

John D. Waihe'e IV - *Chairperson*
Dan Ahuna - *Vice Chair*

Phone: (808) 594-1888
Fax: (808) 594-1868

MEMBERS

Kaleihikina Akaka
Keli'i Akina, Ph.D.
Luana Alapa
Brickwood Galuteria
Kaiali'i Kahele
Carmen "Hulu" Lindsey
Keoni Souza

OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

KE'ENA KULEANA HAWAI'I

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

560 N. Nimitz Hwy., Suite 200
Honolulu, HI 96817

DATE: Wednesday, October 29, 2025
TIME: 1:50 p.m.
PLACE: 2025 Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs Convention
Outrigger Kona Resort & Spa, Keauhou Ballroom
78-128 Ehukai St.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Minutes

- A. April 2, 2025
- B. April 23, 2025
- C. April 30, 2025
- D. September 17, 2025

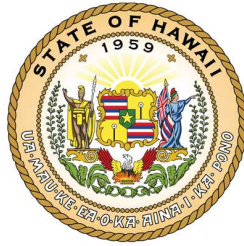
III. New Business

- A. **Action Item BF #25-87 (revised):** Approval of OHA funding for a Ho'ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorship to Ulu A'e Learning Center for the 2026 Makahiki Ma Kapolei Event on January 31, 2026, in the amount of \$5,500.00*
- B. **Action Item BF #25-98:** Approve awarding of OHA grant funding to E Ala E to support the administration of the Nā 'Elele Congressional Fellows Program in the amount of \$210,000 from FY2026 Budget Line Item 7674 and \$210,000 FY2027 Budget Line Item 7781
- C. **Presentation by Administration:** Cultural Pathways to Career and Technical Education (CTE) implementation plan

IV. 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.

Public Testimony will be called for each agenda item and must be limited to matters listed on the meeting agenda. Hawai'i Revised Statutes, Chapter 92, Public Agency Meetings and Records, prohibits Board members from discussing or taking action on matters not listed on the meeting agenda.



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Dan Ahuna - Vice Chair

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Honolulu, HI 96817

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

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

- (1) Persons wishing to provide **written testimony** on items listed on the agenda should submit testimony via **email** to botmeetings@oha.org or via **postal mail** to Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Attn: Board of Trustees Meeting Testimony, 560 N. Nimitz Hwy., Suite 200, Honolulu, HI 96817. Testimony is requested to be received at least twenty-four hours prior to the scheduled meeting to allow board members with sufficient time to review the testimony before the meeting.

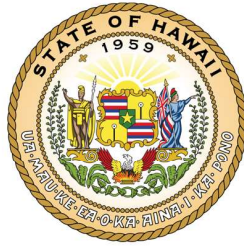
Please note that all written testimony will be posted on OHA's meeting website. Please omit or redact any personal information (e.g., name, email address, phone number, home address, or materials) that you do not want to be disclosed publicly online

- (2) Persons wishing to provide **oral testimony at the physical meeting location** can sign up the day-of the meeting at the physical meeting location and will be limited to five (5) minutes. Oral testimony online or by telephone/landline **will not** be accepted at this meeting.

Trustee John Waihe'e, IV, Chair
Committee on Budget and Finance (BF)

10/23/2025

Date



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Dan Ahuna - *Vice Chair*

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STATE OF HAWAI'I
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
560 N. NIMITZ HIGHWAY, SUITE 200
(VIRTUAL MEETING - VIA ZOOM WEBINAR)
COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FINANCE (BF)
April 2, 2025 11:00 a.m.

Link to Archived 04/02/2025 BF Meeting Video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yqQfZxDJH1A>

ATTENDANCE:

Chairperson Luana Alapa
Vice-Chairperson John Waihe`e, IV
Trustee Dan Ahuna
Trustee Kaleihikina Akaka
Trustee Keli'i Akina
Trustee Brickwood Galuteria
Trustee Kaiali'i Kahele
Trustee C. Hulu Lindsey
Trustee J. Keoni Souza

EXCUSED:

None

BOARD COUNSEL:

Richard Naiwieha Wurdeman

BOT STAFF:

Mark Watanabe
Melissa Wennihan

BOT STAFF (cont.):

Morgan Kauai Robello
Nathan Takeuchi
Pohai Ryan
Richelle Kim
Sommer Soares

ADMINISTRATION STAFF:

Stacy Ferreira, CEO / Ka Pouhana
Kēhaulani Pu`u, COO / Ka Pou Nui
Ramona Hinck, CFO
Arlene Aguinaldo, IT
Bill Brennan, Director of Communications
Daniel Santos, IT
Everett Ohta, Interim General Counsel
Grace Chen, Financial Analyst
Nietzsche Ozawa, Interim Sr. Legal Counsel
Ryan Lee, Director of Endowment

GUESTS:

Germaine Meyers

I. CALL TO ORDER

BF Chair Luana Alapa calls the Committee on Budget and Finance meeting for Wednesday, April 2, 2025 to order at **11:04 a.m.**

Chair Alapa: We're here. All right. Good. Good morning, everyone. At this time, I'd like to call our Budget and Finance Committee meeting, for Wednesday, April 2nd, 2025 to order.

At this time, I'd like to introduce my committee staff. I'd like to introduce my committee staff: Trustee Aide Pohai Ryan and Trustee Secretary Summer Soares. Along with us is our Board of Trustees Counsel, Naiwieha Wurdeman.

At this time, I'd like to have Pohai Ryan do a **ROLL CALL**, please.

BF Staffer Pohai Ryan CALLS THE ROLL FOR ATTENDANCE noted for the record as **PRESENT** are:

| MEMBERS | | | AT CALL TO ORDER (11:04 a.m.) | TIME ARRIVED |
|------------|-------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| CHAIR | LUANA | ALAPA | PRESENT | |
| VICE-CHAIR | JOHN | WAIHE'E, IV | PRESENT | |
| TRUSTEE | DAN | AHUNA | PRESENT | |
| TRUSTEE | KALEIHIKINA | AKAKA | PRESENT | |
| TRUSTEE | KELI'I | AKINA | PRESENT | |
| TRUSTEE | BRICKWOOD | GALUTERIA | PRESENT | |
| TRUSTEE | KAIALI'I | KAHELE | PRESENT | |
| TRUSTEE | C. HULU | LINDSEY | PRESENT | |
| TRUSTEE | J. KEONI | SOUZA | PRESENT | |

At the Call to Order, **NINE (9) Trustees are PRESENT**, thereby constituting a quorum.

EXCUSED from the BF Meeting are:

| |
|-------------|
| NONE |
|-------------|

BF Staffer Ryan: All board members are present.

Chair Alapa: At this time I'd like to call the meeting to order. It's now 11:06 a.m.

Just a friendly reminder to our trustees - to turn on your microphone when you speak, so that it records on our video recording for the meeting. Otherwise, it'll be inaudible.

As for public testimonies, the following rules apply so that we are all respectful of everyone wanting to participate today. Public testimony should be limited to matters listed on the meeting agenda and will occur prior to any listed items, conclusion, or vote.

If you begin to address other issues not in today's meeting agenda, the BF chair will call you out of order and direct you to limit your testimonies to items listed only on the agenda. Testifiers' mics will be unmuted when it is your turn to testify. If you're not audible, you will be muted, and the next testifier will be called.

Oral testimony online will be limited to five minutes. If so, we can give you a 'four minutes and 30 seconds heads-up' so that you will know that you've got 30 seconds to complete your testimony.

Your mic will be automatically muted once you have completed your testimony.

Please log off after testifying. Just a little heads up here.

Chair Alapa: *Pohai, do we have any testifiers today?*

BF Staffer Ryan: Yes, we have one online, Germaine Meyers.

Chair Alapa: Okay, we will call upon her as soon, as we call upon our Ka Pouhana.

So, at this time I'd like to call on our CEO Stacy Ferreira to announce the administrative staff joining us this morning.

Ka Pouhana / CEO Stacy Ferreira: Mahalo Chair, Vice Chair, Trustees.

Joining us today in person and online - we have:

- Chief Operating Officer Kēhau Pu'u
- Chief Financial Officer Ramona Hinck
- Endowment Director Ryan Lee
- Financial Analyst Grace Chen
- Interim Corporation Counsel Everett Ota
- Interim Senior Legal Counsel Nietzsche Ozawa
- Director of Communications, Bill Brennan
- IT Systems Engineer and Administrator Daniel Santos, and
- IT Systems Engineer Arlene Aguinaldo

Mahalo.

Chair Alapa: Mahalo, Ka Pouhana. At this time, we're on to Item Two, and we're going to defer the approval of the March 25, 2025 BF committee meeting minutes.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. March 25, 2025*

Chair Alapa states that the March 25, 2025 BF Meeting Minutes will be deferred for approval.

Chair Alapa: So, we're going to move on to Number three, there is no old business.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

Chair Alapa: At this time, on the agenda, we'd like to move to Item Four, and being that there are, just so you know, there are no action items to be discussed today so we're going to proceed with our presentation this morning.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation by Administration on Office of Hawaiian Affairs' Ho'ākoako Lāhui Event Sponsorship Program Guidelines and Procedures.

Chair Alapa: At this time, I'd like to call upon Ka Pou Nui Kēhau Pu'u to share with us the presentation for item A.

Yes, I'll call upon her (Germaine) when she (Kēhau) is done with her presentation.

Go ahead.

Chair Alapa calls Ka Pou Nui Kēhaulani Pu'u, COO to the committee table.

Ka Pou Nui Kēhaulani Pu'u: Aloha Kakahiaka Chair Alapa, Vice Chair Waihe'e and Trustees. Mahalo for this opportunity to give an overview of Ho'ākoako Lāhui; given that we have officially kicked off the program. I was here on January 8th where I did a brief overview. Now that we have officially kicked off, especially with going live on our website with Ho'ākoako, eblast, and social media blast.

The word is out that we have a sponsorships program. I would say 'maopopo ka lāhui'; they know. We have been getting an influx of applications, which is why you folks have been seeing an increase in action items at Board meetings. So, I think this is a good time to 'ho'i mai' and provide this overview.

Pou Nui Pu'u: I'm happy to take questions. My deck is kind of long but I'm going to be as concise as I can throughout. I am happy to take questions as I go through the presentation.

Also, I did receive some questions and concerns given the increase and some of the action items coming up. So, I am going to make an effort to address these questions and concerns throughout the presentation.

Alright. Next slide, please.

Pou Nui Pu'u: Okay. So, a little bit of background. Real quick you folks have in front of you the deck that we're going to see today. You also have the last solicitation for 'Ahahui Grants which I refer to on this slide.

And real quick, I want to change my view here so that I can actually see this presentation on this laptop. Ugh, never mind then.

Building understanding of why we have what is now Ho'ākoako Lāhui. So quick background, previously OHA has carried two processes or two grants with two separate processes for essentially the same thing. To support events with some kind of benefit to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

Pou Nui Pu'u: So, we have a comparison chart here. We have 'Ahahui Grants and Sponsorships. Included in those Sponsorships are Legacy Sponsorships, Board of Trustees' (BOT) Sponsorships, and Rural-based Community Sponsorships, which never really kicked off in this fiscal year.

So, both grants programs, again with both having separate processes. On the 'Ahahui side, again, very similar intent and purposes. Funding to support events aligned to our Strategic Plan. Provide significant benefits to our people, as well as OHA in terms of engagement and Public Relations (PR).

On the other side, as stated in our budget, our Fiscal Year '24 -'25 Budget includes payments made to 'orgs' in support of an activity or event in exchange for advertising or in order to create goodwill in the community.

Pou Nui Pu'u: Again, and so to the next level – Funding Amounts.

With 'Ahahui Grants, in the last solicitation which you folks have in front of you, the largest award that was given was \$10,000. That was the 'max' in this last solicitation.

Whereas on the Sponsorships side, the highest funded event was at \$25,000. When I first came into the organization and started - a lot of sponsorships were being funded at \$5,000. A lot of our legacy sponsorships were sponsored at \$15,000.

And then the largest difference in both was the process.

So, for 'Ahahui, these were treated like our community grants. And these are like our six figure dollar types of grants, but they had a very similar process; the 'Ahahui Grants.

For a community event grant, \$10,000 max. They had to undergo a very rigorous process because when we are awarding six-figure dollar grants, of course, we want to have a rigorous process.

But these 'Ahahui... that was the process for those grants.

Whereas on the sponsorship side. We had an application. I'm going to just characterize it as a fairly simple application where we required a W- 9. In doing some homework, I found that in the past, we didn't always require the application. Some organizations will send a packet with information and their request letter.

So, those were used also in the past. I saw that. I took a look at the CLA audit that was done back in 2019. Things like that were called out as well. So, what we see here is again, two processes that are supporting and funding essentially the same thing.

Pou Nui Pu'u: And so - what our purpose... - next slide, please. So, what we really wanted to do, desired outcome is create a ... - next slide.

... is really create a fair and equitable a fair and equitable process and opportunity for all nonprofits to acquire funding for their events.

Pou Nui Pu'u: That are strongly aligned to our mission, our foundations, our outcomes that does have a benefit. It doesn't say that here, but does have a benefit for OHA and definitely serves community.

So instead of having these again, 'two separate processes' we wanted to bring those together, consolidate them, and have one. And so now, we have Ho'ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorship Program.

Next slide, please.

Okay, so Ho'ākoakoa Lāhui, it's a beautiful inoa. It means to assemble the Lāhui together. Our former Grants Manager, Keala Newman, came up with the inoa. And so, you know, we decided to keep that. And that's something that I also want to share with the board is that this program was initially designed by the former Grants Manager Keala, some of our staff members, and Carla Hostetter, our R&E director. So, they all contributed to redesigning - to the start of the redesign of this program.

And so Ho'ākoakoa is what brings both programs together, and again, it is to support nonprofits who are hosting an event that provides benefits to OHA and our Native Hawaiian community.

Next slide, please.

Pou Nui Pu'u: So, the events that qualify under this program, is a long list, again, because it is a consolidation of what qualified under 'Ahahui as well as under former sponsorships.

- Award and recognition events like our Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce 'Ō'ō awards, that was something that OHA supported and attended earlier this year.
- Building dedications or groundbreaking ceremonies.
- Community events free to the public, like the Makalehua o Waimānalo; that OHA also supported.
- Last December, events that highlight Ali'i and so we have a few that we have supported just recently with Kūhiō and celebrating him.
- Gathering of Native Hawaiian practitioners for purposes of education or perpetuating cultural practice.
- Events that provide services that benefit our 'āina and culture
- Native Hawaiian conventions like the Civic Clubs, CNHA
- Fundraisers or charity events like our Holokū ball, Hale Kipa, Lunalilo Home, and 'EkoLu Mea Nui, just to name a few.

These are events - they must be events. One of the things that in our CLA audit that was a caution was to ensure that we are sticking to this criteria versus awarding for programmatic services. Those are things that should occur in a different... normally that would be our community grants program.

Next slide, please.

Pou Nui Pu'u: So, our eligibility requirements are listed here. And these are all on our website too. So, everything here is also on our website.

So, to be eligible:

- Organizations must be non-profit and so we do require an IRS letter of determination to prove that.
- They must complete our application. There's a minimum amount of information that's required.
- Complete an authorized signatory form.
- Submit a W-9 so that we're able to pay you Certificate of Vendor Compliance (CVC) to check for Hawai'i Compliance Express (HCE) compliance.
- They must comply with our HRS § 10-17 requirements; and
- We did set the max budget at \$15,000 because that was pretty much the average and what was consistent in this last year of awarding.

