measures Affecting Natural Resources and Native Hawaiian Traditional and Customary Practices

(Time Stamp: 47:34/1:02:26)

- Staff reported one update to **Matrix 4** regarding a new bill - **SCR26** supports the Native Hawaiian Intellectual Property Working Group's request for resources and a timeline extension for FY2026-2027.
- Staff noted the measure is a priority of Senator Keohokalole and that there is support for continuing the working group's work.

Motion made by **Chair Galuteria** to approve OHA staff positions recommending bills and measures affecting Natural Resources and Native Hawaiian Traditional and Customary Practices as presented in **Matrix 4**.

(Time Stamp: 48:09/1:02:26)

Discussion

None.

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

Roll Call

Motion carried (8 – 0)

Excused: *Trustee Ahuna*

(Time Stamp: 48:32/1:02:26)

III. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

B. OHA Positions on 2026 Legislative Bills and Measures

5. 2026 Legislature: OHA Position on Bills and Measures Affecting Native Hawaiian

Housing – Matrix 5

(Time Stamp: 48:59/1:02:26)

Public Testimony

None

Matrix 5: Bills and Measures Affecting Native Hawaiian Housing

(Time Stamp: 47:34/1:02:26)

- Staff highlighted **HB2515/SB3285** relating to **Workforce Housing** which establishes a workforce housing regulatory sandbox program.
- Staff noted OHA's ongoing concern with balancing housing development and protection of iwi kūpuna, historic preservation, and beneficiary participation in regulatory processes.
- OHA successfully secured an amendment to be included in the working group, particularly regarding environmental and cultural practice advisement.
- Staff expressed concerns that the amended measure expands regulatory waiver authority and therefore maintained a recommendation to Comment on the bill.

Motion made by **Chair Galuteria** to approve OHA staff positions recommending bills and measures as presented in **Matrix 5**.

(Time Stamp: 50:37/1:02:26)

Discussion

None

Roll Call

Motion carried (8 – 0)

Excused: *Trustee Ahuna*

(Time Stamp: 48:32/1:02:26)

III. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

B. OHA Positions on 2026 Legislative Bills and Measures

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

(Time Stamp: 51:13/1:02:26)

Public Testimony

None

Matrix 6: Bills and Measures Affecting Native Hawaiian Health – Matrix 6

(Time Stamp: 51:23/1:02:26)

- Staff highlighted **HB1626/SB2540** relating to Youth Penalties. The youth fines and fees measure remains active and is scheduled for a hearing.
- The measure, supported by the Youth Aloha ‘Āina cohort, would allow youth to perform community-based service in lieu of certain fines and penalties.
- Staff noted trustee engagement with youth advocates on the issue and provided the update as the measure continues to advance.

Motion made by **Chair Galuteria** to approve staff recommendations for bills affecting Native Hawaiian health as presented in **Matrix 6**.
(Time Stamp: 52:09/1:02:26)

Discussion

None

Roll Call

Motion carried (8 – 0)

Excused: *Trustee Ahuna*

(Time Stamp: 52:30/1:02:26)

III. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

B. OHA Positions on 2026 Legislative Bills and Measures

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

(Time Stamp: 52:46/1:02:26)

Public Testimony

None

Matrix 7: Native Hawaiian Education

(Time Stamp: 53:03/1:02:26)

- Staff provided an update on **HB 1893**, relating to Education, specifically public charter school teacher incentives.
- Staff reported that the bill remains active and was scheduled for a hearing.
- Although OHA continues to support the measure, staff noted that OHA's preferred bill, which would have provided funding directly to the Public Charter School Commission, did not survive crossover.
- No changes to staff recommendations were requested.

Motion made by **Chair Galuteria** to approve staff recommendations for bills and measures affecting Native Hawaiian Education as presented in **Matrix 7**.
(Time Stamp: 54:06/1:02:26)

Discussion

- Staff discussed the status of **HB 1893** and OHA's continuing support despite it not being the preferred funding vehicle.

Roll Call

Motion carried (8 – 0)

Excused: *Trustee Ahuna*.

(Time Stamp: 54:24/1:02:26)

III. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

B. OHA Positions on 2026 Legislative Bills and Measures

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

(Time Stamp: 54:49/1:02:26)

Public Testimony

None

Matrix 8: Native Hawaiian Economic Stability

(Time Stamp: 55:11/1:02:26)

- Staff highlighted **HB 1918**, relating to **Taxation** that imposes a conveyance tax and funding for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL).
- Staff explained that several measures have proposed reallocating conveyance tax revenues to support DHHL, prompting renewed discussion about large property transfers that are not currently subject to conveyance tax.
- The bill seeks to address this issue by applying conveyance tax to certain large property transfers. Staff noted concerns regarding the tax rate structure but recommended support because the measure aligns with efforts to ensure major property transfers contribute to funding, rather than placing a greater burden on typical homeowners.
- No changes to staff recommendations were requested.

Motion made by **Chair Galuteria** to approve staff recommendations for bills and measures affecting Native Hawaiian Economic Stability as presented in **Matrix 8**.
(Time Stamp: 56:35/1:02:26)

Discussion

None

There being no discussion, Chair Galuteria called for the vote

Roll Call

Motion carried (8 – 0)

Excused: *Trustee Ahuna*

(Time Stamp: 57:00/1:02:26)

III. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

B. OHA Positions on 2026 Legislative Bills and Measures

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

(Time Stamp: 57:16/1:02:26)

Public Testimony

None

Matrix 9: Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter 6E (Iwi Kūpuna and Historic Preservation)

(Time Stamp: 57:33/1:02:26)

- Staff provided an update on **SB 3247** relating to Hawaiian Affairs.
- OHA continues to support the concept of a Mauna‘ala working group and has requested representation in the group.
- Staff reported that concerns were raised during a recent hearing regarding the size and structure of the proposed group, as well as amendments that shift the measure toward formal DLNR oversight and contested case requirements rather than the original working group model.
- Staff noted continued opposition from Daughters and Sons of Hawaiian Warriors and indicated that further community outreach and assessment may be needed before reconsidering OHA’s position.
- No change to the current recommendation was proposed at this time; however, Trustees were advised that OHA may need to reassess its position as additional information becomes available.

