STATE OF HAWAI'I

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

COMMITTEE ON BENEFICIARY ADVOCACY AND EMPOWERMENT January 8, 2025

9 a.m.

(In-person at OHA Mauli Ola Boardroom and via Interactive Conference Technology)

MINUTES

TRUSTEES PRESENT

Brickwood Galuteria, Chair Kaleihikina Akaka, Vice Chair

Dan Ahuna

Keli'i Akina

Luana Alapa

Kaiali'i Kahele

Carmen Hulu Lindsey

Keoni Souza

John Waihe'e, IV

CEO

Stacy Ferreira

COO

Kehaulani Pu'u

BAE STAFF

Kyla Hee

Lei-Ann Durant

Mark Watanabe

Nathan Takeuchi

BOARD OF TRUSTEES STAFF

Carina Lee

Crayn Akina

Jasmine Branco

Kanani Iaea

Kaui Wailehua

Mele Moniz

Melissa Wennihan

Pohai Ryan

Remy Keli'iho'omalu

Richelle Kim

Sommer Soares

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Arlene Aguinaldo

Elena Farden

Everett Ohta

Hailama Farden

Kamakana Ferreira

Kevin Chak

Ku'uleianuhea Awo-Chun

Leina'ala Ley

Lei Vaughn-Sekona

Nietzsche Ozawa

Poni Askew

Ramona Hinck

BAE Committee 08JAN2025 Page 1 of 7 Chair Brickwood Galuteria called the meeting of the Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment to order on Wednesday, January 8, 2025, at 9 a.m.

Roll Call – Seven board members were present and constituted a quorum Trustee Keli'i Akina arrived at 9:03 a.m.
Trustee John Waihe'e, IV arrived at 9:09 a.m.

Chair Galuteria welcomed the committee members and shared his vision for the future of this committee (see attached).

II. NEW BUSINESS

a. Island Burial Council Nominations: Action Item #25-01 (9:16:21 a.m.)

MOTION 1: 1st – Trustee Dan Ahuna

2nd – Trustee John Waihe'e, IV

To approve the individuals listed in Section I. above as the Office of Hawaiian Affair's 2025 nominations to the O'ahu Burial Council, Hawai'i Island Burial Council, Maui Island Burial Council, Moloka'i Island Burial Council and the Kaua'i Island Burial Council and to authorize the Administration to timely transmit these nominations to the Governor.

o There were no testifiers on this subject

DISCUSSION

Kamakani Ferreira, OHA's lead compliance specialist, shared OHA's process regarding burial council policies and procedures. OHA is mandated by HRS 60.43.5 specifies that candidates should have knowledge of burial practices and Hawaiian cultural practices, so Kamakana and his team engineered a scoring rubric around that. applicants submitted a letter of intent (optional), submitted a resume and completed an online application. Each applicant is scored according to HRS 60.43.

Committee members included **Kamakana**, **Kai Markell** (Compliance Enforcement Manager), and **Ku'ikeokalani Kamakea-Ohelo** (Strategy and Implementation).

Chair Galuteria asked if the vetting process is based on academics or culture and past practices of the candidates. **Kamakana** responded that scoring is based experience with 'iwi kupuna issues, research or knowledge of Hawaiian burial practices, or experience with historic

preservation laws, and experience with Hawaiian Burial Councils. Candidates are also scored on their resumes, online application and any experiences.

CEO Stacy Ferreira asked **Kamakana** to share the process once the selections are made. **Kamakana.** OHA has the final say and the names are submitted to the Governor

Chair Galuteria confirmed that two agencies are involved – OHA and DLNR.

Trustee Akina asked about the number of names that will be appointed to each burial council with regard to the 20% He asked if the 20% is dedicated to each island burial council of if 20% covered all island councils. It is **Kamakana**'s belief that the 20% submitted is the total for all islands. **Trustee Akina** asked for clarification that there was no assurance that the names submitted by OHA would be selected. **Kamakana** confirmed that was the case, but in his experience, that hasn't been the practice.

There being no further discussion, Chair Galuteria called for the vote. (9.22.44 a.m.)

[MOTION 1: 1st – Trustee Da\n Ahuna 2nd – Trustee John Waihe'e, IV To approve the individuals listed in Section I. above as the Office of Hawaiian Affairs' 2025 Burial Council, Moloka'i Island Burial Council and the Kaua'i Island Burial Council and to authorize the Administration to timely transmit these nominations to the Governor.]

All trustees present voted yes. MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE of 9-0.

- II. New Business (continued)
 - b. Public Land Trust Bill Action Item BAE #25 (02 9:23:21 a.m.)