Pou Nui Pu'u: Real quick to note:

So, organizations can only apply for one event grant in each fiscal year. And I don't know if it's noted here, but if they are a community grant recipient - they still can apply for this event grant or event sponsorship.

Next slide, please.

Okay, so HRS § 10-17, so that's the Hawai'i Revised Statute. That's actually what gives OHA its granting authority. So, this is what informs our eligibility requirements from the last page.

- So HRS § 10-17 (a) application for grants shall be submitted and 10-17 (a) further lists some of the minimum information required. I didn't list it here, but it's all captured in our application right now.
- HRS § 10-17 (b). So, there's five provisions in this HRS.
- (b) is that,
 - they comply with relevant federal, state, and county laws
 - that these grants cannot be used for entertainment or perks
 - they adhere to the law
 - they hold us harmless and indemnifies OHA

Next, we use HRS § 10-17 (c)(1)(B), which is where we require that these be nonprofit organizations.

And then if they are a nonprofit, they should have a governing board whose members have no material conflict of interest with the board. And this is also information that we request in our application, like 'tell us who your governing board members are.'

HRS § 10-17 (d) is that we should monitor or evaluate the event.

And then lastly HRS § 10-17 (e) is that basically, we can do this regardless of the 103D, which is a procurement code and 103F, which is Purchases of Health and Human Services.

So that gives us some flexibility. Next slide, please.

Pou Nui Pu'u: So, in addition to eligibility requirements, this is our evaluation criteria. And this is, I think, the critical part to note because this is... how we evaluate and score all these applications that are coming through.

How organizations do here is basically what... if they've met all the eligibility requirements, this is what we're going to go to next based on that information that's provided in the application. This is where that determination is made and it's based on the criteria here.

So, we have:

- Event Scope of Work
- Alignment to our Mauna i Maui Ola (MiMO) Strategic Plan
- Budget
- What is the benefit for OHA

The evaluation; it's a 50 point eval. For the first six (6) criteria, it's a zero to five scale. Then for the last two, it's a zero to 10 scale.

Next slide please.

Pou Nui Pu'u: Well, but each question is five, worth five. Yeah. I mean, each line is worth five. So, all of that information above, except for the detailed HRS § 10-17 requirements are also on our website.

And so this is just tiny prints. I don't expect you guys to be able to read it. I'm going to go through each of the components of our process, but this is kind of an overview of our Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). So, we have eight steps we've kind of broken this process into.

Pou Nui Pu'u: I'm going to say that it's not a perfect process. We are constantly making tweaks and improvements and learning new things, but I think we feel confident in that we've built something that meets our HRS § 10-17 requirements, that addresses or is addressing some of the things that were called out in OHA's last audit, and is something that we can stand behind.

So, eight steps:

- first is INTAKE,
- ELIGIBILITY REVIEW
- EVALUATION
- AWARD RECOMMENDATIONS
- ACTION ITEM SUBMISSION & DECISION COMMUNICATION
- Then there's RATIFICATION & PROCESSING
- COORDINATION WITH EVENT POINT OF CONTACTS (POCs); and
- then our POST-EVENT REPORT

Next slide, please.

Pou Nui Pu'u: So, INTAKE is where the process begins. I was asked about tracking referrals.

So, one; we don't ask the organizations if anyone has referred them. It isn't something that we track and frankly, we don't have the capacity to do that.

Pou Nui Pu'u: I forgot to mention who the team is. So, the team at this time, given our lack of staffing in the Grants department, after Keala left; it's been myself and my executive assistant, Lauwa'e Clayton, whom I share with Hailama. We have a temporary Administrative Assistant, Micah Kahiwa.

So, we... pretty much manage the process.

However, you came to Ho'ākoakoa Lāhui. Really, we start to look at you as soon as we receive all of your documents. So that's the application and then all of your required documents (docs).

So, our application is received through the online portal. It's time stamped.

All the required documents are received via email and it's only considered complete when everything's received.

We do follow up on missing docs, but anyway, once all of that is received, we'll create a folder.

So again, just reiterating, this is for us where the process begins.

We have had inquiries, some emails being forwarded and what I'm doing is just driving to the website, send everybody to the website.

So even for those who maybe in the past have submitted letters and packets, we're still driving to the website 'Everybody got to apply. *Okay?*'

Pou Nui Pu'u: So, through this, I'm going to also talk about areas of improvement. Right now, our system doesn't allow for people to just upload the docs with their application.

That's humbug I will say, but that's something that we definitely would like to work on. Creating more ease of use for those applying and then the follow-up. That requires time and we're very short-staffed, but we are doing it and reaching out. We say '*hey, you're missing this document or we need this.*'

I think that's an area that we want to work on.

Any questions?

Trustee Akaka: I have a few questions, but I think you touched upon one of my questions.

Is - if we have an entity that reaches out to us, *then we refer them to the website to fill out the form and so forth or do you want us to forward to you if they email us or something?*

Pou Nui Pu'u: Honestly, it would be great if you folks drive them to the website and say, '*hey, we have a new program.*'

Trustee Akaka: I had forwarded you the link. I was very pleased to see on the website that you have listed *if your event is from this date or this month to this month that please apply within this timeframe*. So, I think that's pretty efficient with that update that you folks have made.

But when I, in trying to figure it out myself, when I went to click on the form there's different pages. So, you have to fill out that first page to get so far. So, I didn't know for an applicant what that looks like for them. So, I was curious as to what the processes...

Pou Nui Pu'u: I don't have a copy of the full application for you folks. So, what we're going to do is upload on the website a PDF of the whole app. So, that for me going in, before I go in and start the process, I can see all the questions.

Trustee Akaka: You can have it all in the forefront so people know what to expect and how long it might take them to fill it out.

Pou Nui Pu'u: Yes, so that is something that we're going to move on is to put it up because we got a few inquiries asking *'hey, can I see what the whole thing is before I start my app?'*

So, we're going to upload that to the website so they can see it. Thank you. If you folks can drive them to the website, great. If not, if you forward it to us, we'll do it.

Then *mahalo* for complementing what's there, but there's still more that we need to do to you know make it a better process for ourselves as well as for our users.

Trustee Akaka: So, if for instance, I was asked by an entity or individual about the timeframe on how long it takes for somebody to get back to them, I would imagine the priority is based on those events that are closer in time. *How long can they expect to get a 'reaching out to'?*

Pou Nui Pu'u: So that's one of the things that we want to put on the website - so people know how long it's going to be. So, we have people who are already submitting for next year, fiscal year; quarter one and quarter two, but we're not going to look at those applications until after the deadline.

And the reason is we're going to look at all the applications received for that period, at the same time.

And what it does is it provides a fair advantage for everybody to compete in a fair environment. I took that language straight from one of our audits. I love that language because it does, *right?*

So, in this case, the early bird doesn't get an advantage. We're going to *hold* on your application until the period for the application is done and then look at everybody at the same time because you're all competing for the same bucket of money.

That being said, we can say that now, on our website. It's not there. In fact, we just met the other day and said, let's get that up there so people know going in, *even though I'm putting my application in now, I'm not going to hear anything, it's not going to be evaluated until this month*. And then any decisions will be this month. So, we do have a timeline in the back.

We just haven't made it public and visible, but we want to do that because I think that's going to help for ourselves too in managing communication.

Trustee Akaka: In terms of building out your team, what is your process in holding that back because I think how we all see it is the Grants department is one of the biggest kuleana that OHA has in participating for and within the community. So, if we're gutted out, I'm concerned what the strain is for your team, your current team.

I mean, I see on social media that we're posting things but is...

Pou Nui Pu'u: Even before Lise, our new director, came on, I even did some interviews. The pool is not a pool it's like a puddle.

Pou Nui Pu'u: So, it's been hard to recruit and to find qualified applicants. Even looking beyond what's considered applicants who meet the Minimum Qualifications (MQs), because I've done that too and said, *'hey, can I see everybody who's applied, whether they met the MQs or not.'* So, it is a challenge trying to get grant officers on.

I know administration is working on some strategies with HR and I believe Chair and the Board too, to do some innovative things to try and get people into the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

In one of our divisions, we did see an uptick in applications, and we want to kind of attribute that, unfortunately, to what's happening at the federal level.

Pouhana Ferreria: And to mention the staff who are also assisting...

Pou Nui Pu'u: Oh yeah. So, on the grants side, we do have... we've asked, so some of our other staff – they have taken on extra kuleana to help us. So, on the grants side, we do have a backlog, *right?*

We're trying to contract and get out all the contracts for the fiscal year '24 community grants that were awarded and some of them trickled into fiscal year '25.

We had the partial awards then we said, *okay, we're going to give them the whole award.*

So, let me see, we have two staff from Research & Evaluation (R&E), then one from Strategy & Implementation (S&I) who have agreed to take on, oh yeah, Elena, so four.

So even our senior director has agreed to kākō'o on the **Grants** side.

Pou Nui Pu'u: On this side, **Sponsorships**, I did do a presentation two weeks ago to all of your staff, trustee aides and hoping that we can work together and collaborate and maybe get some support on the sponsorship side, as well.

Some of the things, we're thinking it's a good opportunity to increase engagement with some of these events, point-of-contacts, and build pilina with them. So that's something that we're also working on.

Pou Nui Pu'u: But ultimately, when we build out our teams, this is a process that would move back to grants.

Trustee Akaka: So, it'd be all together.

Pou Nui Pu'u: Yeah. So, grants and sponsorships, it would all be together.

Trustee Akaka: Yeah.

Pou Nui Pu'u: Yeah. Yes. I call this my side gig because, we want to keep it going but it would be way too strenuous to put it on our grants team at this time. I also like our new director. So, I want to keep her. I don't want to be like, *here, take this right now.*

Yeah, so we want to get caught up on grants, hire more people, and then eventually this would transition back.

Trustee Akaka: I think I mentioned it before, but I think if we look at the list of those that plan to attend and/or attended the grant workshops, that might be another way to reach out and say, *hey, is there anybody that you know that might be qualified or interested in working with us?*

Pou Nui Pu'u: Yeah, that's right. I remember that.

Trustee Akaka: Thank you. Mahalo.

BF Chair Alapa: *Trustee Lindsey?*

Trustee Lindsey: Thank you, Chair. I have an unusual problem. The board decided, so many years ago, and it's in the minutes of those meetings that there is a group of legacy sponsorships.

One of... I'll just use an example without mentioning names. One of those legacy people/entity would never ask us for money. They're so humble, but the board wanted to give that money to that entity.

Well... I'm trying to figure out how we can go through this process to comply with what we agreed on, so many years ago.

I'm asking our administration, and I've had conversations with Stacy about this problem.

How do we get a check cut for this entity that the board approved and without having that person the head of that entity signing all these papers and submitting the documents. They're not even asking for the money, but the board decided they wanted to give that money to that entity because it's a key entity in Hawai'i; no question about it.

So, I'm thinking, *how can we get pass this process to comply with the board's approval so many years ago?*

Pou Nui Pu'u: It wouldn't be then through sponsorships. I understand compliance with the board decision, but as an organization, we also have to comply with HRS § 10-17, which empowers us to be able to grant, however it is within the scope of the requirements of 10-17.

So, I don't have an answer. I guess I would say this wouldn't be the vehicle and I don't know what the power of the organization is to do something like that.

Basically, I think it wouldn't be a sponsorship.

Trustee Lindsey: We need to ask legal counsel to see if there's a way.

My next question is, *what did we do about FestPAC? How many papers did they sign for the \$3 million?*

Oh, yeah. The one point... Yeah, so sorry. I wanted to give them more money.

I just make that comparison so...

Interim General Counsel Everett Ohta makes his way to the committee table

Trustee Lindsey: I want to be transparent because we did approve it, and we have the minutes to prove it. *Who said they had to come back every year?*

The board didn't say they had to come back every year. Our administration said they had to come back every year.

Pouhana Ferreria: So, again, I just want to remind the board of the CLA Audit on sponsorships / grants was a huge ding on the organization.

Because of the audit findings:

- The CEO no longer has sponsorships;
- Individual Trustees no longer have sponsorships; and
- The process was made that all sponsorships must come to the board.

The trustee protocol allowance was then created to have a release valve - for expenses that would allow trustees to have community meetings, provide lei to community members, things like that.

In addition to the audit and the organization being responsive to that - to make sure that we were in compliance and fiduciarily; we are meeting our requirements.

I just want to remind us that we're talking about over half a million dollars in sponsorships. It's a lot of money.

So, we want to ensure even if it's a \$2,000 or a \$25,000 and anywhere in that range, that we do have the paperwork.

Pouhana Ferreria: And to answer Chair Emerita's question on previous - the fact that we did not do it previously does not excuse us from doing it properly going forward, and currently.

So, this is the fidelity and the discipline that we as an organization need to have. We need to demand that. Because all of you are at risk, if we don't.

I'm going to turn it over to Everett because he's going to talk about the budgeting of these legacies.

Interim General Counsel Everett Ohta: Yes, thank you Ka Pouhana and Good Morning Trustees.

Interim General Counsel Everett Ohta: So, the legacy sponsorships were a specific carve out, so to speak, under the action item that removed the CEO's grant authority, and that as well, and also suspended the trustee sponsorship activity.

I think that was '18. Oh, sorry. Sorry, I don't have the... the action item (number) off the top of my head at this time.

And those legacy sponsorships were subsequently approved through budgetary approvals as line items and past biennium budgets.

I think what we're looking at now is a process by which even those legacy sponsorships would be subject to a standardized process given the questions around the inclusion of those legacy sponsorship events as line items within our budget and providing that they would also go through the same process as the other events that might not have had the opportunity to make themselves, to make those events onto those prior legacy sponsorship lists.

As to Chair Emerita Lindsey's question about the FestPAC event, that was handled - well, first, that was a funding that was approved by this board, an amount, you know, decided at the time.

Then that was also supported as a payment to DBEDT, a government agency, which a payment to which is not subject to the state procurement code. It's actually one of the categories of disbursements that are not subject to a HRS § 103D state procurement code process.

Interim General Counsel Ohta: So, we can make those types of payments to another government agency. That was what FestPAC was. Clearly it was heavily tied to state agency activity.

BF Chair Alapa: Trustee Waihe'e.

Trustee Waihe'e: Thank you. There are different kinds of sponsorships that have different goals. Like some sponsorships where we're sponsoring something to help this organization, but there are other ones that maybe we're helping them, but at the same time we're benefiting from it.

In other words, if we're sponsoring something and we're running ads during their program and we know a lot of beneficiaries - that's going to be a program that is going to be largely viewed by our beneficiaries and we can reach them; we know that our ads are going to reach them.

Or we sponsor an award that's going to be seen by them and it promotes Hawaiian language or something. There is a benefit to us doing it. That we're not just simply sponsoring them we're getting something out of it.

Do you guys, how do you guys consider things like that when you sponsor things or are we just having them ... ?

Pou Nui Pu'u: It's part of the criteria and our scoring rubric. It's the last piece within the criteria and that is that benefit. That and the budget utilization, those are worth 10 points in the... So, everything is a zero-to-five point scale except for that specific thing that you've called out and budget.

Pou Nui Pu'u: So, organizations can be awarded up to 10 points for those areas. So, it is considered along with... alignment.