Motion made by **Chair Galuteria** to approve staff recommendations for bills and measures affecting Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter 6E, Iwi Kūpuna, and Historic Preservation as presented in **Matrix 9**.

(Time Stamp: 59:44/1:02:26)

Discussion

None

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

Roll Call

Motioned carried (7 – 1)

Abstained: *Trustee Akina*

Excused: *Trustee Ahuna*

(Time Stamp: 1:00:02/1:02:26)

IV. COMMUNITY CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

NONE

(Time Stamp: 1:00:40/1:02:26)

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

NONE

(Time Stamp: 1:01:01/1:02:26)

VI. ADJOURNMENT

(Time Stamp: 1:01:31/1:02:26)

Motion made by **Trustee Souza** to adjourn the March 18, 2026 meeting of the Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment.

(Time Stamp: 1:01:24/1:02:26)

Roll Call

Motion carried (8 – 0)

Excused: *Trustee Ahuna*

(Time Stamp: 1:01:39/1:02:26)

Chair Galuteria adjourned the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lei-Ann Stender Durant, Trustee Aide
Committee Secretary

Brickwood Galuteria, Trustee At-Large
Committee Chair

Date Approved:

COMMITTEE ON BENEFICIARY ADVOCACY AND EMPOWERMENT (BAE)

April 15, 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=rxhyyg0eJGQ&t=146s>

MINUTES

TRUSTEES PRESENT

Brickwood Galuteria, Chair
Kaleihikina Akaka, Vice Chair
Dan Ahuna
Keli'i Akina
Luana Alapa (arr. 10:10 a.m.)
Kaiali'i Kahele
Carmen Hulu Lindsey
Keoni Souza
John Waihe'e, IV (arr. 9:13 a.m.)

BAE STAFF

Lei-Ann Stender Durant
Mark Watanabe
Momi Ka'aihue (Temporary Hire)
Nathan Takeuchi
Richelle Kim (Aide for Trustee Souza)

BOT STAFF

Carina Lee
Pōhai Ryan

ADMINISTRATION

K. Sean Kekina, COO
Bill Brennan
Daniel Santos
Deja Ostrowski
Hailama Farden
Leina'ala Ley
Ryan Lee

BOARD COUNSEL

Kapono Kiakona

GENERAL COUNSEL

Everett Ohta

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Galuteria called the April 15, 2026 meeting of the Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment to order at 9:08 a.m.

Chair Galuteria shared that the BAE Committee serves as the voice and bridge between our Native Hawaiian beneficiaries, OHA policies, programs, and resources. Through OHA's advocacy and collaboration, we build pathways for empowerment. This committee's kuleana spans many areas including education, health, housing, culture, and economic wellbeing. We also work in close partnership with the Hawai'i Legislature as we move forward with this legislative session.

Chair Galuteria acknowledged his trustee aide, Lei-Ann Stender Durant, serving as the Committee Recording Secretary and his secretary, Momi Ka'aihue, and Richelle Kim (*Trustee Souza's aide*), serving as the Committee Technology and Information Specialist.

Chair Galuteria called for the roll to confirm attendance.

Roll Call

Seven (7) trustees in attendance; quorum established

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

Excused: *Trustees Alapa (arrived at 10:10 a.m.) and Waihe'e, IV*

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

.(Time Stamp: 14:37/1:41:50)

A. January 28, 2026

Public Testimony

None

Motion made by **Chair Galuteria** to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2026 BAE Committee Meeting.

(Time Stamp: 14:53/1:41:50)

Discussion

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

Roll Call

Motion carried (7 – 0)

Excused: *Trustees Alapa and Waihe'e IV*

(Time Stamp: 14:56/1:41:50)

**** Chair Galuteria** requested unanimous consent from the committee members to take Agenda Item **IV. EXECUTIVE SESSIONS** out of order. Hearing no objections, **Chair Galuteria** moved to resolve into Executive Session and called for the vote.
(Time Stamp: 15:55/1:41:50)

Roll Call

Motion carried (8 – 0)

Excused: *Trustee Alapa*

(Time Stamp: 16:15/1:41:50)

**The Committee resolved into Executive Session (Time Stamp: 16:17/1:41:50)*

Vice Chair Akaka calls for a Recess (Time Stamp: 45:28/1:41:50)

*** Committee returned to Public Session (Time Stamp: 51:39/1:22:37 ~ Real Time: 10:23 a.m).*

Chair Galuteria reported that the Committee consulted with OHA’s legal counsel regarding the Committee’s powers, duties, privileges, and immunities and liabilities with respect to the Public Land Trust bills identified at the 2026 Legislature or a position on bills and measures affecting the Public Land Trust – **Matrix 3**.

The meeting continues in order.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. ADMINISTRATION UPDATE: 2026 Legislative Session and Rapid Response Approval Testimony submittal. **No discussion, deliberation, or decision-making*
(Time Stamp: 52:32/1:22:37)

Public Testimony

None

Update

Public Policy Manager, Deja Ostrowski, reported that there were no rapid response testimonies this week.

III. NEW BUSINESS

B. ADMINISTRATION UPDATE: 2026 Federal and County Level Legislative Proposals Affecting Native Hawaiians. **No discussion, deliberation, or decision-making*
(Time Stamp: 52:00/1:22:37)

Public Testimony

None

Update

Public Policy Manager, Deja Ostrowski, provided an update on OHA's legislative package as bills move into conference committee.