MOTION 2: 1st – Trustee Souza

2nd – Trustee Alapa

Approve the bill relating to the Public Land Truste Working Group recommendation for inventory and audit funding as drafted in Attachment A.

o There were no testifiers on this subject

DISCUSSION

Trustee Akina asked for clarification that this Act [226] makes these allocations of funds exempt from the procurement process; and if that is the case, he asks that someone share the rationale behind it.

CEO Ferreira stated that this request for \$1M was a recommendation from the Public Land Trust Working Group (PLTWG) so this is a deliverable from that working group. \$1M will enable OHA to start the audit. OHA will follow the procurement procedure which is OHA's standard practice. The recommendation, which came from the Public Land Trust, was submitted last session at a much lower amount, the ask for \$1M is an estimated cost to at least start the inventory audit.

Similarly, there will be another request for the same amount of \$M. \$750K will come from the Governor, [Josh Green]; and if approved by this board, OHA will be putting \$250K into its budget that will match this bill with appropriation. We wanted to have as many opportunities - it is that important that we get this approved in order to get an accurate inventory.

*The big change from last year's bill is the ask of an increase of \$1M in order to provide accuracy, self-reporting, verifying the revenues from each department.

OHA Interim General Counsel, Everett Ohta, corrected that this bill does include an exemption of the procurement process because we are reintroducing the same bill that was previously sought by the PLTWG seeking the same type of funding as last year. Although OHA is part of the working group, this is not something OHA submitted on its own. It's a carry over of sorts that is a little unusual, but it does call for an exemption from those services. This exemption would allow OHA not to use state procurement code 103.d.

Trustee Akina state his question was not about the increased funding. The question was why we have to go outside the procurement process to get the results we want. He wants to ensure the public knows that the safeguard usually put in place with the procurement process will be adhered to. **Everett** stated that the exemption speaks to the specialized work regarding both the inventories as well as financial reporting received by the agencies as well as confirm its accuracy. This is somewhat specialized and is not a generalized annual audit done by the agencies. OHA is seeking to have those funds transferred to OHA to minister, through a contract, to a vendor who is doing that kind of work. The work will take a considerable amount of time, but the agency will need that information to do its work. Given past reviews, there is a lot of work with the agencies.

Trustee Dan Ahuna stated that this adds a little protection and prevents the state from stealing the land.

Chair Galuteria thanked Chair Emeria Hulu [Lindsey] for leading the charge to get OHA to this point through her years of working on this issue. Chair Emerita stated that it has been an interesting two years working with the PLTWG and she feels working with the State helped her understand a few things. With regard to the \$1M, the Governor [Josh Green] did send a message via one of his employees working with the PLTWG, that he would be willing to put his \$750K into his personal message to the Legislature which is encouraging. He wants to give the Legislature the idea that OHA and the State are working together. Hopefully, that will give them the encouragement to give OHA the money. Chair Emerita thanks Chair Galuteria for his work with the PLTWG.

CEO Ferreira clarified that if we get the \$750K from the Legislature, those funds along with OHA's \$250K will need to go through the procurement process. Those funds will be appropriated to DLNR and expended by OHA.

There being no further discussion, Chair Galuteria calls for the roll call vote. (9:36:42)

[MOTION 2: 1st – Trustee Souza 2nd – Trustee Alapa Approve the bill relating to the Public Land Truste Working Group recommendation for inventory and audit funding as drafted in Attachment A.

All trustees present voted yes. MOTION PASSED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF 9-0.

- II. New Business (continued)
- c. Kaka'ako Makai Bill Action Item #25-03 (9:37:35)
 MOTION 3: Approval of the bill relating to the Hawai'i Community Development
 Authority (framework for residential development in portions of Kaka'ako Makai), as
 drafted in Attachment A.

Chair Galuteria recognizes Germaine Meyers to present her testimony (9:39:07)

Germaine Meyers, OHA Beneficiary for beneficiary advocacy and empowerment and a Nanakuli Homestead Lessee, expressed she was glad to see OHA's pursuing OHA development rights for Hakuone, Kaka'ako Makai to fulfill the State of Hawai'i's promised settlement value of \$200M. Otherwise, the value of the lands will be equal to \$40M. She recalled previous presentations of the Kaka'ako Makai inherited lands being revealed:

- 1) OHA inherited lands that already had leases which OHA was required to honor until its expirations.
- 2) Bulk head repair needs that will cost \$60M in order to allow OHA build residential towers
- 3) OHA came to the realization that the State did not amend residential restrictions so that OHA can build residential towers at Hakuone, Kaka'ako Makai
- 4) OHA has existed for 46 years which equals two family generations. Empowerment, to Germaine, means to transform beneficiaries to benefactors. As beneficiaries, our people need resources to take care of themselves and their ohana. As benefactors, our people have the resources to help themselves and others. We need resources for ourselves to be able to serve others and their ohana.
- 5) With residential housing at Hakuone, Kaka'ako Makai, our people will be able to make Hakuone in urban Honolulu, their home. Many use the term that we are priced out of paradise. Paradise is a mainland concept; locals don't call Hawai'i paradise. Locals call Hawai'i home.