Trustee Waihe'e: People who buy ads during the Super Bowl they're not doing it to help the Super Bowl. They're doing it for their own benefit, *right?*

I think there are programs like that, that we should take into consideration.

Pou Nui Pu'u: So, we do that as well.

So, our communications department also buys ads, *right?* For some of the big events like: Kamehameha Schools' Song Contest, Eddie Aikau Foundation, Merrie Monarch Festival.

So, there is that vehicle for support where we are buying ads. So, we'll see, OHA commercials. That's one way in which we're supporting, but it is transactional, *right?* And then there is this other avenue to support events.

Pouhana Ferreria: I just want to add on to what Kēhau just explained. Many times when we do these media buys for these specialized programs, it's actually done concurrently with a sponsorship. So, it's most often done simultaneously. So, the organization is getting the media buy, but then there's also the sponsorship too.

Trustee Souza: Sorry Madame Chair, one question. Trustee Hulu's question. *Trustee, are you asking if they, right now, we currently make them reapply even though it is a legacy grant and there's no process to just have it be continuous every year because the board already decided to?*

But it comes to the board, though, because we approved this grant, even though it's a legacy. It came to the board in the past, there's \$25 000 towards. *Is that what you're...?*

Who are we talking about, by the way? Just to clarify, for the record.

We don't need to say? Okay, anyway, this grant... I have a good idea of who we're talking about - did come to the board, right, as a legacy and we do have to approve it?

Pou Nui Pu'u: So, it came through budget; was it budget realignment or biennium budget #23-17?

So, it did come before the board. However, not with the 10-17 requirements. It came as a budget request along with the entire rest of OHA's operational budget requests.

Trustee Souza: So, what we're currently seeing is there's no process for the legacy grants as far as not having to reapply. Everyone has to reapply for the grant, no matter if it's legacy or non-legacy, to comply with 10-17. *Is that what we're saying?*

Basically, to answer your question.

Pou Nui Pu'u: If it's a sponsorship, yes. And for some organizations, *this going be the first time* because they maybe in the past have provided a letter and a packet.

Trustee Souza: Right, right.

Pou Nui Pu'u: But as I've said in our CLA audit, you know, one of the findings was that we lacked sufficient documentation through an application or even through the formal letters, formal letters that were provided.

So, at this time with Ho'ākoakoa being brand new, yes, we're asking everybody to apply. Everyone's going to be held to the same process.

Now we have talked about like how do we create ease of use when it is an annual ask. So, my example is TurboTax, where every year I go on and all I got to do is update the outdated information.

So, we've talked about doing that where if the same org. is going to come back next year and everything's the same. Not everything will be the same, *right?* Because the date is going to be different, the year, maybe the governing board members change. But what we want to do, again, another improvement would be to just like check the box if everything is the same. If it's not the same, change what you *got* to change.

Personally, for myself, I want to be in compliance with 10-17.

I don't want us to be in this audit again. I want to make sure that we are addressing the issues that were called out in the audit; that we're in compliance.

So, we're doing our best to do that while keeping our constituents in line.

Trustee Souza: So, we're asking everyone to comply so that we can comply so we can continue to give you money, *right?*

Simple, simple. Thank you. Mahalo Madam Chair.

Trustee Galuteria: Mahalo Madam Chair. And I'm not quite sure what we're talking about, but uh... so it's kind of nebulous to me, which is okay because it gives me a clear canvas to work off of.

Would it be possible to... *if the legacy recipient comports with existing programming within / internally, would it make sense for us to create it as a budget line item where it can be included in existing programming within the internal...Yes, no? Is that too creative?*

Pouhana Ferreira: The budget is already set, *right?* And so, all we're asking for, and I want to just share that the other legacies, sponsors, or awardees have complied and have filled out the application.

So, we're talking about a one-off here. We're not talking about, you know, all legacies are not wanting to fill out the application. And to Kēhau's point, we just need that first one. We need the information from that first application, and we can roll it over, but we don't even have the first one.

And the first one has that acknowledgement form. It's the last page that the grantee signs off - that they've received the money and that they agree to the terms in the law.

Pouhana Ferreira: If they don't sign off, then we have nothing that covers the organization on giving this money:

- *How the money was spent?*
- *Who is it going to?*
- *How much? ; and*
- That the organization is saying that they are going to comply with the terms of the money being given to them.

We just need it that first time and we can roll over and then just update the date maybe that year to just make it easy, for everybody. For all.

Trustee Lindsey: Well, I don't think that this entity has been approached appropriately by OHA. I would be willing to talk with the leader of that organization to explain to her our responsibility. If she can accept it one time then maybe, like you said, we can roll it over.

Pouhana Ferreira: Yes.

Trustee Lindsey: Yeah.

Pouhana Ferreira: I think that would be... it would keep us in compliance. And so, every year we would change dates and they just sign.

Trustee Lindsey: Yeah. Thank you.

Pouhana Ferreira: Thank you, Chair Emerita.

BF Chair Alapa: Go ahead, Trustee Akaka.

Trustee Akaka: Yeah, I have a question regarding legacy sponsorships. *Is it where there is a clear understanding of what happens, in terms of the give and take on our participation and their sponsorship?*

Trustee Lindsey: My understanding is that the list that was put together by our former CEO was really, really, close Hawaiian organizations; that it's so important that we support. That's including: Mauna 'Ala, 'Iolani Palace, CNHA, Keiki Hula, Merrie Monarch.

That's the kind of organization that they wanted to make sure that we support. And that's where the legacy list came from. Sylvia presented it to the board and the board approved it.

Pouhana Ferreira: There are 24 legacies.

Trustee Lindsey: Right. And we can look at it again, if the board desires to look at it.

Yeah. Yeah. I mean, nothing is forever. So, if there are questions about some of the entities, we can look at it - and have the discussion.

Trustee Galuteria: You could just approach whomever you're speaking about. To see what they would like to do. I mean, that'd be because you wanted to open up a conversation right again, revisit a conversation.

Trustee Lindsey: Well, they want to call it a donation and not a request for sponsorship.

Trustee Galuteria: Oh, I see. Big difference. Yeah.

Trustee Akaka: I think, if an entity or entities are reluctant recipients, we need to look at that as to why and work that out. Because if they really are not interested in receiving the sponsorship - that's what it is.

Pou Nui Pu'u: Yeah, I was just going to say that this is a sponsorship. This is not a donation program.

10-17 doesn't empower the organization to donate. It has all of these requirements attached to it. So, it wouldn't be a donation.

So, I would take this offline. But what I would say is like, is there another pathway to achieve what you are seeking, but outside of the bucket of sponsorship and granting, because it's not a grant, it's not a sponsorship.

And again, there is this, *right?*

- We have all the criteria
- There is this benefit, *right?*
- Opportunity for OHA engagement
- PR

So, if it is that, if OHA wants to donate that, I don't know what is within the kind of the organization, but I would say like *then what is the pathway to do that?*

Pou Nui Pu'u: I don't know if this is the place to explore that, but I would just say like maybe taking that offline and figuring out ... *Is there another way?*

And you know outside of this again bucket of sponsorships.

Trustee Akaka: Because I think it's televised or there's printed materials. It doesn't say donated by, probably sponsored by this entity, that entity, and so forth so it's not a donation. But I think what we might be running into here is that if an entity or entities do not want to participate with us or even include us, *then why are we sponsoring them if it is a burden for them or whatever? Or is it where they feel that we will do this amount, whether we say that to you up front or not?*

And so there might be confusion along the way in terms of what the kuleana is on both sides.

And what we can expect because I think when it comes to all the named legacy sponsorships these are very notable, great parts of our culture and something to be perpetuated. And at the same time, *how do we fit into that?*

How does that benefit our beneficiaries?

Trustee Akaka: Looking at it from that standpoint. Thank you.

BF Chair Alapa: Trustee Souza.

Trustee Souza: Mahalo Madam Chair. I really want to say the name of the organization, but I don't, but I'll give a hint. I participate in their events almost every year for the last 20 something years.

But I also want to remind everybody, and I love them dearly. I also want to remind everybody, we're not the sole source of funding for this event, *right?* So, these guys also have to go out and get monies elsewhere where there is an application process. *Annually, right? Or when the grants period is open, right?*

And so, I know some of us *is old school, we no like fill out the paperwork* and that leads to a lot of, it's not even on the agenda, but I'm going to say DHHL issues. Where people receive paperwork, *right?* And they cannot fill it out, don't know how to fill it out.

So then getting back to Kalei's point earlier. We can help them along, *right?* And that's what we're doing now. We're helping the process, but we're being consistent across the board.

We want to make sure everyone on here knows. And in the future when Grantees show up, right, they understand the process. And we've been consistent, then nobody can question us, at the end of the day. That's why we're asking for that initial application and we roll it over, and now there's a process. I think it's very, very simple.

And I think the amount of money we give this organization, even though they are perpetuating the culture, doing a great job in language, and that's all I'm going to say. I'm not going to say the other parts that they support because going give away the name. But all I want to say is that as a board getting back to somebody's point earlier as well, we need to be reviewing who these legacy sponsorships are. All 24, because the previous board agreed to those. And we may have a different direction that we want to go in.

That's all mahalo Madam Chair. Thank you.

BF Chair Alapa: *Questions?*

Trustee Akaka: Maybe we can agendize it in the near future in terms of looking at what the kuleana is entailed and that the different legacy sponsorships have the enough time for them to review and if they can present on their end as to:

- *Why the relationship works for them? and*
- *Why it's good for both sides?*

Thank you so much.

BF Chair Alapa: I know we have a lot more to go, so let's continue on and allow her to finish up the rest of the steps.

And if you can try to retain your questions towards the end so we can let her finish and then we can get our testifier on.

Pou Nui Pu'u: Mahalo. I'll try and get through the rest of it quickly.

In our eight-step process, like I said, first step is INTAKE. And again, that begins once all materials and the application is received.

Step two is just the ELIGIBILITY REVIEW. So, we're looking at the application. Reviewing it against the qualified event criteria, making sure we got all the documents we need. And looking at the budget request for disallowed items.

So, as you guys saw in HRS 10-17(b), no entertainment or perks. So that can't be included in budget. This is an area of improvement. Right now, we don't have a list of those disallowed costs, like specifics. It just says entertainment and perks, and we're still seeing those things in the budget requests, so we take it out.

But again, like I said, continuous improvement. And so, we're going to publish a list of disallowed costs and have that on the website, so people know ahead of time before they put their request in.

We'll take a look at that and take out what is not eligible.

A few meetings ago, the agenda said we're going to award \$10,000 and then when we came on the day of meeting, it was adjusted to \$9,000. And that was because in going back and reviewing the budget again, we saw like, oh, there's perks in here. Check with counsel. He's like, *yep, nope, that's not allowed*. Okay, so we took it out.

So again, this is an area we're going to get better at it, but we look at it and if there are certain costs associated with these two things, we'll take it out.

And then we have total eligible budget for sponsorship.

Next slide, please.

Pou Nui Pu'u: So, the next slide is EVALUATION.

Right now, it's our OHA staff who are the evaluators. They are all up to date on ethics training. We do ask that they recuse themselves if there is a conflict of interest.

It's staff who are familiar with Mana i Maui Ola (MiMO) because that whole middle section, you know, as part of our criteria is reviewing for alignment.

So, a lot of them are Strategy and Implementation (S&I) staff. They have a rubric and this rubric was put together for us by R&E.

They use that rubric to evaluate the application. They put in their score and then they total their score.

Pou Nui Pu'u: Then what we had to do was create tiered scoring. *Why?* Because we get... because the ask will outweigh the available budget. And so, we've done these three tiers of scoring.

- So, anybody who scores a 45-plus they're recommended, they would be recommended at 100% of their requests.
- The next tier is 40 to 44 would be 75% of the requests.
- 35 to 39 would be half of that request.
- And anything 34 or lower is not recommended. That's, like a 'D'.

So, they will add up their scores. These are the tiers. I will be very open - it wasn't until we had our first large round that we realized *'oh my gosh, we got to do the tiering.'*

And this is kind of, similar to what happened with Community Grants back in October when I first came on.

So, we have these tiers, they'll submit their scores and their overall recommendation back to staff.

Next slide, please.

Pou Nui Pu'u: And again, this is just a reminder of the criteria.

- So, there at the top is the Event Scope (of Work).
- At the middle is that alignment to Mana i Maui Ola, *right?* We want to make sure this matches with what OHA is trying to achieve, what we stand for, what our mission is about.
- And then the last two pieces, (Budget)
- Trustee Waihe'e, the last is that opportunity for OHA Public Recognition. *'The more they get - eh, the higher the score is going to be.'* But that's a zero to 10. And then as well as their budget.

Next slide, please.

Pou Nui Pu'u: So, step four is AWARD RECOMMENDATION. Ideally, what happens is when we get all these applications in, we're going to have enough budget to fund all the ones that made it that were a 35-plus.

And if that happens, like *'yay, our job is like again, they've met eligibility.'*

Our evaluators have looked at these applications. They've scored it against our criteria against with the rubric. And we have enough budget.

So, then we would take that and finalize those recommendations and finalize those we want to bring it in the form of a summary to BF Chair.

Pou Nui Pu'u: There's been a request for additional information. So, what we want to do when we meet with her biweekly on Mondays is have the report or summary that includes:

- All the applications that were received for that round.
- Which ones were denied. Maybe they were, they didn't qualify, whatever. We want to have that.
- Which ones were evaluated.
- Then our recommendations.
- Along with the scores; and
- The evaluators.

We have no problem disclosing that internally to the chair to the board.

So, that would be the next step.

Pou Nui Pu'u: Where we would run into some challenges is if the recommendations exceed the total budget available. So, if that happens - we're going to have to huddle, bring the evaluator team together, and make some decisions.

It hasn't happened yet, I dread, but what we would have to do is really look at equity across *mokupuni* - with all these approved sponsorships or recommendations.

Do we have equity? Is the (Kō Hawai'i) pae 'āina represented well? We got people from across pae 'āina?

Are our pathways represented well?

- Education
- Housing
- Health
- Economic, thank you.

So, is that recommended well?

Then also our tiers. We might have - the first five might take the whole budget if they were all high scorers; they're all being recommended at their budget.

So, what we want to make sure is we're also... we have equity across the different tiers.

Those who are being recommended at full 75 and 50.

Pou Nui Pu'u: As I said, we haven't yet come across that problem. *'Guaranteed going to happen'* when we get to Fiscal Year '26. But that would be what we would need to do when recommendations exceed available budget.

Next slide, please.

Pou Nui Pu'u: ACTION ITEM SUBMISSION AND DECISION COMMUNICATION.

So, again, we would bring the summary to Chair. I know that there's a desire for others to see that and we would consult with legal on how others can see like *'I like see everybody who went apply'* or like *'what happened to this organization?'*

Again, internally, we don't have any issues with sharing that information.

But so - *if all good*, after our meeting with BF Chair, we would need to:

- Draft and submit our agenda language by the deadline.
- Our action items for review and approval.
- And then what we do right now is we go ahead and create (Purchase Requisitions) PRs in Oracle, but we don't approve. That's just so that we can try and get these checks out on time.
- Then there's communication that happens, needs to happen to our sponsorship applicants *'hey, you're being recommended for approval, please come to the meeting'* or *'unfortunately you are not recommended'*. So, this is one point of communication that needs to happen with the organizations. It is also an area that we need to work on.