- **HB2101 (Commercial Aquarium Collection Ban)**: Staff reported that competing versions of the bill currently limit the ban either to Hawai'i Island or O'ahu. OHA's position remains to seek restoration of the original intent of a statewide commercial aquarium collection ban and to communicate that position to conference committee members once appointed.
- **HB2104 (Island Burial Council Bill)**: Staff advised that OHA would seek amendments in conference regarding compensation for Island Burial Council members. Recent changes incorporated comments from the Attorney General related to reimbursement of documentation requirements. OHA's preferred approach is to model council service compensation after jury duty compensation, while maintaining DLNR responsibility for expense reimbursement.
- **Historic Preservation Package Language**: Staff noted that language from OHA's historic preservation bill repeal has been incorporated into **HB1710**, which is agendaized under a later matrix item. Further discussion would occur under Matrix 9.
- Staff stated that OHA package language is advancing through three separate bills entering conference committee and expressed confidence in their progress.
(Time Stamp: 53:05/1:22:37)

C. OHA positions on 2026 legislative bills

1. 2026 OHA State Legislative Bill Package – Matrix 1

(Time Stamp: 55:22/1:22:37)

Public Testimony

None

Update

None

Discussion

None

**No motion or vote on Matrix 1*

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

(Time Stamp: 55:53/1:22:37)

Public Testimony

None

Update

** No motion or vote on Matrix 2*

- Staff highlighted HB2050 (Public Campaign Financing), for OHA and statewide elections, as a key bill advancing to conference committee.
 - Staff noted that amendments sought by OHA to place OHA elections on parity with the Lieutenant Governor and other statewide elections have not yet been incorporated.
 - No additional amendments are being recommended by staff at this stage because the bill is entering conference committee.
- (Time Stamp: 56:08/1:22:37)

Discussion

None

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

(Time: 56:50/1:22:37)

Public Testimony

None

Update

** No motion or vote for Matrix 3*

- Staff provided an update on SB2001 (Banyan Drive) bill is moving into conference committee.
 - OHA continues to have comments on the measure, including Support for adding lineal descendant representation language to the bill.
 - Staff noted that the bill does not currently include OHA as a member, and it is not anticipated that such a provision will be added.
 - OHA's focus remains on supporting community requests for lineal descendant representation in Banyan Drive decision-making.
 - No changes to Matrix 3 were recommended at this time, but staff identified the bill as a key measure entering conference.
- (Time Stamp: 57:05/1:22:47)

Discussion

None

4. 2026 Legislature: OHA Position on Bills Affecting Natural Resources and Native Hawaiian Traditional and Customary Practices – Matrix 4
(Time Stamp: 57:54/1:22:37)

Public Testimony

None

Update

- Staff presented HCR 178, which urges the Department of Land and Natural Resources to prioritize issuance of a set-aside to Maui County through executive order to support management of public trust water resources in East Maui.
- Staff recommended Support with Amendments, noting proposed technical language revisions related to water set-asides and water management. The recommendations were based on guidance provided by a former Land Use Commission member.
- Staff clarified that the recommendation involved OHA's published position only and did not require changes to the matrix.

(Time Stamp: 58:13/1:22:37)

Motion made by **Chair Galuteria** to approve OHA staff's position recommendations for bills and measures affecting natural resources and Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices as presented in Matrix 4.
(Time Stamp: 1:00:20/1:22:37)

Discussion

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

Roll Call

Motion carried (6 – 0)

Yes: *Trustees Ahuna, Akaka, Alapa, Kahele, Waihee, and Chair Galuteria*

Excused: *Trustees Akina, Lindsey, and Souza*

(Time Stamp: 1:00:45/1:22:37)

5. 2026 Legislature: OHA Position on Bills and Measures Affecting Native Hawaiian Housing – Matrix 5
(Time Stamp: 1:01:03/1:22:37)

Public Testimony

None

Update

- Staff reported a recommended position change for SB3048 following a gut-and-replace amendment.
- Originally, SB3048 was a tax measure on which OHA had taken no position. However,

language from HB2049, relating to conveyance tax changes and funding for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL), was inserted into SB3048 after HB2049 did not advance to conference.

- The amended measure would modify the conveyance tax structure and dedicate approximately \$60 million annually to DHHL.
- Staff, therefore, recommended changing OHA's position to Support of SB3048.
(Time Stamp: 1:01:16/1:22:37)

Motion made by **Chair Galuteria** to approve staff recommendations for bills and measures affecting Native Hawaiian housing as presented in **Matrix 5**.
(Time Stamp: 1:02:46/1:22:37)

Discussion

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

Roll Call

Motion carried (6 - 0)

Excused: *Trustees Akina, Lindsey, and Souza*

(Time Stamp: 1:03:00/1:22:37)

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

(Time Stamp: 1:03:16/1:22:37)

Public Testimony

None

Update

****No motion or vote for Matrix 6***

- Staff highlighted HB1769 (Public Safety and Criminal Justice), which would support the incremental return of Hawai'i inmates housed out of state. Staff noted the measure is advancing to conference committee, has gained significant traction this session, and has been supported by OHA through advocacy and public action alerts.
- Staff also highlighted SB2588, relating to Compassionate Release for incarcerated individuals with terminal illnesses. Staff noted that Hawai'i currently lacks a compassionate release law and that OHA position is to Support the measure alongside the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation and other coalition partners.
- Staff reported that OHA supports SB2588 with proposed amendments to clarify eligibility criteria for compassionate release.
- Both measures were identified as key bills advancing to conference committee.