BAE Committee 08JAN2025 Page 5 of 7 [MOTION 3: 1st – Trustee Souza 2nd – Trustee Alapa (9:42:26) Approval of the bill relating to the Hawai'i Community Development Authority (framework for residential development in portions of Kaka'ako Makai), as drafted in Attachment A.

DISCUSSION

There being no discussion, Chair Galuteria calls for the vote. (9:42:48)

All members present voted yes. MOTION PASSES BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF 9-0

Chair Galuteria yields some time to Board Chair Kaiali'i Kahele for a brief introduction. **Board Chair Kahele** welcomes Chair Galuteria back, recognizes all trustees and expresses his gratitude to be working with them, and thanks CEO Ferreira and her team that thoughtfully prepared for the budget briefings.

Chair Galuteria reminds all in attendance that as we embark on this new journey, that we are OHA and we are ALOHA. He asks us to keep that in mind as we move forward.

iii. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, Chair Galuteria calls for the motion.

MOTION TO ADJOURN 1st – Trustee Ahuna 2nd – Trustee Akina (9:47:18)

All members present voted yes. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY BY A VOTE OF 9-0

Approved;

Respectfully submitted,

Brickwood Galuteria, Committee Chair Lei-Ann Stender Durant, Trustee Aide

> BAE Committee 08JAN2025 Page 6 of 7



BAE Script Addition

1 message

Brickwood Galuteria brickwoodg@gmail.com To: Brickwoodg@gmail.com>

Mon, Jan 6, 2025 at 8:47 PM

Chairperson: Before we proceed with the agenda, I would like to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude to the previous Board and Committee Leadership. We owe a special debt of gratitude to Chair Emeritas Hulu Lindsey, our previous Board Chair, and former BAE Chair Kaleikina Akaka for their unwavering commitment and we thank you sincerely for your service. Your dedication, vision, and hard work have been instrumental in guiding our organization through numerous challenges and achievements. You have laid a strong foundation upon which we can continue to build and thrive. As we move forward, we are excited to embark on a new chapter. This is a time of renewal and opportunity, and we are confident that with the collective wisdom and energy of this entire Board, we will achieve even greater heights." Let us work collaboratively to create a brighter future for OHA and the Lahui we serve."

Today, we will revisit the purpose and goals of the Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment. Our primary mission is to ensure that the needs and rights of our beneficiaries are represented and advocated for effectively. We aim to empower them through support, resources, and education. We will continue to work on initiatives to raise awareness about the rights of our beneficiaries...to conduct workshops and community outreach programs, and explore new avenues for advocacy. Our focus has been on providing resources and support to empower our beneficiaries. We have developed training programs and collaborated with local organizations to offer mentorship opportunities. We recommend expanding these programs and seeking additional partnerships while continuing relationships within and outside the Lahui. Beneficiary Advocacy is clear. Beyond that, I've been trying to wrap my head around Empowerment and what that really means. Empowerment within the context of indigenous peoples involves providing the tools, resources, and opportunities necessary to take control of their own lives and destinies. It encompasses several key aspects:

Firstly, Empowerment means supporting our right to self-determination 'Ea, to govern ourselves, make decisions about our land, culture, and future, and maintain our sovereignty. Safeguarding our language, traditions, and cultural practices. This includes promoting and revitalizing our cultural heritage to ensure it is passed down to future generations. Empowering and providing opportunities for economic independence is crucial. This includes access to education, job training, and support for Native Hawaiian businesses, enabling them to thrive. You've heard me constantly mention "Poitical Musularity." Ensuring that we have a voice in local, national, and international political arenas is vital. This helps us advocate for our rights, influence policies affecting our Lahui, and participate fully in decision-making processes. Our rights to our ancestral lands and resources is fundamental to our identity, livelihood, and well-being. Providing equitable access to quality education and healthcare services empowers the lahui to improve our overall quality of life and ensures that future generations are well-equipped to succeed. And finally, addressing historical injustices and ongoing discrimination is essential. The dispossession was real, and must and will continue to be acknowledged. But we will not subscribe to a "woe is me" mentality. Empowerment is promoting social justice, equity, and human rights ensuring that all be treated with dignity and respect. Empowerment is a multifaceted approach that requires collaboration, respect, and a commitment to justice and equity, so let's get to work.

Are there any questions or discussions regarding the the Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment?"