So, we've developed some communication templates with the different situations, as Micah likes to call it, to be able to communicate *status* basically to these orgs.

Next slide, please.

Step 6: RATIFICATION AND PROCESSING.

Pou Nui Pu'u: So, if all good:

- We bring the action item before the BF committee.
- Then if approved, it'll go to the full BOT for ratification.
- At that point is when we'll approve the PR because it's been ratified.
- Then there's the creating of the (Purchase Order) PO.
- Invoicing for payment.
- There is a formal notification letter.
 - We would like to get to a place where we can time the letter and the payment to go out together. But I will admit we're, you know, we're not necessarily there yet. Sometimes the letter comes after *or* sometimes the payment is later.
- Then remit.

Next slide, please. I'm almost done. I'm so sorry Mona.

Pou Nui Pu'u: Step 7 is COORDINATION WITH THE EVENT (Point Of Contact) POC.

This is where we would coordinate with them on the event details. Again, another area of improvement.

So, a few things:

- One, logo and advertising, *right?* So, these are the benefits. So, definitely working with (OHA's Communications Paia) *Comms*. Having an OHA Rep. to be the person that is coordinating that. But making sure we get what's needed by the org. to them. Sometimes they'll include our ad, if that was a named benefit, so they'll include that in their program.
- Also coordinating for event attendance, trustee attendance / speaking, even. We're seeing an increase, especially this last round - a lot of the more, rural community organizations, they want the trustees to come. They want them to come and be there; they want OHA presence. So, you know, we work on coordination on that as well, but again, I admit this is an area that we need to work on.
- Then last is community booth or table requests. This would be normally our Community Engagement team, is the one that would go out, but it is a small team.
 - We finally got somebody on Moloka'i.
 - We have two (Beneficiary Services Agents) BSAs here in O'ahu, which is where we have a lot of events, but ideally, we're showing up and we're there and we have presence. So, these are, again, some of that coordination with the organizations, and like I said, we've got to get better at this part.

And then our last step - next slide, please.

Step 8 POST-EVENT REPORT

Pou Nui Pu'u: Mahalo to our Pouhana who put a report together for us. So, it is called out in HRS § 10-17 – where - monitoring or evaluation of an event. I think that's 10-17 (d). So that is something that we need to work on. So, we have a report and this is where we're hoping we can work with some (Board of Trustees) BOT staff to help us own that event and be that point person for these organizations.

It was also called in the CLA audit - our lack of reporting on sponsorships in the past.

Pou Nui Pu'u: This is the last slide, which I hope '*not going to be controversial*' because we just talked about legacies.

But under Ho'ākoakoa - the intent has been to do away with legacies, and everybody falls under Ho'ākoakoa. It sounds like we might have some conversation about that and follow-up.

Right now, the max request is at \$15K, so I wanted to share that.

For Fiscal Year '26, this is where we really want to get into the intent of Ho'ākoakoa, which is to batch the applications by quarters.

So, I just shared these deadlines, and as I shared earlier, reviewing all of them together after the deadline gives everybody - basically you all get a fair shot at the funds because everybody who made that deadline, we're going to look at all of you at the same time.

Pou Nui Pu'u: There was one question that came up and it was about:
When a sponsorship level exceeds what the budget request is.

I did talk a little bit with Everett about that before we rolled out because we did see that. So maybe the back sponsorship was \$10K, but then they asked for \$15K.

However, in their budget request, they do have to provide a breakdown of what that \$15K is for.

And that is our max. So, they are able to ask for that and then we would still see what the benefits are for that \$15K ask at the bottom.

BF Chair Alapa: Trustee Akaka.

Trustee Akaka: *Is that listed on our website where it's clear for the applicants to see what the max or lowest amount would be?*

Pou Nui Pu'u: It is. So, it does say our max. The max request is \$15K and there's no minimum request. So, they could come in and ask for \$500 or \$15K.

I think the lowest we've seen was maybe 15.

Trustee Akaka: \$15?

Pou Nui Pu'u: \$1,500. Oh sorry, \$1,500, yeah. I think that was a Moloka'i event.

Trustee Akaka: *So, if legacy sponsorships are no longer with Ho'ākoakoa, where is it located or we're just going to do away with it?*

Pou Nui Pu'u: It would just have to come under Ho'ākoakoa. They would be... basically they'd be treated like everybody else who's applying. Yeah.

Trustee Akaka: Okay.

Pou Nui Pu'u: How do I say this tactfully... like there's... there aren't preferred organizations, I guess. Everybody comes through the system, applies, are held to the criteria, all of that.

Which is why what I've offered to create *ease of process* is after the initial - if you're going to continue to request that you just update your information and we have everything under there. But, yeah, you just update and sign, but this is ... it sounds like a point of discussion for the board.

Trustee Akaka: Oh. *Have you found it... where those that - it's a lot for them with their smaller organization to apply this each year and so forth?* Where I believe some were asking previously if they can have it where I don't want to say it's rolled over, but it's not so rigorous for them.

Is that part of the updating because some would ask for like three years at a time, or so forth?

Pou Nui Pu'u: We haven't, I haven't encountered that yet. We have had people express the challenges of 'Ahahui, *right?* And how rigorous a process that was because it was like you were applying for a community grant.

Trustee Akaka: Maybe that's what is was.

Pou Nui Pu'u: Then you folks saw, \$10K was the max that you would get for...

I've heard somebody say, "*Kēhau gotta do all that work? You know, I can get one federal grant that doesn't require that much.*"

So, and then we had sponsorships which was... it was not a difficult process.

And I will mention that a lot of our legacies did - CNHA did apply using the application process, not this new Ho'ākoakoa, but they did. 'Iolani Palace, they've all done, the former 'app' process.

So, I want to say *yes* before and it might seem kind of rigorous now still, but I want to say it's right there in the middle. It's not so simple. I would say one wasn't rigorous, one was.

What we've done is make sure we have the information we need to be in compliance and kind of 'found a middle ground', hopefully.

We did have, I would say one org. that has said, '*ah, this is too much.*'

Pou Nui Pu'u: But I don't know that we would... what we would cut out because I think all the info we're asking for is important and some of it is required.

Trustee Akaka: One more question too.

Do we have, with this Oracle program - *Is it where if you apply, you have an automatic, automatically generated response to say we have received your application?*

Pou Nui Pu'u: No, we don't have that.

I don't know if... *when they apply on the website, does it generate an automatic email?* It does.

Pou Nui Pu'u: But, technically the app's still not complete until they send their docs and that's the junk thing right now is, sorry, *kala mai*. It's not a professional word, but that's the *hum*... I mean, makes it a little bit *humbug* - is I can't do everything in the application portal right now. I got to put it in my app, but then I got to turn around and email you: my IRS letter, my W-9, and all of that.

So, I did tell Stacy; we'd like to get to a place where we have a more sophisticated system, where they can do everything right there.

Trustee Akaka: *Is there a tutorial online that we have like a video recorded that they can watch in their own free time so that they would know - this is what you do and then this is the process - so they feel more comfortable with it and they can watch it on their own free will and time?*

Pou Nui Pu'u: We don't, but I think that's a great idea. And I'm just laughing 'cause it might cut down on the questions that we get too.

Trustee Akaka: Well, I'm just thinking on how we can make where it's more efficient. Where it's more... less like it's hands-on but less for you folks to...

Pou Nui Pu'u: ...respond to?

Trustee Akaka: Yeah.

Pou Nui Pu'u: No, I love that idea. I think we could work with Comms.

Thank you. We'll, definitely, work on that. Maybe Micah or Lauwa'e can be the faces on there. Yeah.

BF Chair Alapa: *Any other questions?*

Trustee Lindsey.

Trustee Lindsey: I just want to comment that – or- just to give our, that you folks know better, but give our administration a heads up that there are a lot of groups that are creating nonprofits - and just to apply for different grants and sponsorships.

So, we need to look at these groups carefully, not just because they are a nonprofit that they would in fact qualify. We had a recent grant that we gave out last month, that was in question.

I'd like to think that that won't happen again. I don't know what's the status of it, but yeah, people can create nonprofits just to get grants.

So, I think we have to be maka'ala and look for that. That's all.

Pou Nui Pu'u: Thank you. Again, we do have the right eligibility requirements and collect the information we do; including them having to provide compliance - certificate of vendor compliance.

Then I would like to mention, when we do have our action items go out for review, Everett does a check with all the organizations and he checks with DCCA, (Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs).

So, he does a quick check of the organizations, when it's at action item stage.

BF Chair Alapa: *Anything else, trustees?*

Okay, at this time I'd like to bring on our testifier. *Pohai?*

BF Staffer Sommer Soares: We have Germaine Myers.

BF Chair Alapa: Okay, yes, *Germaine, are you there?*

Germaine Meyers: Aloha Chair. *Can you hear me?*

BF Chair Alapa: Yes, I can hear you. Go ahead.

Germaine Meyers: Mahalo.

Germaine Meyers: Aloha, my name is Germaine Meyers. I'm an OHA beneficiary for beneficiary advocacy and empowerment.

I'm also a Nānākuli Hawaiian homesteader lessee. My apologies.

The presentation slides just shared during this agenda were not included in today's meeting packet folder.

First, may I formally request via UIPA a complete copy of today's PowerPoint presentation as well as a complete copy of the former written policies and procedures (P&P) for OHA's Ho'ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorship Program Guidelines and Procedures?

The same P&P that would be provided to the state auditor.

Forgive me as I try to assimilate the information shared during the presentation so that I can properly give my testimony of data views and arguments on each agenda item as provided in Sunshine Law.

It was difficult to see that after 40 years of OHA's existence, the grant department process is not a compilation of improvements done each year and by each administration.

I know that Step 1; INTAKE returns to an archaic system without online uploading.

I attended an 'Ahahui Grants orientation in 2019. Maybe I'm misunderstanding the presentation, but the intake was changed from online portal to email to Kēhau and her team. *Is that correct?*

Step 3; Ka Pouhana, Sylvia Hussey went through a process over several years of building a grant evaluation of outside community members; not just OHA staff.

What happened to those people on that list? And what happened to solicitation of outside grant evaluators?

Step 7; COORDINATION WITH THE EVENT (Point Of Contacts) POCs

For OHA opportunities to participate at the event, I didn't see a policy on how that will – *example*, if the event sponsorship includes 18 tickets to attend the event that charged the public \$500 each ticket.

What is the policy as to how it's determined who at OHA will go to fill the 18 tickets without violating ethics commission gift law and fair treatment rule, etc.

I didn't notice any slide reporting back to OHA:

- How the monies were spent;
- How payment receipts are solicited and provided proof of receipts; and
- If OHA is requiring the event organizer to return monies not spent because payment receipts are not submitted to OHA, in the event report back to OHA.

I'm still trying to understand about event reporting that's due to OHA and I didn't see that on the policy as far as a requirement.

Germaine Meyers: That's it. I look forward to the next agenda item to provide my testimony. Ke Akua pu, God bless all of you.

BF Chair Alapa: Thank you, Germaine. Thank you for bringing that to our attention. It's something we definitely have to work on.

At this time, we'd like to move on to Item B.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

B. Presentation and discussion of OHA Biennium Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 and Fiscal Year 2027 budget preparations.

1. Overview of budget planning process and timeline.
2. Overview of categories of expenditures in individual trustee office budgets, Board of Trustees budget and budget planning documents.
3. Planning and execution of new or modified OHA projects, consideration of strategic alignment and implications for OHA programs, and planning in the FY26-27 budget.

BF Chair Alapa: We have a presentation for Item B, and we're going to review:

1. Overview of budget planning process and timeline.
2. Overview of categories of expenditures in individual trustee office budgets, board of trustees budget and budget planning documents.
3. Planning and execution of new or modified OHA projects, consideration of strategic alignment and implications for OHA programs, and planning in the FY '26 '27 budget.

At this time, I'd like to call upon our CFO Ramona Hinck, who will provide the presentation for Item B.

Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Ramona Hinck: Aloha Chair Alapa, Vice Chair Waihe'e, Trustees, and colleagues.

Next to me is Grace Chen, the Financial and Reporting Analyst. She's here to assist me, if your questions get really, hard.

She created the budget templates that are very comprehensive and may look formidable, but they're actually pretty straightforward. So, I will go through it with you in this presentation.

Okay, next slide.

No, the one before.

Biennium budget? Yes. Thank you.

BF Chair Alapa: She's showing you the picture of what this slide looks like.

CFO Hinck: No.

BF Chair Alapa: Oh, okay, got it.

CFO Hinck: Okay, the development of OHA's biennial budget begins with the strategic plan. And from this, the implementation plan and tactics are created to guide the operational activities and projects.

The biennial budget is a financial expression of OHA's plans to implement the strategic plan and includes aligned spending priorities and contributing funding sources.

The OHA's budget is constrained by our current spending limit policy which administration will be bringing a revision recommendation to the April 16th BF meeting and to the BOT meeting for the first and second reading on May 1st and May 15th. This is reflected in the updated presentations handed out before the meeting.

Limit for OHA only-

Our current spending limit is for *CORE ONLY*. So, it does not include the commercial properties and the federal grants.

So, the current spending limit for Fiscal '26 is \$47.8 million.

And the estimated spending limit for Fiscal '27 currently is \$50.1 million.

Are there any questions?

CFO Hinck: Okay. I just... calculate yeah.

So, currently we're at the budget development phase.

On April 4th, the BOT's budget will be combined with the administration's budget.

On April 16th, the community report will be presented at the BF meeting and any changes to the community report from that meeting will be incorporated in the final report for the community meetings the following week on April 22nd and April 23rd. And then on April 26th and May 2nd.

On June 11th, an action item will be presented at the BF meeting for recommendations to the BOT, on June 26th with a balanced budget that may also include revised spending limits.

Next slide - are the spending priorities, and I'm passing this slide to Stacy.

Pouhana Ferreira: Mahalo Mona. So, in terms of budget preparation - when we look at our final budget, it is truly a reflection of this board's priorities:

- Where we spend our money,
- Where we appropriate our funds - really should articulate to our beneficiaries what our priorities are.

Pouhana Ferreira: So, to demonstrate how we have been structuring the budget / the budget process is we have three major priorities.

1. The first priority is OHA being an employer of choice.

So, we see as we're putting our budgets together, there are some categories that are fixed and others that are variable.

Our Personnel & Fringe (benefits) are one of those fixed costs.

We have put great emphasis, with Chair Kahele, and this board in ensuring that we have competitive compensation and as a result of that, we had put together the ad hoc salary working group and they are addressing that. We will have their figures in time for our final budget.

We also know that we are anticipating the BOT salary increases to be included in this budget and we are making a concerted effort to fill all of the vacancies as much as possible - our 'hard to fill' vacancies that have been long standing - and that way we can ensure that the agency is operating at its optimal performance.

With that said, though, that comes with a cost and so the board should know that when we look at the final figures, we will see an increase in our personnel and fringe.

Pouhana Ferreira: The fringe cost for a state worker is at 64%. That's a hard cost. That's a fixed cost that we cannot change.

And as we also think about ensuring that we have the capacity and the capabilities within the organization, it has to have the resources to effectuate that.

So, we will see an increase in that line item, but that is our number one priority is making sure that OHA is an employer of choice.

2. The second priority is our operational processes and infrastructure.

So, behind the scenes, there is a lot of work that is underway to ensure that we do have modernized systems, as we just finished this conversation about an archaic way of putting in sponsorships.