- No action or changes to Matrix 6 were requested.
(Time Stamp: 1:03:35/1:22:37)

Discussion

None

7. 2026 Legislature: OHA Position on Bills and Measures Affecting Native Hawaiian Education – Matrix 7
(Time Stamp: 1:04:5:10/1:22:37)

Public Testimony

None

Update

**No motion or vote for Matrix 7*

- Staff provided an update on SB3123, which clarifies that free tuition provided by private educational institutions, where no tuition or other monetary consideration is required, is permissible.
- Staff noted the measure, referred to as the Kamehameha Schools bill, passed the Legislature, was sent in to the Governor, and has been signed into law.
- OHA supported the measure during the legislative process.
- Staff reported that the bill will not proceed to conference committee because it has already been enacted into law.
- No motion required for Matrix 7
(Time Stamp: 1:05:23/1:22:37)

Discussion

None

8. 2026 Legislature: OHA Position on Bills and Measures Affecting Native Hawaiian Economic Stability – Matrix 8
(Time Stamp: 1:06:05/1:22:37)

Public Testimony

None

Update

- Staff presented SR31, a new resolution requesting state and county agencies to develop a Food Security Plan.
- Staff reported that OHA has a position of Support for the resolution in coordination with a coalition and noted that this is a new legislative position that had not appeared in previous matrices.
(Time Stamp: 1:06:23/1:22:37)

Motion made by Chair Galuteria to approve staff recommendations for bills and measures affecting Native Hawaiian economic stability as presented in **Matrix 8**.
(Time Stamp: 1:06:09/1:22:437)

Discussion

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

Roll Call

Motion carried (6 – 0)

Excused: Trustees Akina, Lindsey, Souza
(Time Stamp: 1:07:32/1:22:37)

9. 2026 Legislature: OHA Position on Bills and Measures Affecting Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter 6E (Iwi Kūpuna and Historic Preservation – Matrix 9
(Time Stamp: 1:07:43/1:22:37)

Public Testimony

None

Update

**No motion or vote for Matrix 9*

- Staff highlighted HB1710 (Historic Preservation and Related Measures) describing it as the vehicle carrying OHA's historic preservation package language. Staff reported continued collaboration and agreement on the bill language among State of Hawai'i Historic Preservation Division (SHPD), community stakeholders, and county archaeologists as the measure advances.
- Staff noted that certain published Support and Oppose positions included in Matrix 9 are carryover positions from prior measures and were added in the event those measures become active during conference committee proceedings.
- Staff advised that the remaining measures in Matrix 9 are associated with OHA's legislative package.
- No changes to positions were recommended, and no motion or vote was required for Matrix.9.

10. 2026 Legislature: OHA Position on Governor's Messages for State Board and Commissions Confirmation – Matrix 10
(Time Stamp: 1:09:08/1:22:37)

Public Testimony

None

Introduction

- Staff presented a recommendation to revise OHA's approach toward certain gubernatorial nominees to the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority. Staff noted that, given the controversial nature and policy significance of these bodies, OHA may be better served by remaining neutral on individual nominees and focusing advocacy on policy positions rather than endorsements of specific individuals.
- Committee members discussed the proposed shift from supporting nominees to monitoring appointments. Concerns were raised that endorsing some nominees while remaining silent on others could be interpreted as opposition and could create unnecessary controversy.
- Staff also reported community pushback regarding support for certain Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority nominees and suggested that OHA consider developing its own nomination recommendations in the future.
- Trustees discussed balancing participation in public conversations with maintaining neutrality. Members acknowledged the strategic rationale for monitoring appointments while continuing to advocate for OHA's policy interests.
- **Vice Chair Akaka** also brought attention to GM 769, concerning the gubernatorial nomination of Patrick Branco to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, but no discussion or deliberation occurred as the matter was not on the agenda.
(Time Stamp: 1:09:28/1:22:37)

Motion made by **Chair Galuteria** to adopt OHA's positions on Governor's Messages for state board and commission confirmations as presented in Matrix 10, except to change the following positions from Support to Monitor:

- Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission gubernatorial nominees:
 - Gilbert Kualii
 - Philip Fernandez
- Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority gubernatorial nominees:
 - Paul Horner
 - Noenoe Wong Wilson
 - Richard Matsuda
 - John Komeiji

(Time Stamp: 1:19:01/1:22:37)

Roll Call

Motion carried (5 – 0)

Yes: *Trustees Ahuna, Akaka, Alapa, Kahele, Chair Galuteria*

Excused: *Akina, Lindsey, Souza, Waihe'e IV*

(Time Stamp: 1:19:48/1:22:37)

V. COMMUNITY CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

None presented

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Kahele extended birthday wishes to staff member, Pōhai Ryan.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The committee was reminded of the Board meeting scheduled for the following day at **9:00 a.m.**

Motion made by **Vice Chair Akaka** to adjourn the April 15, 2026 meeting of the Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment.
(Time Stamp: 1:21:17/1:22:37)

Roll Call

Motion carried (6 – 0)

Excused: *Trustees Akina, Lindsey, Souza*

(Time Stamp: 1:21:27/1:22:37)

The meeting adjourned with no further business at 10:24 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lei-Ann Stender Durant, Trustee Aide
Committee Recording Secretary

Brickwood Galuteria, Trustee At-Large
Committee Chair

Date Approved:

COMMITTEE ON BENEFICIARY ADVOCACY AND EMPOWERMENT (BAE)

April 29, 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=YCicX-yZxo0&t=1152s> (Part 1)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dGOMuZU_qj8&t=1796s (Part 2)

MINUTES

TRUSTEES PRESENT

Brickwood Galuteria, Chair
Kaleihikina Akaka, Vice Chair
Keli'i Akina
Luana Alapa
Carmen Hulu Lindsey
Keoni Souza
John Waihe'e, IV

TRUSTEES EXCUSED

Dan Ahuna
Kaiali'i Kahele

BAE STAFF

Lei-Ann Stender Durant
Mark Watanabe
Melissa Wennihan (Kokua)
Momi Ka'aihue (Temporary)
Nathan Takeuchi
Richelle Kim (Kokua)

BOT STAFF

Kanani Iaea
Pōhai Ryan
Pōhailani Kealoha
Remy Keli'iho'omalua
Morgan Kauai Robello

ADMINISTRATION

K. Sean Kekina, COO
Bill Brennan
Deja Ostrowski
Hailama Farden
Kyle Saucier
Leinā'ala Ley

BOARD COUNSEL

Kapono Kiakona

GENERAL COUNSEL

Everett Ohta

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Galuteria called the April 29, 2026 meeting of the Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment to order at 9:07 a.m.