But there's a lot of work that's happening in our financial services:

- In deployments of systems to ensure timely procurement.
- Travel
- P-card payments.

Pouhana Ferreira: And then on a Human Resources side, Corey has been working very diligently along with some of our other senior leaders on incorporating our performance management system.

He's also been working on NeoGov, which will address our recruitment and talent management / challenges that we've had over the last decade, or so.

Pouhana Ferreira: Then also Elena as our Po’o over our Strategy and Implementation team, but more importantly, she is really ensuring that Mana i Maui Ola is being effectuated. She will be putting together a dashboard, a system that will allow us to monitor our progress of Mana i Maui Ola; something that allows this board to ensure that we are making progress and our beneficiaries can be kept apprised of the progress that we're making as well.

So that operational process and infrastructure improvements - that also costs money. So, you'll see larger amounts being appropriated for those types of projects.

Lastly, we are executing transformational programs and services. The charge from this board is we need to ensure that Mana i Maui Ola is being actualized. So, we have the team in place, and we are moving full force on that directive and we are going to be putting forth programs and services through this budget process. We are also working with the board suite, as different trustees have programmatic focus areas that they would like to move priorities through.

We'll be talking a little bit more in this presentation on how the trustees' ideas and how the tactics that come forth through strategy and implementation get formalized into a program document that allows us to:

1. Have the programmatic detail that's required so we understand what the tactic is, but
2. We also know what the interdependencies are across the organization to make sure that we can successfully implement these programs and then knowing how much it's going to cost us and putting those appropriations into our budget.

So those are our three priorities that you'll see reflected in our appropriations and these priorities are going to, we believe, move this organization forward and will ensure that we can accomplish the aspirational outcomes that have been set forth by this board in Mana i Maui Ola.

Next slide, please.

CFO Hinck: Key Constraints. The key constraint to the OHA budget is the spending limit based on our sources of funds.

- So, specifically the PLT annual revenues of \$21.5 million.
- The state appropriation of \$3 million; and
- The 5% of the rolling quarter market value average of the Native Hawaiian Trust Fund.

For Fiscal '26, that amount is \$22.7 million. The budget is developed for existing salaries with a fringe - budgeted at a fringe load of 64.25%.

Then re-occurring expenses such as ongoing program expenditures, rent, and CAM, and our debt service, etc.

Then strategic programs and grants and then the discretionary expenses such as travel and training.

CFO Hinck: OHA also honors large standing commitments, including our provisos for the state general fund appropriations with matching funds from OHA.

And the DHHL \$3 million per year agreement to pay their debt service under revenue bond that is used for infrastructure projects on Hawaiian Home Lands.

16 mil. I've just kind of like, okay.

The \$16 million is the beneficiary and community investments. So, our grants and the strategic initiatives that are estimated right now in our budget. Well, grants and contracts.

Next slide, please.

CFO Hinck: Okay, this is the Fiscal '26 request tab that I'm sure is part of the budget file that you received. I'll go through the request form and the travel form, and the key columns that need to be filled out.

So, on this slide, the columns highlighted in yellow are the important budget information.

The Fiscal '26 budget request is the amount that you're requesting. So that's the first yellow column.

The expense description should be detailed enough so that the actual expenses can be associated with the correct budget category. So, for instance MiMO (Mana i Maui Ola) MiMO 2.1 uses the Na Lama Kukui for a meeting and 10 parking validations at \$33. Average cost times six meetings equals \$2,000.

So just enough. You know, explanation so that... Chair when he's reviewing your budgets, can discern what that line item is.

The operational or project or CIP (Capital Improvement Plan or Program) column and the project name is explained in the following slides.

Next slide, please.

CFO Hinck: Okay, so this slide provides definitions of the expense categories and the definition of operational project CIPs that are two of the columns on the prior tab.

Next slide.

Okay, this slide is an example of a current project using the project form.

Pouhana Ferreira: So, on the administration side, we use this project request form and budget justification again, to ensure that whatever tactics or initiatives are being proposed for budget approval that there is enough information that:

1. We can ensure that we have enough resources to execute on it;
2. As well as an understanding of what the cost of the initiative is going to be and what the anticipated timeline for delivery, because again, we want to make sure that the work can be accomplished in that fiscal year.

Pouhana Ferreira: So, what we're doing with our trustees who have projects is, and so I'll just give an example.

We're working with Trustee Akaka right now on the 'Aha 'Ōpio. The final deliverable with all of the information, all of the conversations that we're having, in terms of the program design and the total cost will end up being populated into a document like this.

This document is submitted to fiscal services / financial services, and it accompanies the budget.

So, if at any time Chair, Vice Chair, of our Budget and Finance committee, Chair Kahele, or myself need to have a better, more detailed understanding of what these project initiatives are then we have this documentation.

Any questions?

CFO Hinck: Next slide, please.

Trustee Lindsey: *Will this be available to all the trustees so that we know the status if we're interested?*

Pouhana Ferreira: Yeah, my understanding was Chair Kahele had reached out to the board to see if they had projects or initiatives. *Is that correct?*

So, if you are, Chair Emerita, you let me know and we will make sure that we can have staff work with you.

Trustee Lindsey: No, I don't mean me. Ongoing projects...

Pouhana Ferreira: Yes

Trustee Lindsey: ... like if Trustee Souza has one, I want to know what's going on. I can just pull it up...

Pouhana Ferreira: Oh, yes, yes.

Trustee Lindsey: ...and same thing.

Pouhana Ferreira: Yeah, absolutely. Yeah. Okay. I thought you had a program you wanted. Okay. Mahalo.

CFO Hinck: Okay, the travel request form needs to be completed for any travel requests. So basically, it's column G through P that needs to be inputted for your travel.

Standard costs are used to calculate the budgeted dollar amount on the form and the form has four sections.

1. In-state travel for the employee
2. Out-of-state travel for the employee
3. International travel for the employee, and
4. In-state travel for someone not an employee.

For example, board counsel, or a Hawaiian dignitary, or an expert that is needed on the trip.

CFO Hinck: Next slide, please.

Okay, a continuation of the travel request form, this form provides definitions of the expense accounts for the travel.

By inputting your information on the previous slide. The budgeted dollar amounts for these expenses are calculated in the template.

Mahalo Grace. *Are there any questions?*

BF Chair Alapa: *Trustees any questions?*

All right, seeing none. All right, thank you very much, Ramona.

At this time, I'd like to call upon our testifier. I believe it's Germaine.

Germaine Meyers: Aloha Chair.

BF Chair Alapa: Aloha.

Germaine Meyers: *Is it okay to give my testimony?*

BF Chair Alapa: Yes, please go ahead. Thank you.

Germaine Meyers: Mahalo.

Aloha, my name is Germaine Meyers. I'm an OHA beneficiary for beneficiary advocacy and empowerment. I am also a Nānākuli Hawaiian Homestead Lessee.

Germaine Meyers: According to Chapter 10, Section 10-14.5 titled **Budget preparation and submission; auditing** (b)

(b) The board shall provide opportunities for beneficiaries in every county; County of Honolulu, Maui, Kaua'i, and Hawai'i.

To participate in the preparation of each biennial and supplemental budget of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

These opportunities shall include an accounting by trustees of the funds expended and of the effectiveness of programs undertaken.

I noted on the timeline that it includes community input on April 22nd, 23rd, 26th, and May 2nd.

The slide doesn't include specific county that these dates and times are linked to.

Virtual presentations are not giving kupuna beneficiaries that don't use computers the opportunity to provide their input.

Germaine Meyers: *How will they have the opportunity to engage with OHA on questions and concerns about the proposed biennium budget, but also questions and concerns regarding the counting by trustees of the funds expended and of the effectiveness of programs undertaken by OHA?*

I also noted on the timeline slide that BOT decision making dates are May 14th for Budget and Finance and June 26 for BOT, which I noticed - that it was changed and updated in today's slide.

But I'm just concerned that OHA BOT approval on June 26th is assuming that the budget will be approved as submitted, not leaving any changes at the BF committee, or the BOT.

I just want trustees to take into consideration if the biennium budget is not approved by June 30th – OHA staff will not be able to report to work on July 1st - and Legal can correct me if I'm wrong.

Under *Key Constraints – Fourth* - it states OHA honors large standing commitments, including provisos from the state, general funds appropriations with matching funds from OHA.

And thank you, Mona, for clarifying. I thought that when I saw \$60 million of Public Land Trust revenues to beneficiary and community investment that it was somehow linked to giving more money to DHHL.

But mahalo for clarifying that it is indeed for OHA programs.

Germaine Meyers: So, what I'm understanding is from the fourth - it would be:

- \$60 million for all community grants, etc.
- \$3 million for the debt, so \$19 million; and
- Then the rest of the funds of the \$50 million annual budget will be going towards staff salaries, benefits, but as well as operational costs.

So, I'm looking forward to reviewing the budget with my neighborhood board. The only other concern I have with that is that our neighborhood board usually meets on the third Tuesday, which would be April 15th.

When I looked at the community input dates, it's really condensing it to April, but the first draft that's not going to be coming out to the community until April 22nd, which is after our neighborhood board meeting.

Then the last community input will be May 2nd, Friday, May 2nd.

So, I'm just concerned that with this short timeline –

- *How will our members of our neighborhood board and our community, which has the highest concentration of Native Hawaiians in the state - how are we going to be able to give input, solicit input from our community through our different committees, but also solicit input from our board and then either show that we support or we oppose OHA's proposed biennium budget?*

So, I'm just looking forward to seeing the budget and engaging with OHA.

Ke Akua pu. God Bless all of you.

BF Chair Alapa: Mahalo, Germaine.

V. ADJOURNMENT

BF Chair Alapa: At this time, I'd like to entertain a motion to adjourn.

Okay, who said what?

Trustee Lindsey moves to adjourn the BF meeting.

Trustee Akaka seconds the motion.

Chair Alapa asks if there is any discussion.

There is zero discussion.

Chair Alapa calls for a **ROLL CALL VOTE.**

| | | | | | | | 12:46 p.m. |
|-------------------------|---|---|--------------|---------------|----------------------|---------|------------|
| TRUSTEE | 1 | 2 | 'AE (YES) | A'OLE (NO) | KANALUA (ABSTAIN) | EXCUSED | |
| DAN AHUNA | | | X | | | | |
| KALEIHIKINA AKAKA | | 2 | X | | | | |
| KELI'I AKINA | | | X | | | | |
| BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA | | | X | | | | |
| KAIAL'I KAHELE | | | X | | | | |
| CARMEN HULU LINDSEY | 1 | | X | | | | |
| J. KEONI SOUZA | | | X | | | | |
| VICE CHAIR JOHN WAIHE'E | | | X | | | | |
| CHAIR LUANA ALAPA | | | X | | | | |
| TOTAL VOTE COUNT | | | 9 | 0 | 0 | | 0 |

VOTE: [X] UNANIMOUS [] PASSED [] DEFERRED [] FAILED

BF Chair Alapa: Yes. We are adjourned. We'll see you at two o'clock. Mahalo.

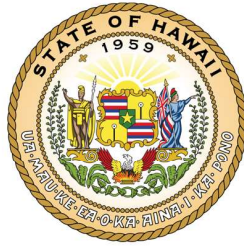
Chair Alapa adjourns the BF meeting at 12:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Crayn Akina
Trustee Aide for BF Vice Chair Waihe'e
Committee on Budget and Finance (BF)

As approved by the Committee on Budget and Finance (BF) on October 29, 2025

Trustee Luana Alapa
Chair
Committee on Budget and Finance (BF)



John D. Waihe'e IV - *Chairperson*
Dan Ahuna - *Vice Chair*

Phone: (808) 594-1888
Fax: (808) 594-1868

MEMBERS

Kaleihikina Akaka
Keli'i Akina, Ph.D.
Luana Alapa
Brickwood Galuteria
Kaiali'i Kahele
Carmen "Hulu" Lindsey
Keoni Souza

OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

KE'ENA KULEANA HAWAI'I

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

560 N. Nimitz Hwy., Suite 200
Honolulu, HI 96817

DATE: Wednesday, October 29, 2025
TIME: 1:50 p.m.
PLACE: 2025 Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs Convention
Outrigger Kona Resort & Spa, Keauhou Ballroom
78-128 Ehukai St.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Minutes

- A. April 2, 2025
- B. April 23, 2025**
- C. April 30, 2025
- D. September 17, 2025

III. New Business

- A. Action Item BF #25-87 (revised):** Approval of OHA funding for a Ho'ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorship to Ulu A'e Learning Center for the 2026 Makahiki Ma Kapolei Event on January 31, 2026, in the amount of \$5,500.00*
- B. Action Item BF #25-98:** Approve awarding of OHA grant funding to E Ala E to support the administration of the Nā 'Elele Congressional Fellows Program in the amount of \$210,000 from FY2026 Budget Line Item 7674 and \$210,000 FY2027 Budget Line Item 7781
- C. Presentation by Administration:** Cultural Pathways to Career and Technical Education (CTE) implementation plan

IV. 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.

Public Testimony will be called for each agenda item and must be limited to matters listed on the meeting agenda. Hawai'i Revised Statutes, Chapter 92, Public Agency Meetings and Records, prohibits Board members from discussing or taking action on matters not listed on the meeting agenda.

**OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
560 N. NIMITZ HIGHWAY, SUITE 200
(VIRTUAL MEETING - VIA ZOOM WEBINAR)**

**COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FINANCE
MINUTES**

April 23, 2025 11:30 a.m.

FULL MEETING CAN BE VIEWED AT [4/23/25 Budget and Finance \(BF\) Meeting](#)

ATTENDANCE:

Chairperson Luana Alapa
Vice-Chairperson John Waihe'e, IV
Trustee Dan Ahuna
Trustee Kaleihikina Akaka
Trustee Keli'i Akina
Trustee Brickwood Galuteria
Trustee Kaiali'i Kahele
Trustee C. Hulu Lindsey

Melissa Wennihan
Morgan Kauai Robello
Nathan Takeuchi
Richelle Kim

ADMINISTRATION STAFF:

Stacy Ferreira, *CEO / Ka Pouhana / Administrator*
Kehaulani Pu'u, *COO / Ka Pou Nui*
Ramona Hink, *CFO /*
Ryan Lee, *Endowment Director*
Everett Ohta, *Interim Corporation Counsel*
Nietzsche Ozawa, *Interim Sr. Legal Counsel*
Carla Hostetter, *Director of Research & Evaluation*
Daniel Santos, *IT Systems Engineer & Administrator*
Arlene Aguinaldo, *IT Systems Engineer & Administrator*

BOT STAFF:

Carina Lee
Crayn Akina
Kanani Iaea
Lehua Itokazu
Lei-Ann Durant
Mark Watanabe

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Alapa calls the Committee on Budget and Finance meeting for Wednesday, April 23, 2025.

Chair Alapa notes for the record that **PRESENT** are:

| MEMBERS | | | AT CALL TO ORDER (11:34 a.m.) | TIME ARRIVED |
|------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| CHAIR | LUANA | ALAPA | PRESENT | |
| VICE-CHAIR | JOHN | WAIHE'E, IV | PRESENT | |
| TRUSTEE | KALEIHIKINA | AKAKA | PRESENT | |
| TRUSTEE | KELI'I | AKINA | PRESENT | |
| TRUSTEE | BRICKWOOD | GALUTERIA | PRESENT | |
| TRUSTEE | KAIALI'I | KAHELE | PRESENT | |
| TRUSTEE | C. HULU | LINDSEY | PRESENT | |

At the Call to Order, **SEVEN (7) Trustees are PRESENT**, thereby constituting a quorum.