Chair Galuteria welcomed everyone to the day's meeting and shared that this standing

committee of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs is responsible for advancing the interests of Native Hawaiian beneficiaries through policy oversight, legislative review, and targeted advocacy. Our scope includes critical areas such as health, housing, education, economic development, environmental protections, and stewardship of culturally significant lands and waters. Our committee recommends positions on legislative measures, reviews programs, and approves nominations.

Chair Galuteria and acknowledged his trustee aide, Lei-Ann Stender Durant, serving as the Committee Recording Secretary and his temporary secretary, Momi Ka'aihue, serving as the Committee Technology and Information Specialist.

Chair Galuteria called for the roll call to confirm attendance:

Roll Call

Seven members are present constituting a quorum

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

Excused: *Trustees Ahuna and Kahele*

(Time Stamp: 13:00/55:25)

Chief Operating Officer, K. Sean Kekina, introduced administrative staff that was present at the meeting (see page 1).

Due to technical difficulties, **Chair Galuteria called a recess to allow time to resolve the sound and video issues.*

(Time Stamp: 15:04/55.25)

****Chair Galuteria** resumes the meeting at 9:15 a.m.)*

(Time Stamp: 17:18/55.25)

Discussion

Due to legislative deadlines, **Chair Galuteria** asks the committee members for unanimous consent to take Agenda Item IV. Executive Session, Item A. out of order. Hearing no objection, Chair Galuteria announces that the item will be taken out of order and discussed pursuant to HRS § 92-5(a)(4) to receive updated information, consult with its legal counsel, and take any necessary action regarding the Committee's powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities with respect to Public Land Trust bills identified in "2026 Legislature: OHA Position on Bills & Measures Affecting the Public Land Trust – Matrix 3."

(Time Stamp: 17:42/55:25)

Public Testimony

None

Motion (**Chair Galuteria**): Approve moving into Executive Session.

(Time Stamp: 19:05/55:25)

Discussion

There being no discussion, **Chair Galuteria** called for the vote.
(Time Stamp: 19:11/55:25)

Roll Call

Motion carried (7 – 0)

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

Excused: *Trustees Akina and Kahele*

(Time Stamp: 19:16/55:25)

****The BAE Committee entered into Executive Session.***

(Time Stamp: 19:44/55:25)

****The BAE Committee back in Public Session at approximately 10:18 a.m.***

(Time Stamp: 2:36/55:25)

Executive Session Report

Chair Galuteria reported that the committee members received updated information, consulted with legal counsel, and took necessary action regarding the committee's powers, duties, privileges, immunities and liabilities with respect to the Public Land Trust bills identified in the 2026 legislature, specifically OHA bills on bills and measures affecting the Public Land Trust – Matrix 3.

(Time Stamp: 2:52/33:10)

Motion (**Chair Galuteria**): Accept the amendments to propose CDI on SB903 relating to Hawaiian Affairs with additional language requests as to HRS Chapter 10H and spending limitations.

(Time Stamp: 3:30/33:10)

Discussion

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

Roll Call

Motion carried (6 – 0)

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

Kanalua: *Trustee Lindsey*

Excused: *Trustees Ahuna and Kahele*

(Time Stamp: 3:50/33:10)

****Chair Galuteria returned to the Agenda starting with the Approval of Minutes.***

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 4, 2026

Public Testimony

None

Motion (Chair Galuteria): Approve the February 4, 2026 minutes of the meeting of the Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment.

(Time Stamp: 4:44/33:10)

Discussion

There being no 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 and Kahele*

(Time Stamp: 4:55/33:10)

III. NEW BUSINESS

**A. Presentation - Sybil Lopez, Mokupuni Community Development Corporation (MCDC) taken out of order.*

B. Administration Update – 2026 Legislative Session and Rapid Response Approval Testimony Submittal Updates – *No deliberation or decision-making.*

(Time Stamp: 5:53/33:10)

Public Testimony

None

Presentation

No updates available.

(Time Stamp: 6:14/33:10)

C. Administration Update – 22026 Federl and County Level Legislative Proposals Affecting Native Hawaiians – *No deliberation or decision-making.*

(Time Stamp: 6:23/33:10)

Public Testimony

None

Presentation

Advocacy proceeded with the city charter testimony that was approved by the Board. There was no other business to present or discuss.

(Time Stamp: 6:39/33:10)

D. OHA Positions on 2026 Legislative Bills

1. 2026 OHA State Legislative Bills – Matrix 1

(Time Stamp: 7:33/33:10)

- **HB2104** Relating to Hawaiian Burial Council. Continued moving through the process
- **HB2101** Relating to Commercial Aquarium Collection. No conferees appointed so bill will most likely die.

**No motion, discussion, deliberation, or vote taken for Matrix 1.*

- **HB1710** Relating to Historic Preservation (Matrix 9). Included historic preservation language to better protect iwi kūpuuna by identifying high risk areas such as sand dunes, lavat tubes, and karsts will probably not move out of conference committee. Advocacy will continue to work with State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) and the relevant committee chairs prior to the 2027 legislative session to see if this can be pushed through the session.

(Time Stamp: 7:42/33:10)

Public Testimony

No public Testimony on Matrices 1 – 8 and 10.

**Note: Chair Galuteria reported that there are no changes or updates on Matrices 2 – 8 and Matrix 10; therefore, he address all matrices as a group. No discussion, deliberation or votes taken on Matrices 1 – 8 and 10.*

A. Presentation – Moloka‘i Kona Low Storm Disaster; Impacts on Hawaiian Homestead Communities – Sybil Lopez, Mokupuni Community Development Corporation (MCDC)

Public Testimony

None

Remarks

Moloka‘i Trustee, Luana Alapa, shared some remarks:

- Reported participating, along with the **Chief Operating Officer (COO), K.Sean Kekina** in presenting two funding checks to organizations supporting recovery efforts on Moloka‘i.
 - Received updates on ongoing needs, including transportation of fuel and supplies, and noted that the scale of damage remains extensive with recovery expected to continue for months or years.
 - Expressed support for providing additional funding assistance to Moloka‘i, recognizing that current funds may be quickly exhausted due to continuing community needs.
 - Concern was raised regarding health impacts from mold exposure, especially among kūpuna, and the need for resources such as air purifiers.
 - Emphasized that OHA is listening to community concerns and is committed to exploring ways to provide further support.
 - Appreciation was extended to participants for sharing their experiences and needs with the Board.
- (Time Stamp: 12:11/33:10)

Presentation - **Sybil Lopez** and **Kainoa Lei McDonald** spoke on the Moloka‘i Homestead Community Recovery following the Kona Storm.