EXCUSED from the RM Meeting are:

| MEMBERS | | | COMMENT |
|---------|----------|-------|---------------------------------|
| TRUSTEE | DAN | AHUNA | MEMO – REQUESTING TO BE EXCUSED |
| TRUSTEE | J. KEONI | SOUZA | MEMO – REQUESTING TO BE EXCUSED |

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None

III. OLD BUSINESS

None

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Action Item BF #25-27: Approval to carryover \$140,000 of Fiscal Year 2024 Grant Carryover Funds to Fiscal Year 2025 and Reallocate from the Grants program budget to the Strategy & Implementation – Economic Stability program budget for execution of the Mahi'ai Micro Fund.*

SUMMARY:

Poni Askew, Director of Economic and Business Resilience was called by Stacy Ferreira to provide

background information regarding this subject matter that she inherited shortly after starting her work here at OHA. However, there have been a few hiccups in an effort to bring this to fruition.

1. When the PR was created the funds were not attached to it. The funds need to be attached to this particular PR.
2. Poni Askew also learned that these funds were under Grants. She mentions that the Grants paia has a lot on their plate and is understaffed at the time. She is hoping to move it to Strategy & Implementation, hoping it to go through the RFP process and execute this Micro Fund in more expeditious manner with a quick turnaround knowing that it was approved in May 2024; last fiscal year. By doing this, Poni Askew will be able to effectively do due diligence to complete this effort that began before she was employed by OHA. Galuteria asked how the amount of \$140,000 was arrived at. Poni Askew informed him that the original action item include justifications that were for the expenses for the mahi'ai for land taxes and water bill payments. There was in depth conversation about if this program and funds should be moved from Grants to Strategy and Implementation and the reasoning and justification keeps going back to executing the funds as quickly as possible due to the fact that it has taken so long to implement. These two options were discussed along with the manner in which the program is administered and what the difference

would be in cost. Specifically, how much funds would actually be left for beneficiaries. Also discussed would be to keep the program in grants and assign a different code that would allow an expeditious execution. Trustee Lindsey suggested the vote to be deferred so all Trustees could be present to vote. Vote was taken to defer to the next Budget & Finance (4/30/2025).

Chair Alapa asks if there is anyone signed-up to testify on this agenda item.

BF Staffer member Pohai Ryan: No one has signed-up to testify on this agenda item.

No further discussion.

Motion to defer and re-agendize BR#25-27 for Budget & Finance meeting on 4/30/2025 by Tr. Lindsey. Seconded by Chair Kahele.

| | | | | | | | MOTION: 12:01pm VOTE: 12:15pm |
|-------------------------|-----------|---|---|--------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| TRUSTEE | | 1 | 2 | 'AE (YES) | A'OLE (NO) | KANALUA (ABSTAIN) | EXCUSED |
| DAN | AHUNA | | | | | | X |
| KALEIHIKINA | AKAKA | | | X | | | |
| KELI'I | AKINA | | | X | | | |
| BRICKWOOD | GALUTERIA | | | X | | | |
| KAIALI'I | KAHELE | | | X | | | |
| CARMEN HULU | LINDSEY | | | X | | | |
| J. KEONI | SOUZA | | | | | | X |
| VICE-CHAIR JOHN | WAIHE'E | 1 | | X | | | |
| CHAIR LUANA | ALAPA | | | X | | | |
| TOTAL VOTE COUNT | | | | 7 | 0 | 0 | 2 |

Chair Alapa asks all in favor to say `AE (YES): **MOTION PASSES**

IV. NEW BUSINESS

B. Action Item BF #25-28: Approval of OHA funding for the Ho`ākoako Lāhui Event Sponsorship to Hāna Arts for the 2025 Mei Mele: Hāna Ho`olaule`a Series Event on May 2-16, 2025, in the amount of \$5,000.*

Motion to move this Action Item by Tr. Waihee. Seconded by Tr. Lindsey.

SUMMARY:

Chair Alapa calls Kehau Pu`u, Ka Pou Nui, to share information regarding this action item. K. Pu`u provided information regarding the 5 sponsorships included in this action item that are being recommended for funding. She also shared the application process that is being used for application evaluations and a few changes that were made. The specifics can be found on this link (www.youtube.com/watch?v=LIW7fGBhHCc). There is a nice mix of events in these sponsorships and the neighbor islands are represented in this action item.

Testifier- Becky Lind, Executive Director of Hana Arts provided testimony for the Mei Mele: Hāna Ho`olaulea`a Series.

Chair Alapa asks if there is anyone signed-up to testify on this agenda item.

BF Staffer member Pohai Ryan: No one has signed-up to testify on this agenda item.

Chair Alapa asks all in favor to say `AE (YES): **MOTION PASSES**

IV. NEW BUSINESS

C. Action Item BF #25-29: Approval of OHA funding for a Ho`ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorship to The Waipā Foundation for the 2025 `Āina Festival on May 3, 2025 , in the amount of \$4,000.*

Motion to move this Action Item by Tr. Waihee. Seconded by Tr. Lindsey.

SUMMARY:

Chair Alapa opens for discussion. Chair Alapa calls Kehau Pu`u, Ka Pou Nui to share information on this action item. K. Pu`u reviewed the scoring matrix that can be found on this link (www.youtube.com/watch?v=LIW7fGBhHCc). Testifiers- Mikiala Owen and Kauī Fu to provide any additional information regarding The Waipa Foundation and answer any questions there may be. None asked. The Waipa Foundation information can be found on this link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=LIW7fGBhHCc

Chair Alapa asks if there is any others signed up to testify on this agenda item.

BF Staffer member Pohai Ryan: Reports that there are no other testifiers on this agenda item.

| | | | | | | | MOTION: 12:16am |
|-------------------------|---|---|-----------|------------|-------------------|----------|-----------------|
| | | | | | | | VOTE: 12:19pm |
| TRUSTEE | 1 | 2 | 'AE (YES) | A'OLE (NO) | KANALUA (ABSTAIN) | EXCUSED | |
| DAN AHUNA | | | | | | X | |
| KALEIHIKINA AKAKA | | | X | | | | |
| KELI'I AKINA | | | X | | | | |
| BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA | | | | | | X | |
| KAIALI'I KAHELE | | | X | | | | |
| CARMEN HULU LINDSEY | | | X | | | | |
| J. KEONI SOUZA | | | | | | X | |
| VICE-CHAIR JOHN WAIHE'E | 1 | | X | | | | |
| CHAIR LUANA ALAPA | | | X | | | | |
| TOTAL VOTE COUNT | | | 6 | 0 | 0 | 3 | |

Chair Alapa asks all in favor to say `AE (YES): **MOTION PASSES**

IV. NEW BUSINESS

D. Action Item BF #25-30: Approval of OHA funding for a Ho`ākoako Lāhui Event Sponsorship to Hui Mākua Pūnana Leo o Moloka`i for the Ho`omau Moloka`i 2025 Event on May 3, 2025, in the amount of \$14,500.*

Motion to move this Action Item by Tr. Waihee. Seconded by Tr. Akaka.

SUMMARY:

Chair Alapa calls Kehau Pu`u, Ka Pou Hana Nui to share information on this action item. She informs the Trustees that this sponsorship falls under our Educational Pathway in our MIMO and reviews the scoring that can be found on this link

(www.youtube.com/watch?v=LIW7fGBhHCc). Testifier- Kayla Shaw advocating for Hui Mākua Pūnana Leo o Molokā`i.

Chair Alapa asks if there are any others signed-up to testify on this agenda item.

BF Staffer member Pohai Ryan: Reports that there are no other testifiers on this agenda item.

| | | | | | | MOTION: 12:23pm |
|-------------------------|---|---|-----------|------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| | | | | | | VOTE: 12:27pm |
| TRUSTEE | 1 | 2 | 'AE (YES) | A'OLE (NO) | KANALUA (ABSTAIN) | EXCUSED |
| DAN AHUNA | | | | | | X |
| KALEIHIKINA AKAKA | | | X | | | |
| KELI'I AKINA | | | X | | | |
| BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA | | | | | | X |
| KAIALI'I KAHELE | | | X | | | |
| CARMEN HULU LINDSEY | | | X | | | |
| J. KEONI SOUZA | | | | | | X |
| VICE-CHAIR JOHN WAIHE'E | 1 | | X | | | |
| CHAIR LUANA ALAPA | | | X | | | |
| TOTAL VOTE COUNT | | | 6 | 0 | 0 | 3 |

Chair Alapa asks all in favor to say `AE (YES): **MOTION PASSES**

IV. NEW BUSINESS

E. Action Item BF #25-31: Approval of OHA funding for a Ho`ākoako Lāhui Event Sponsorship to ECOH Education Foundation for the Prince Kūhiō Film Festival on May 3, 2025, in the amount of \$10,000.*

Motion to move this Action Item by Tr. Waihee. Seconded by Tr. Akaka.

SUMMARY:

Ka Pou Hana Nui, Kehau Pu`u explains that this sponsorship is for film festival being put on by the Hawaii Community Development Board in Kapolei on May 3, 2025 and the recommended amount of sponsorship is for \$10,000. The featured film is “Kai” and it is expected to be highly attended. There will also be workshops and resource fairs. There also will be art displayed that we will be acquiring after the event. Testifier- Patty Tancayo, representing ECOH and ?----- share that this event is also a fundraising event for the Kanahili Homestead Association and the launch of Prince Kūhiō Studios, the most technologically advanced, largest movie studio on the planet to train workforce of Hawaiians in every aspect of filming, editing, color grading, sound design, directing and cinematography, etc.. This event is to also to launch this studio for Hawaiian independence and will give 20% of all net generated revenue, which is anticipated to generate \$1 billion in the next three years. More detailed information about the film Kai and the film studio can be found at this link (www.youtube.com/watch?v=LIW7fGBhHCc).

Chair Alapa asks if there is any others signed up to testify on this agenda item.

BF Staffer member Pohai Ryan: Reports that there are no other testifiers on this agenda item.

| | | | | | | | MOTION: 12:29pm VOTE: 12:46pm |
|-------------------------|-----------|---|---|-----------|------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| TRUSTEE | | 1 | 2 | 'AE (YES) | A'OLE (NO) | KANALUA (ABSTAIN) | EXCUSED |
| DAN | AHUNA | | | | | | X |
| KALEIHIKINA | AKAKA | | | X | | | 12:47 |
| KELI'I | AKINA | | | X | | | |
| BRICKWOOD | GALUTERIA | | | | | | X |
| KAIALI'I | KAHELE | | | X | | | |
| CARMEN HULU | LINDSEY | | | | | | |
| J. KEONI | SOUZA | | | | | | X |
| VICE-CHAIR JOHN | WAIHE'E | 1 | | X | | | |
| CHAIR LUANA | ALAPA | | | X | | | |
| TOTAL VOTE COUNT | | | | 5 | 0 | 0 | 4 |

Chair Alapa asks all in favor to say `AE (YES): **MOTION PASSES**

IV. NEW BUSINESS

F. Action Item BF #25-32: Approval of OHA funding for a Ho`ākoako Lāhui Event Sponsorship to the Homestead Community Development Corporation for the 2025 Hawaiian Homelands Sovereignty Conference Event on June 2-4, 2025, in the amount of \$15,000.*

Motion to move this Action Item by Tr. Waihee. Seconded by Tr. Akaka.

SUMMARY:

Chair Alapa calls Kehau Pu`u, Ka Pou Nui, to share information regarding this action item. Ka Pou Nui shares information but it was inaudible. Testifier: Lilia Kapuniai, representing the

Homestead Community Development Corporation as its Chair and as its Fiscal Sponsor of the SHAW of Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Homestead Association. She shares that the SHAW has organized the convening of Hawaiian Homestead Association board members of the 50 homestead beneficiary associations every year for 38 years since its founding in 1987. This is the first year the SHAW is opening the convening to all native Hawaiians, coordinated 18 breakout sessions on topics such as grant writing, mortgage lending, agricultural capitol and capacity building sessions that will be supportive of any native Hawaiian organization. There are 8 sessions specifically coordinated for Hawaiian Homeland issues. Additional information can be found at this link (www.youtube.com/watch?v=LIW7fGBhHCc).

Chair Alapa asks if there are any others signed-up to testify on this agenda item.

BF Staffer member Pohai Ryan: Reports that there are no other testifiers on this agenda item.

| | | | | | | | MOTION: 12:48pm VOTE: 12:54pm |
|-------------------------|---|---|-----------|------------|-------------------|----------|----------------------------------|
| TRUSTEE | 1 | 2 | 'AE (YES) | A'OLE (NO) | KANALUA (ABSTAIN) | EXCUSED | |
| DAN AHUNA | | | | | | X | |
| KALEIHIKINA AKAKA | | | X | | | | |
| KELI'I AKINA | | | X | | | | |
| BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA | | | | | | X | |
| KAIALI'I KAHELE | | | X | | | | |
| CARMEN HULU LINDSEY | | | X | | | | |
| J. KEONI SOUZA | | | | | | X | |
| VICE-CHAIR JOHN WAIHE'E | 1 | | X | | | | |
| CHAIR LUANA ALAPA | | | X | | | | |
| TOTAL VOTE COUNT | | | 6 | 0 | 0 | 3 | |

Chair Alapa asks all in favor to say `AE (YES): **MOTION PASSES**

IV. NEW BUSINESS

G. Presentation by Administration of the OHA Fiscal Year 2026 and Fiscal Year 2027 Preliminary Biennium Budget – OHA Trustees preview prior to opening of community feedback opportunities.*

Chair Alapa calls Chief Financial Officer, Ramona Hink to the board table to present the 2026 & 2027 Fiscal Year Biennium Budget presentation. R. Hink indicates that the first part of her presentation is the Executive Summary, so she asks S. Ferreira to speak to this. S. Ferreira reviews the Mana i Maui Ola Executive Summary while the Trustees view the presentation provided them in the folder. R. Hink then continues the presentation, reviewing the Core and Non-Core Operating Budgets in specific details. Please reference the attached Fiscal Year 2026 & 2027 Preliminary Biennium Budget *Trustee Preview Prior to Community Input* for details. Additional information can be found at this link (www.youtube.com/watch?v=LIW7fGBhHCc).

Chair Alapa entertains a motion for adjournment.

Trustee Waihe'e moves to adjourn. **Trustee Akaka** seconds the motion.

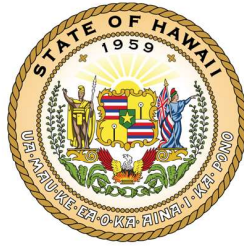
Meeting is adjourned: 1:54pm

Respectfully submitted,

Pohai Ryan
Trustee Aide
Committee on Budget and Finance

As approved by the Committee on Budget and Finance (BF) on October 29, 2025

Luana Alapa
Chair
Committee on Budget and Finance



John D. Waihe'e IV - *Chairperson*
Dan Ahuna - *Vice Chair*

Phone: (808) 594-1888
Fax: (808) 594-1868

MEMBERS

Kaleihikina Akaka
Keli'i Akina, Ph.D.
Luana Alapa
Brickwood Galuteria
Kaiali'i Kahele
Carmen "Hulu" Lindsey
Keoni Souza

OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

KE'ENA KULEANA HAWAI'I

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

560 N. Nimitz Hwy., Suite 200
Honolulu, HI 96817

DATE: Wednesday, October 29, 2025
TIME: 1:50 p.m.
PLACE: 2025 Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs Convention
Outrigger Kona Resort & Spa, Keauhou Ballroom
78-128 Ehukai St.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Minutes

- A. April 2, 2025
- B. April 23, 2025
- C. April 30, 2025
- D. September 17, 2025

III. New Business

- A. **Action Item BF #25-87 (revised):** Approval of OHA funding for a Ho'ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorship to Ulu A'e Learning Center for the 2026 Makahiki Ma Kapolei Event on January 31, 2026, in the amount of \$5,500.00*
- B. **Action Item BF #25-98:** Approve awarding of OHA grant funding to E Ala E to support the administration of the Nā 'Elele Congressional Fellows Program in the amount of \$210,000 from FY2026 Budget Line Item 7674 and \$210,000 FY2027 Budget Line Item 7781
- C. **Presentation by Administration:** Cultural Pathways to Career and Technical Education (CTE) implementation plan

IV. 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.

Public Testimony will be called for each agenda item and must be limited to matters listed on the meeting agenda. Hawai'i Revised Statutes, Chapter 92, Public Agency Meetings and Records, prohibits Board members from discussing or taking action on matters not listed on the meeting agenda.

**OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
560 N. NIMITZ HIGHWAY, SUITE 200
(VIRTUAL MEETING - VIA ZOOM WEBINAR)
COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FINANCE
MINUTES
April 30, 2025 11 a.m.**

FULL MEETING CAN BE VIEWED AT:
[4/23/25 Budget and Finance \(BF\) Meeting](#)

ATTENDANCE:

Chairperson Luana Alapa
Vice-Chairperson John Waihe'e, IV
Trustee Kaleihikina Akaka
Trustee Keli'i Akina
Trustee Brickwood Galuteria
Trustee Kaiali'i Kahele
Trustee C. Hulu Lindsey
Naiwi Werdemann

ADMINISTRATION STAFF:

Stacy Ferreira, *CEO / Ka Pouhana / Administrator*
Kehaulani Pu'u, *COO / Ka Pou Nui*
Ramona Hink, *CFO /*
Ryan Lee, *Endowment Director*
Everett Ohta, *Interim Corporation Counsel*
Nietzche Ozawa, *Interim Sr. Legal Counsel*
Elena Farden, *Senior Director of Strategy and Implementation*
Hailama Farden, *Senior Director of Hawaiian Cultural Affairs*
Daniel Santos, *IT Systems Engineer & Administrator*
Arlene Aguinaldo, *IT Systems Engineer & Administrator*

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Alapa calls the Committee on Budget and Finance meeting for Wednesday, April 30, 2025.

Chair Alapa notes for the record that **PRESENT** are:

| MEMBERS | | | AT CALL TO ORDER (11:22 a.m.) | TIME ARRIVED |
|------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| CHAIR | LUANA | ALAPA | PRESENT | |
| VICE-CHAIR | JOHN | WAIHE'E, IV | PRESENT | |
| TRUSTEE | DAN | AHUNA | EXCUSED | |
| TRUSTEE | KALEIHIKINA | AKAKA | PRESENT | |
| TRUSTEE | KELI'I | AKINA | PRESENT | |
| TRUSTEE | BRICKWOOD | GALUTERIA | PRESENT | |
| TRUSTEE | KAIALI'I | KAHELE | PRESENT | |
| TRUSTEE | C. HULU | LINDSEY | PRESENT | |
| TRUSTEE | J. KEONI | SOUZA | PRESENT | |

At the Call to Order, **EIGHT (8) Trustees are PRESENT**, thereby constituting a quorum.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None

III. OLD BUSINESS

None

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Action Item BF #25-33: Approval of OHA funding for a Ho‘ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorship to ‘Aha Kukui o Moloka‘i for the 2025 Moloka‘i Kamehameha Celebration Event, on June 13-15, 2025, in the amount of **\$6,000.***

Motion to move this Action Item by Tr. Waihee. Seconded by Tr. Lindsey.

SUMMARY:

[04/30/25 OHA Budget & Finance \(BF\) Meeting](#)

Testifier Lori-Lei Rawlins Crivello (virtual) (4:52/2:21:20)

Trustees Questions and concerns:

Trustee Kahele questioned COO Kehau about scoring application.(7:46/2:21:20)

Trustee Akaka: I want to say I'm so happy to see that this is in the spirit of celebrating our and so forth and so forth the history of our islands and Just one note, I'm looking forward to seeing something maybe coming regarding the celebrations DC side as well.

| TRUSTEE | 1 | 2 | 'AE (YES) | A'OLE (NO) | KANALUA (ABSTAIN) | EXCUSED |
|-------------------------|---|---|-----------|------------|-------------------|----------|
| DAN AHUNA | | | | | | X |
| KALEIHIKINA AKAKA | | | X | | | |
| KELI'I AKINA | | | X | | | |
| BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA | | | X | | | |
| KAIALI'I KAHELE | | | X | | | |
| CARMEN HULU LINDSEY | | | X | | | |
| J. KEONI SOUZA | | | X | | | |
| VICE-CHAIR JOHN WAIHE'E | | | X | | | |
| CHAIR LUANA ALAPA | | | X | | | |
| TOTAL VOTE COUNT | | | 8 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

Chair Alapa asks all in favor to say `AE (YES): **MOTION PASSES**

B. Action Item BF #25-34: Approval of OHA funding for a Ho‘ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorship to Ka‘uikiokapō for the 2025 Mālama the Sweet Waters of the Dark Bay [Caring for Waimānalo, Honouliuli] Event on June 14, 2025, in the amount of **\$500.***

Motion to move this Action Item by Tr. Waihee. Seconded by Tr. Lindsey.

SUMMARY:

Kehau Pu`u, Ka Pou Nui: (12:46/2:21:20)

Mahalo. So this is an event. And it's actually out on the west side, Waimanalo Honoluli. That's Waimanalo Gulch, where our landfill is. It's currently located. A couple of things. it's a core restoration project um the event has changed. So the organizers have changed informed us that they've moved the event back a week to June 21st. So first I want to inform the board and be very open and transparent about that.

Testifier Kahula O'Brien (14:16/2:21:20)

Trustees Questions and concerns:

Trustee Souza (17:12/2:21:20): Yeah. Actually, my question is for the applicant, if you guys don't mind. Brother, did you only apply for \$500? Okay, because I was going to say the amount of time it takes you to fill out the application and go through the process is worth more than \$500, brother. Well, yeah, I mean... I would give him my support. Thank you.

Trustee Kahele (17:40/2:21:20): Hey, thanks, Chair. You know, this is an interesting application because it's not a traditional sponsorship event. In what we normally see. You know, this is more um I guess more Ohana centric than more hui organizational centric in scoring these, and since you already alluded to that it wasn't a max score. How do you guys... I guess address applications like this are more smaller scale, not necessarily large OHA promotional recognition opportunities. In terms of assigning those specific needs values to the application based on the Maui Ola metrics that you guys use.

Kehau Pu`u, Ka Pou Nui: Wait, honestly, this is our first of this kind. And so it isn't a typical event that we've seen in the past. However. When we redesigned Hoakoakoa, we intentionally included these types of events as those that we would want to support that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs would want to support. You know we continue to assigned based on a strategic outcome. And so I believe that's what happened here. We have expanded the evaluator pool But quite honestly, I'm waiting for This fiscal year to end. Because we'll be, so we have all of our applications for quarter one And so We want to bring it before the board though in May so that we can process in June, you know, before the start of the fiscal year so that We put ourselves on a better timeline, but it's also going to give us a little bit more time to address these kinds of situations we want to I think I talked last time about calibration you know with um calibration with at least having multiple evaluators so that there can be a calibrated conversation. But yeah, so this one that the scale wasn't necessarily considered however When we saw the amount, the type of event.

Trustee Kahele: Yeah, definitely a worthy, worthy participation. Perhaps moving you know moving forward the matrix can the scoring matrix can be uh more of a living document. You know, that gets adjusted for submissions like these. You know, that are more smaller in smaller scale more Ohana centric rather than large hui organizational events.

BF Chair Alapa: Okay, I have a question. Kapou Nui. What is a change date for this event?

Kehau Pu`u, Ka Pou Nui: So they're pushing back one week. So the event is scheduled to be held on June 21st, 2025. So if you folks are going to support and approve this, then that would be the motion. You would need to amend the date. Okay, so yes.

BF Chair Alapa: Okay, so yes. And on that note, I'd like to entertain a motion to amend on this particular action item for the change in date. Can I have a motion, please? Okay, I'll reread the motion. Approval of OHA funding for the Huala action item, sorry, I'm going to back up there. Action item BF 25-34 is approval of OHA funding for otherwise caring for Waimanalo, Hono Uli Uuli. And the event will be taking place on June 21st, 2025 in the amount of \$500.

Motion to amend this Action Item by Tr. Souza. Seconded by Tr. Lindsey.

| TRUSTEE | 1 | 2 | 'AE (YES) | A'OLE (NO) | KANALUA (ABSTAIN) | EXCUSED |
|-------------------------|---|---|-----------|------------|-------------------|----------|
| DAN AHUNA | | | | | | X |
| KALEIHIKINA AKAKA | | | X | | | |
| KELI'I AKINA | | | X | | | |
| BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA | | | X | | | |
| KAIALI'I KAHELE | | | X | | | |
| CARMEN HULU LINDSEY | | | X | | | |
| J. KEONI SOUZA | | | X | | | |
| VICE-CHAIR JOHN WAIHE'E | | | X | | | |
| CHAIR LUANA ALAPA | | | X | | | |
| TOTAL VOTE COUNT | | | 8 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

Chair Alapa asks all in favor to say `AE (YES): **MOTION PASSES**

C. Action Item BF #25-35: Approval of OHA funding for a Ho'ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorship to Leeward Kai Canoe Club for the 2025 Leeward Kai Father's Day Regatta Event on June 14-15, 2025, in the amount of **\$15,000.***

Motion to move this Action Item by Tr. Souza. Seconded by Tr. Waihee

SUMMARY:

Kehau Pu`u, Ka Pou Nui (22:32/2:21:20): We are recommending based on the evaluator score, the full amount that was requested of \$15,000 and the canoe club did a very nice job of providing their budget breakdown. I do want to call out a few things to you folks. So the score sheet that is included in the packet is missing some numbers. And this is what happened last week also. So we had a lot of So basically, when we convert from Excel to PDF. For some reason, it doesn't carry all of the numbers over. However, I did pull up the original score sheet. They did score a 45 all the all the boxes are filled in and I can provide those scores if you guys would like me to. I'm going to look for the missing boxes real quick. Okay. Let me see. In event scope two they were given a five. And then the score right under that was another five. And then we have the four, four. Another five, so that last box on the bottom under alignment to Maui Ola was a five. And then on the next or the back page For budget, they were given an eight. So for a total score of 45, That was the score. I apologize. We're working out the kinks of converting from excel to Adobe PDF, but we do retain all of the original scoring sheets and we duplicate for action item because we've been adding in the scoring tiers as well as was requested originally along with the eligible amount so putting it out there. Kala mai. We just missed this one. we're going to be working with others to increase the team to help support this work. But ultimately, the score that's shown there, the total score was 45. So that's a recommendation at 100% of the eligible ask.

Testifiers(26:40/2:21:20): Alfred Van Giesen (virtual), Lavena Painter (in-person), Kapa Resents

Trustees Questions and concerns:

Trustee Lindsey (31:24/ 2:21:20): And I think that's So my question to administration is When you folks were scoring this application. You took into consideration that OHA is paying for the entire regatta?

Kehau Pu`u, Ka Pou Nui: Well, I cannot answer because I'm not the evaluator. I process, I make a sure score That's a question that we would need to ask the evaluator. But when we're looking at budget. There isn't a question of are we the full funder? it's whether that the budget request is appropriate for the event.

Trustee Souza: Just shine some light on how long this program has been going and how long? I know Alfred been involved in for us in this room who paddled And it's more than just club, right? It's a community. It's always getting the kids off the streets and getting them into sports and active. So they stay out of trouble and This event is a large event. If you've ever attended and attended in the past, so I fully support this. Whether we're funding the whole thing or not. It's a great event. And the impact that we make in this community is huge.

Trustee Kahele continues to question **Kehau Pu`u, Ka Pou Nui** about application breakdown (33:08/2:21:20)

Motion to move this Action Item by Tr. Souza

| TRUSTEE | | 1 | 2 | 'AE (YES) | A'OLE (NO) | KANALUA (ABSTAIN) | EXCUSED |
|-------------------------|---|---|---|-----------|------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| DAN AHUNA | | | | | | | X |
| KALEIHIKINA AKAKA | | | | X | | | |
| KELI'I AKINA | | | | X | | | |
| BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA | | | | X | | | |
| KAIALI'I KAHELE | | | | X | | | |
| CARMEN HULU LINDSEY | x | | | | | | Vote was not returned |
| J. KEONI SOUZA | | | | X | | | |
| VICE-CHAIR JOHN WAIHE'E | | | | | | | Was not present at time of vote |
| CHAIR LUANA ALAPA | | | | X | | | |
| TOTAL VOTE COUNT | | | | 6 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

Chair Alapa asks all in favor to say `AE (YES): **MOTION PASSES**

D. Action Item BF #25-36: Approval of OHA funding for a Ho‘ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorship to Festivals of Aloha for the 2025 Nā Kamehameha Commemorative Pā‘ū Parade and Ho‘olaule‘a Event on June 21, 2025, in the amount of **\$7,500***.

Motion to move this Action Item by Tr. Akaka. Seconded by Tr. Lindsey.

SUMMARY:

Kehau Pu`u, Ka Pou Nui introduces action item. (41:45/2:21:20)

Testifier (42:23/2:21:20): Daryl Fujiwara

Trustees Questions and concerns:

Trustee Kahele: Hey, so I guess my question for this is for Kehao looking at the score sheet on the event scope. And when comparing this to comparing this basically a similar event that we just approved from Molokai Trying to figure out what's the difference. I think the budget was scored appropriately, but I'm not sure why You know, this annual Kamehameha Parade celebration on Maui isn't scored similarly to the annual parade celebration of Molokai in terms of event scope. You know, looking at the score sheet, it was graded a 39 That one point difference is the difference between 50% and 75%. If we should award them You know, basically the max score for the event scope like we did molokai that would give them a 40 and then we can increase their award to 75% of what their ask was, if that's something you think the board should consider.

I'd like to make a motion to amend the action item 2536 and increase the sponsorship to 75 of the application based on adding one more point to the score sheet So the final score for the application would be a 40 and that would increase the award from the Board of Trustees for this event to \$11,250.

Trustee Akaka: Before we do so, I wanted to get more clarification from administration on as to how the scoring went and the rating because looking on what the need is, I'm wondering if that is enough what this amendment providing and if it's deserving. may I ask as well, because maybe I'm just not seeing in here about how many native Hawaiians and attendees in general you estimate to be there.

Daryl: Yeah. So at the parade this past year, I believe our police had counted about 3,000 in attendance for our first year. And then in our Ho‘olaulea We got about 3,000/ 3,500 or so. And I want to say that at least half of those numbers are native Hawaiian, especially the practitioners and the entertainers that were present.
Trustees discuss scoring.