- Kainoa McDonald introduced herself as a member of the Wailuku Community Development organization, a Hawaiian Homes Commission beneficiary, council member serving Maui and Lāna‘i homesteads, Chair of the Wai‘ale Homestead Organization, and Chair of the Association of Hawaiians for Homestead Lands representing Native Hawaiian beneficiaries and waitlisted applicants.
- Sybil Lopez provided an overview of the Moloka‘i Community Development Corporation (MCDC), a nonprofit organization supporting Hawaiian homestead beneficiaries through community development, planning, self-determination, and stewardship initiatives. She described MCD’s partnerships with local homestead associations and community organizations.
- The presenters reported on the impacts of the recent Kona low storm on Moloka‘i homestead communities. They noted significant flooding, power and water outages, damage to critical infrastructure, and isolation of several communities due to debris and impassable roads. The most severely affected areas included Kapa‘akea and neighboring homestead communities. More than 180 homestead households experienced impacts, particularly older homes and multi-generational family residences.
- The presenters outlined preparedness and response efforts, including coordination with Maui Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), activation of community leaders, real-time communication with emergency management agencies, establishment of emergency supply hubs, debris removal, tree trimming, mold remediation, temporary roof repairs, temporary housing assistance, and community resource centers.

- They emphasized the cultural and emotional impacts on Native Hawaiian families living on homestead lands and highlighted ongoing assessments and case management efforts.
 - The presenters also discussed long-term recovery needs, including infrastructure improvements, increased disaster resilience, and access to recovery resources.
 - The presenters requested continued collaboration with Trustee Alapa and OHA staff, as well as financial support and resources to assist affected homestead communities in their recovery and rebuilding efforts.
- (Time Stamp: 13:14/33:10)

Board Response

Trustee Alapa thanked the presenters for their testimony, community leadership, and recovery efforts, and acknowledged the importance of continued support for Moloka‘i's affected homestead communities.

(Time Stamp: 13:35/33:10)

Chair Galuteria invited Kai and Sybil to continue their presentation.

(Time Stamp: 14:21/33:10)

Presentation (continued)

(Time Stamp: 15:08/33:10)

- Kaiona McDonald introduced herself as a council member, chair of a homestead association, and chair of the Association of Hawaiians for Homestead Lands, which advocates for approximately 29,000 applicants on the Hawaiian Home Lands waitlist. Kainoa further explained that collaboration with Sybil was strengthened following the recent Kona storm response efforts.
- Sybil provided an overview of the Moloka‘i Community Development Corporation (MCDC), a nonprofit organization serving Native Hawaiian beneficiaries under the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act. She described MCDC’s partnerships with homestead associations statewide and highlighted Moloka‘i’s Hawaiian Home Lands community, including approximately 25,769 acres of trust lands, 840 leases, and more than 2,100 individuals awaiting homestead awards.
- The presenters described MCDC’s coordination with community organizations, including Moloka‘i Cares, to assess and respond to impacts from the recent Kona storm. Preparedness efforts included communication with Maui Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), community leader activation, real-time emergency monitoring, and shelter-in-place guidance.
- The storm caused flooding, infrastructure failures, power and water outages, and significant impacts to Hawaiian homestead communities. Kapualei and neighboring areas were identified as among the most severely affected, while approximately 180 homestead households in Ho‘olehua experienced substantial impacts, particularly among aging homes and multigenerational families.

- Response efforts included establishment of emergency hubs, food distribution networks, damage assessments, debris removal, tree trimming, mold remediation, emergency roof repairs, temporary housing assistance, and coordination with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) to address drainage and culvert concerns ahead of additional storm events.
- The presenters emphasized ongoing recovery challenges due to Moloka‘i’s remote location, limited access to repair materials and services, and the need for continued case management to connect residents with available state and federal disaster assistance. They highlighted the cultural and emotional impacts on Native Hawaiian families and stressed the importance of long-term resilience and community self-sufficiency.

Request: The presenters requested continued collaboration with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and staff, as well as financial support and resources to assist storm recovery, housing repair, and long-term community resilience efforts for Moloka‘i homestead communities.
(Time Stamp: 26:56/33:10)

Trustee Response

Chair Galuteria acknowledged and thanked the presenters for an in-depth presentation.

Trustee Alapa thanked the presenters for their participation and expressed support for efforts to secure additional funding, emphasizing the importance of the program to the livelihood of the people of Moloka‘i. **Trustee Alapa** stated hope that fellow trustees would support and help facilitate additional funding based on the presentation received.

The presenter thanked the Board and noted an upcoming presentation on Maui, indicating plans to meet with Trustee Lindsey and provide future updates.
The item concluded with expressions of appreciation and aloha.
(Time Stamp: 27:14/33:10)

V. COMMUNITY CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

(Time Stamp: 29:24/33:10)

- **Trustee Akaka** shared that OHA did distribute a check to Key Project, and the visit provided an excellent opportunity for her to speak with administrators and employees and learn more about the Project in terms of what they have done through the decades – especially on that side of the island. She also had the opportunity to learn of their continued efforts cooking for the community during the severe weather and flooding.
- **Trustee Akaka** added that there seemed to be a constant challenge when it came time to address these issues with other trustees.
- **Trustee Akaka** asked for help in keeping the island trustees abreast of what is happening on their respective islands and is asking for consultation and coordination when it comes

to coordination regarding continued efforts in provided help for those in need. She also requested that when pertinent information goes to administration, that they inform the Board members, so they are kept abreast of issues.
(Time Stamp: 30:38/33:10)

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

(Time Stamp: 31:28/33:10)

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion (Chair Galuteria): Adjourn the April 29, 2026 meeting of the Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment.

Discussion

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

Roll Call

(Time Stamp: 31:51/33:10)

Motion carried (8 – 0)

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

Excused: *Trustee Ahuna*

Chair Galuteria adjourned the meeting. The time: 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lei-Ann Stender Durant, Trustee Aide
Committee Recording Secretary

Brickwood Galuteria, Trustee At-Large
Committee Chair

Approved:

COMMITTEE ON BENEFICIARY ADVOCACY AND EMPOWERMENT (BAE)

May 13, 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=XELYOpTPyss>

MINUTES

TRUSTEES PRESENT

Brickwood Galuteria, Chair
Dan Ahuna
Kaleihikina Akaka, Vice Chair
Keli'i Akina
Luana Alapa (arrived 9:40 a.m.)
Kaiali'i Kahele
Carmen Hulu Lindsey
Keoni Souza (left 9:24 a.m.)
John Waihe'e, IV (arrived 9:08 a.m.)

BAE COMMITTEE STAFF

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

GENERAL COUNSEL

Everett Ohta

BOT STAFF

Kanani Iaea
Pōhai Ryan
Pōhailani Kealoha
Remy Keli'ihō'omalu
Richelle Kim

ADMINISTRATION

Summer Sylva, Interim Administrator/COO
K. Sean Kekina, COO
Bill Brennan
Deja Ostrowski
Hailama Farden
Kyle Saucier
Leinā'ala Ley
McKenna Woodward
Sharde Freitas

BOARD COUNSEL

Kapono Kiakona Kapono Kiakona

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Galuteria called the April 29, 2026 meeting of the Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment to order at 9:07 a.m.

Chair Galuteria thanked the Committee and staff for attending today's meeting. The Standing Committee of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs is responsible for advancing the interests of Native Hawaiians beneficiaries through policy oversight, legislative review, and targeted advocacy. Its scope includes critical areas such as health, housing, education, economic development,

environmental protection, and the stewardship of culturally significant lands and waters. The Committee recommends positions on legislative measures, reviews programs, and approves nominations. This committee serves as a direct link between community voice and decision-making. The committee members remain guided by the principles of kulana and justice.

Chair Galuteria acknowledged his trustee aide, Lei-Ann Stender Durant, serving as the Committee Recording Secretary and his temporary secretary, Momi Ka'aihue, serving as the Committee Technology and Information Specialist.

Chair Galuteria called for the roll call to confirm attendance:

Roll Call

Seven persons are present constituting a quorum.

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

Not Present at time of roll call: *Trustees Alapa and Waihe'e IV*

(6:59/1:04:30)

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. Update, Presentation, and Discussion on OHA Positions on 2026 Legislative Bills and Measures and 20206 Legislative Session Wrap-Up (Advocacy Division)
(Time Stamp: 8:34/1:04:30)

Public Testimony

None

Legislative Update Presentation

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

(Time Stamp: 9:19/1:04:30)

Staff provided a high-level overview of the 2025 legislative session, noting that bills still require gubernatorial action and that a more detailed report will be provided after the veto period concludes. OHA tracked 1,282 bills during the session, with positions taken on 433 measures.

OHA Package Bills

- Staff reported that the Island Burial Council reform bill advanced through the Legislature and awaits the Governor's signature. The measure lowers quorum requirements, enabling councils to conduct business more regularly despite vacancies.
- Staff noted that 16 Island Burial Council nominees submitted to the Governor were not advanced to the Senate, contributing to ongoing council vacancy challenges.
- Trustees discussed the need to review and strengthen statutes governing Island Burial Councils. Staff reported that the Burial Sites Working Group is conducting a comprehensive review and will present recommendations to the Board in November.

- Staff advised that an action item will return to the Board regarding stipends for moku representatives serving on Island Burial Councils.

OHA-Named Bills

- Staff reported that SB903, if signed by the Governor, will transfer approximately \$55 million from the OHA Trust Account to OHA and make updates to the Public Land Trust Working Group, including expanded membership and future governance discussions.
- Trustees and staff acknowledged the efforts of legislators, legislative leadership, committee members, and community supporters who helped advance SB903.
- Discussion highlighted that the funds represent previously identified revenues owed to OHA and are not a new appropriation.
- Trustees discussed the importance of legislative education, coordinated communications, and public outreach regarding significant OHA measures.

Additional Legislative Measures

- Staff highlighted bills establishing an Office of Marine Affairs, creating a correctional facility rehabilitation task force, addressing public financing for OHA candidates, and forming an agricultural land working group.
- Staff noted OHA representation on several newly established advisory and working groups.

Public Land and Natural Resources

- Staff expressed concerns regarding SB2169, which would grant the Agribusiness Development Corporation condemnation authority over public lands and may allow future transfer of those lands without existing safeguards. Staff indicated OHA would recommend a gubernatorial veto.
- Staff reported on legislation authorizing the Board of Land and Natural Resources to permit sand removal for educational, research, management, and propagation purposes and stated OHA would monitor implementation.
- Staff highlighted measures supporting community co-management of natural resources and limiting construction of large structures on conservation district mountain lands.
- Staff indicated OHA would recommend a veto of HB1823 due to concerns regarding reduced coastal zone management protections and limitations on community participation.

Housing and Homestead Issues

- Staff reported passage of legislation allowing Hawaiian Home Lands lease succession for nieces and nephews.
- Staff noted passage of a homebuyer savings account measure allowing greater pre-tax savings for home down payments.
- Staff discussed the failure of several housing-related measures, including a DHHL funding proposal and tenant protection legislation.
- Staff recommended a veto of HB1741 due to concerns that it restricts county authority to require affordable workforce housing developments.

Criminal Justice and Health

- Staff highlighted enacted measures to support inmate access to SNAP benefits before release and youth identification programs aimed at reducing unnecessary contact with the justice system.
- Staff reported disappointment regarding the failure of bills related to returning incarcerated individuals to Hawai‘i, compassionate release, and healthcare workforce loan repayment programs.

Education

- Staff reported passage of legislation supporting private educational institutions, including protections relevant to Kamehameha Schools scholarship programs.
- Staff noted support for and interest in reviving measures related to free student transit and early learning program funding.

Economic Development

- Staff highlighted passage of a local business bidding preference measure intended to improve opportunities for Hawai‘i-based businesses in state procurement.
- Staff reported several community-support measures did not advance, including proposals related to food tax exemptions, DHHL funding, cooperative development, and local lei procurement.
- Trustees noted passage of legislation recognizing Lā Lei Day as a cultural observance.

Kupuna and Historic Preservation

- Staff reported that historic preservation legislation advanced without language previously supported by OHA and indicated continued engagement with State Historic Preservation Division and legislators during the interim.
- Staff discussed legislation establishing a five-year housing pilot program and noted OHA will monitor implementation impacts.
- Staff provided an update regarding Kalaupapa governance and future management considerations, including questions concerning public land trust responsibilities and community access.

Closing

- Staff expressed appreciation to trustees, Public Policy staff, and regional support personnel for their work throughout the legislative session.
- No further questions were raised by trustees. The legislative update concluded.

II. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

B. Discussion and Action on 2026 Honolulu Charter Commission: OHA Position on Charter Amendment Proposals
(Time Stamp: 45:14/1:04:30)

Public Testimony

1. Germaine Meyers

- Expressed appreciation for OHA's review of charter amendments affecting Native Hawaiian rights, cultural stewardship, governance, and proposals supporting Native Hawaiian values and representation. The testifier also expressed disappointment that OHA did not appear to sufficiently engage Honolulu neighborhood boards and grassroots Native Hawaiian communities during its review process.
- Emphasized the role of neighborhood boards as a direct forum for residents to address community concerns including housing, public safety, infrastructure, cultural resources, and environmental impacts. The testifier noted that members of the Nānākuli-Mā‘ili Neighborhood Board submitted several charter amendment proposals to the Honolulu Charter Commission, including proposals related to equitable landfill siting and the enforcement of homeless encampment regulations at city parks and beaches.
- Urged OHA to strengthen engagement with neighborhood boards, homestead communities, and grassroots Native Hawaiian leaders, and encouraged the development of a formal outreach and consultation process before adopting positions on future charter amendments and major county policy proposals.

No action requested by the testifier.

(Time Stamp: 45:57/1:04:30)

2. Shelby “Pikachu” Billionaire

- Congratulated OHA on legislative efforts resulting in funding for Native Hawaiian programs and discussed ongoing concerns regarding full allocation of public trust revenues. The testifier commented on recent state legislative measures and encouraged continued advocacy during future legislative sessions.
- Expressed concerns regarding proposed landfill expansion and environmental impacts on West O‘ahu communities, particularly Native Hawaiian residents. The testimony referenced community opposition to landfill-related proposals and urged continued engagement on environmental, public health, and community protection issues.
- Shared observations regarding legislative advocacy strategies, encouraged continued involvement in issues affecting Native Hawaiian communities, and requested recognition of a recent bereavement affecting the family of a state senator.

No action requested by the testifier.

(Time Stamp: 50:30/1:04:30)

Motion (Chair Galuteria): Approve OHA staff’s recommended positions on the 2026 Honolulu Charter Commission Amendment Proposals as reflected in the matrix published with the May 13, 2026 BAE Agenda.

(Time Stamp: 54:10/1:04:30)

Staff Report

(Chief Advocate, **Leinā‘ala Ley**, and Public Policy Manage, **Deja Ostrowski**)

- Staff reported that several charter amendment proposals included in earlier published materials would not advance the Charter Commission's final review. Staff highlighted Proposal P186 as a new recommendation for OHA support, which would amend the Honolulu City Charter preamble to recognize Native Hawaiian values. Staff noted that all other proposals before the Committee had been previously reviewed and approved on prior matrices.
(Time Stamp: 54:37/1:04:30)

Committee Action

A motion was considered to approve the recommended OHA positions on the charter amendment proposals, including support for Proposal P186.

Discussion

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

Roll Call

Motion carried (8 – 0)

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

Excused: *Trustee Souza*

(Time Stamp: 55:48/1:04:30)

III. COMMUNITY CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

1. Germaine Meyers

- Raised concerns regarding a recently posted OHA procurement exemption notice seeking specialized advisory services related to the valuation, due diligence, and potential acquisition of broadcast media assets.
- Questioned the transparency of the process, including the listed procurement amount, use of an exemption process, and the lack of publicly available information regarding the purpose, potential costs, risks, and anticipated benefits of any possible acquisition.
- Emphasized the importance of transparency, fiduciary responsibility, and beneficiary engagement in matters involving trust resources.
- Encouraged OHA to provide public disclosure regarding any potential broadcast media acquisition, including its strategic justification and expected beneficiary outcomes.
- Urged beneficiaries to monitor OHA procurement notices and awards.
(Time Stamp: 57:56/1:04:30)

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

(Time Stamp: 1:02:41/1:04:30)

ADJOURNMENT

Motion (**Trustee Waihe'e**): Adjourn the May 13, 2026 meeting of the Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment.

(1:03:11/1:04:30)

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

Roll Call

Motion carried (8 – 0)

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

Excused: *Trustee Souza*

(Time Stamp: 1:03:49/1:04:30)

The meeting is adjourned. The time is 10:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lei-Ann Stender Durant, Trustee Aide
Committee Recording Secretary

Brickwood Galuteria, Trustee At-Large
Committee Chair

Date Approved:



Beneficiary Advocacy & Empowerment Committee

III. New Business:

A. Update 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. Executive Session§:

A. Approval of Executive Session Minutes:

- April 29, 2026
- June 24, 2026

B. 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

V. Community Concerns and Celebrations

VI. Announcements

VII. Adjournment

There is no material for the above items