Motion to amend this Action Item by Tr. Kahele. Seconded by Tr. Lindsey

| TRUSTEE | 1 | 2 | 'AE (YES) | A'OLE (NO) | KANALUA (ABSTAIN) | EXCUSED |
|-------------------------|---|---|--------------|---------------|----------------------|----------|
| DAN AHUNA | | | | | | X |
| KALEIHIKINA AKAKA | | | X | | | |
| KELI'I AKINA | | | X | | | |
| BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA | | | X | | | |
| KAIALI'I KAHELE | | | X | | | |
| CARMEN HULU LINDSEY | | | X | | | |
| J. KEONI SOUZA | | | X | | | |
| VICE-CHAIR JOHN WAIHE'E | | | X | | | |
| CHAIR LUANA ALAPA | | | X | | | |
| TOTAL VOTE COUNT | | | 8 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

Chair Alapa asks all in favor to say `AE (YES): **MOTION PASSES**

E. Action Item BF #25-37: Approval of OHA funding for a Ho‘ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorship to the Hawai‘i Academy of Recording Arts for the 2025 48th Annual Nā Hōkū Hanohano Awards Event on June 21, 2025, in the amount of **\$15,000.***

Motion to move this Action Item by Tr. Waihee. Second by Tr.Lindsey.

SUMMARY:

Testifier (1:09/2:21/20) Kalena Parish President of HARA

Trustees Questions and concerns:

Trustee Kahele questions **Kehau Pu`u, Ka Pou Nui** on redactions in the application. (1:12:50/2:21:20)

Trustee Akaka: This is more an acknowledgement and mahalo to Kalena.

Trustee Souza: Mahalo. I just want to make note, I do support this organization. I do support the president of this organization and the great job that she's doing, but I will However, be recusing myself from this vote.

Trustee Galuteria: The board has been going through an interesting intergenerational change over the past several years. And one of our All her family just finished his stint as the president of the academy, Hailama. And it was his job to at least bridge the two generations. So now it's interesting that Kalena is the president because we feel very comfortable moving forward with her leadership. I too will be recusing myself because I'm a current governor.

| TRUSTEE | 1 | 2 | 'AE (YES) | A'OLE (NO) | KANALUA (ABSTAIN) | EXCUSED |
|-------------------------|---|---|-----------|------------|-------------------|----------|
| DAN AHUNA | | | | | | X |
| KALEIHIKINA AKAKA | | | X | | | |
| KELI'I AKINA | | | X | | | |
| BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA | | | | | | recused |
| KAIALI'I KAHELE | | | X | | | |
| CARMEN HULU LINDSEY | | | X | | | |
| J. KEONI SOUZA | | | | | | recused |
| VICE-CHAIR JOHN WAIHE'E | | | X | | | |
| CHAIR LUANA ALAPA | | | X | | | |
| TOTAL VOTE COUNT | | | 6 | 0 | 0 | 3 |

Chair Alapa asks all in favor to say `AE (YES): **MOTION PASSES**

F. Action Item BF#25-27: Approval to carryover \$140,000 of Fiscal Year 2024 Grant Carryover Funds to Fiscal Year 2025 and Reallocate from the Grants program budget to the Strategy & Implementation - Economic Stability program budget for execution of the Mahi'ai Micro Fund (program to alleviate water bill and property tax costs for Native Hawaiian farmers statewide).*

Motion to move this Action Item by Tr. Lindsey Second by Tr. Waihee.

SUMMARY:

Kehau Pu`u, Ka Pou Nui introduces action item and Director of Economic and Resiliency, Poni to speak on action item(1:20:51/2:21:20)

Trustees Questions and concerns:

Trustee Souza questions **Poni (1:21:46/2:21:20)**

Trustee Souza: Madam Chair, I'd like to amend the motion. For the approval to carry over 140,000 of fiscal year 2024 grant carryover funds. To fiscal year 2025 and remain in the grants department. For execution of the Mahiai microfund program to alleviate the water bill and property tax costs For Native Hawaiian farmers statewide.

Trustee Kahele: Second

Trustee Waihe'e questions **Poni** on clarifying Admins directives. **(1:28:20/2:21:20)**

Trustee Akaka: (1:52:10/2:21:20)

Motion to move this Action Item by Tr. Lindsey Second by Tr Waihe'e

| TRUSTEE | | 1 | 2 | 'AE (YES) | A'OLE (NO) | KANALUA (ABSTAIN) | EXCUSED |
|-------------------------|------------------|---|---|--------------|---------------|----------------------|----------|
| DAN | AHUNA | | | | | | X |
| KALEIHIKINA | AKAKA | | | X | | | |
| KELI'I | AKINA | | | X | | | |
| BRICKWOOD | GALUTERIA | | | X | | | |
| KAIALI'I | KAHELE | | | X | | | |
| CARMEN HULU | LINDSEY | | | X | | | |
| J. KEONI | SOUZA | | | X | | | |
| VICE-CHAIR JOHN | WAIHE'E | | | X | | | |
| CHAIR LUANA | ALAPA | | | X | | | |
| TOTAL VOTE COUNT | | | | 8 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

G. Presentation by Administration: The OHA Fiscal Year 2026 and Fiscal Year 2027 Preliminary Biennium Budget – Status Update as of April 25, 2025.*

Summary:

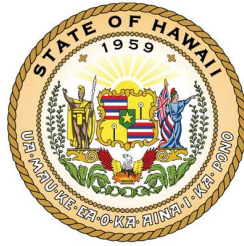
CFO Ramona Hinck called to table to answer any questions and speak of any concerns regarding Biennium budget ([04/30/25 OHA Budget & Finance \(BF\) Meeting pt.2](#) 6:11/36:07)
 Elena Farden Strategy and Implementation speaks at table (26:51/36:07)
 Poni Askew speaks at table (31:33/36:07)

| TRUSTEE | 1 | 2 | 'AE (YES) | A'OLE (NO) | KANALUA (ABSTAIN) | EXCUSED |
|-------------------------|---|---|-----------|------------|-------------------|----------|
| DAN AHUNA | | | | | | X |
| KALEIHIKINA AKAKA | | | X | | | |
| KELI'I AKINA | | | X | | | |
| BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA | | | X | | | |
| KAIALI'I KAHELE | | | X | | | |
| CARMEN HULU LINDSEY | | | X | | | |
| J. KEONI SOUZA | | | X | | | |
| VICE-CHAIR JOHN WAIHE'E | | | X | | | |
| CHAIR LUANA ALAPA | | | X | | | |
| TOTAL VOTE COUNT | | | 8 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

Chair Alapa entertains a motion for adjournment.

Chair Alapa moves to adjourn. **Trustee Akaka** seconds the motion.

Meeting is adjourned: 2:45pm



John D. Waihe'e IV - *Chairperson*
Dan Ahuna - *Vice Chair*

Phone: (808) 594-1888
Fax: (808) 594-1868

MEMBERS

Kaleihikina Akaka
Keli'i Akina, Ph.D.
Luana Alapa
Brickwood Galuteria
Kaiali'i Kahele
Carmen "Hulu" Lindsey
Keoni Souza

OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

KE'ENA KULEANA HAWAI'I

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

560 N. Nimitz Hwy., Suite 200
Honolulu, HI 96817

DATE: Wednesday, October 29, 2025
TIME: 1:50 p.m.
PLACE: 2025 Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs Convention
Outrigger Kona Resort & Spa, Keauhou Ballroom
78-128 Ehukai St.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Minutes

- A. April 2, 2025
- B. April 23, 2025
- C. April 30, 2025
- D. September 17, 2025**

III. New Business

- A. Action Item BF #25-87 (revised):** Approval of OHA funding for a Ho'ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorship to Ulu A'e Learning Center for the 2026 Makahiki Ma Kapolei Event on January 31, 2026, in the amount of \$5,500.00*
- B. Action Item BF #25-98:** Approve awarding of OHA grant funding to E Ala E to support the administration of the Nā 'Elele Congressional Fellows Program in the amount of \$210,000 from FY2026 Budget Line Item 7674 and \$210,000 FY2027 Budget Line Item 7781
- C. Presentation by Administration:** Cultural Pathways to Career and Technical Education (CTE) implementation plan

IV. 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.

Public Testimony will be called for each agenda item and must be limited to matters listed on the meeting agenda. Hawai'i Revised Statutes, Chapter 92, Public Agency Meetings and Records, prohibits Board members from discussing or taking action on matters not listed on the meeting agenda.

STATE OF HAWAI'I
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
560 N. NIMITZ HIGHWAY, SUITE 200
(VIRTUAL MEETING - VIA ZOOM WEBINAR)
COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FINANCE
MINUTES
September 17, 2025 11:30 a.m.

FULL MEETING CAN BE VIEWED AT [9/17/25 Budget and Finance \(BF\) Meeting](#)

ATTENDANCE:

Chairperson Luana Alapa
Vice-Chairperson John Waihe'e, IV
Trustee Dan Ahuna
Trustee Kaleihikina Akaka
Trustee Keli'i Akina
Trustee Brickwood Galuteria
Trustee Kaiali'i Kahele
Trustee C. Hulu Lindsey
Trustee J. Keoni Souza

Sommer Soares
Yvonne Mahelona

ADMINISTRATION STAFF:

Stacy Ferreira, *CEO / Ka Pouhana / Administrator*
K. Sean Kekina, *COO / Ka Pou Nui*
Corey Nakamoto, *Director of Human Resources*
Daniel Santos, *Systems Engineer & Administrator*
Elena Farden, *Sr. Director Strategy & Implementation*
Everett Ohta, *Senior Legal Counsel*
Grace Chen, *Budget Chief*
Hailama Farden, *Sr. Director Hawaiian Cultural Affairs*
Kalai Castro, *Strategy Consultant*
Kevin Chak, *Sr. Systems Engineer & Administrator*
Ku'ike Kamakea-'Ohelo, *Director of O'iwai Wellbeing and 'Aina Momona*
Kuuleianuhe Awo-Chun, *Director of Education & Culture-Based Learning*
Kyle Saucier, *Systems Engineer & Administrator*
Lise Vaughan-Sekona, *Community Engagement Director*
Parker Spencer, *Strategy Consultant*
Poni Askew, *Director of Economic & Business Resilience*
Ryan Lee, *Investment Director, Interim CFO*

BOT STAFF:

Carina Lee
Crayn Akina
Kanani laea
Lei-Ann Durant
Mark Watanabe
Melissa Wennihan
Nathan Takeuchi
Pohailani Kealoha
Richelle Kim

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Alapa calls the Committee on Budget and Finance meeting for Wednesday, September 17, 2025 to order at **11:36 a.m.**

Chair Alapa notes for the record that **PRESENT** are:

| MEMBERS | | | AT CALL TO ORDER (11:36 a.m.) | TIME ARRIVED |
|------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| CHAIR | LUANA | ALAPA | PRESENT | |
| VICE-CHAIR | JOHN | WAIHE'E, IV | PRESENT | |
| TRUSTEE | DAN | AHUNA | PRESENT | |
| TRUSTEE | KALEIHIKINA | AKAKA | PRESENT | |
| TRUSTEE | KELI'I | AKINA | PRESENT | |
| TRUSTEE | BRICKWOOD | GALUTERIA | PRESENT | |
| TRUSTEE | KAIALI'I | KAHELE | PRESENT | |
| TRUSTEE | C. HULU | LINDSEY | PRESENT | |
| TRUSTEE | J. KEONI | SOUZA | PRESENT | Arrived at 11:40 a.m. |

At the Call to Order, **EIGHT (8) Trustees are PRESENT**, thereby constituting a quorum.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None

III. OLD BUSINESS

None

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Action Item BF #25-73: Approve the reallocation of funds from Strategy and Implementation Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027 Contracts budget for Ahupua‘a Moolelo program to Strategy and Implementation Grants budget for Aloha ‘Āina Leadership Awards (AALA) in the amount of \$15,000.00 (FY26 and FY27) and Ola Ka ‘Ī event in the amount of \$20,000.00 (FY26) and \$10,000.00 (FY27).*

Chair Alapa asks if there is anyone signed-up to testify on this agenda item.

BF Staffer Akina: No one has signed-up to testify on this agenda item.

Vice-Chair Waihee moves to approve the reallocation of funds from Strategy and Implementation Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027 Contracts budget for Ahupua‘a Mo‘olelo program to Strategy and Implementation Grants budget for Aloha ‘Āina Leadership Awards (AALA) in the amount of \$15,000 (FY26 and FY27) and Ola Ka ‘Ī event in the amount of \$20,000 (FY26) and \$10,000 (FY27).

Chair Alapa calls for discussion.

There is none.

Chair Alapa calls for a Roll Call Vote

| | | | | | | | 11:39am |
|-------------------------|---|---|-----------|------------|-------------------|---|---------|
| TRUSTEE | 1 | 2 | 'AE (YES) | A'OLE (NO) | KANALUA (ABSTAIN) | EXCUSED | |
| DAN AHUNA | | | X | | | | |
| KALEIHIKINA AKAKA | | | X | | | | |
| KELI'I AKINA | | | X | | | | |
| BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA | | | X | | | | |
| KAIALI'I KAHELE | | | | | | <i>Not present at table at time of vote</i> | |
| CARMEN HULU LINDSEY | | | X | | | | |
| J. KEONI SOUZA | | | X | | | | |
| VICE-CHAIR JOHN WAIHE'E | 1 | | X | | | | |
| CHAIR LUANA ALAPA | | | X | | | | |
| TOTAL VOTE COUNT | | | 8 | 0 | 0 | 1 | |

VOTE: [] UNANIMOUS [X] PASSED [] DEFERRED [] FAILED

Chair Alapa notes for the record that ALL (8) members present vote 'AE (YES) and the **MOTION PASSES.**

IV. NEW BUSINESS

B. Action Item BF #25-74: Approval for Administration to execute the Puuhonua Restorative Justice program from Strategy and Implementation – Health Outcomes Fiscal Year 2026 Contracts budget.*

Chair Alapa asks if there is anyone signed-up to testify on this agenda item.

BF Staffer Akina: No one has signed-up to testify on this agenda item.

Chair Alapa: At this time Trustees, I'd like to request that no motion be made, nor any action, and that we have a unanimous consent to convert this to an update from Administration. Any objections amongst our Trustees?

There are no objections.

Chair Alapa recognizes Ka Pouhana Stacy Ferreira

Ka Pouhana Ferreira: Mahalo Chair, at this time, I'd like to invite to the table our Senior Director of Strategy and Implementation, Elena Farden, and our Director of 'Ōiwi Wellbeing and Aina Momona, Ku'ike Kamakea-'Ōhelo.

Mana i Maui Ola
FY2026 Pu'uhonua Restorative Justice Program Implementation Plan

PU'UHONUA
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

PRESENTED BY
Strategy & Implementation
Health Outcomes

OHA
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Overview

| | |
|---|--|
| Project Name | Pu'uhonua Restorative Justice Program |
| Owner(s)/Lead(s) | Kū'ikeokalani Kamakea-'Ōhelo & Strategy Consultant |
| Description | Shifting from punitive to restorative justice through culturally grounded healing, accountability, and reconnection to 'ohana, 'āina, and 'ike kupuna. This program restores individuals as vital members of their communities by embracing traditional healing, mālama 'āina, 'ōlelo Hawai'i, and cultural values. |
| Goals & Outcomes | Alignment & Impact |
| The Pu'uhonua Restorative Justice Program will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance MIMO 3.3 by targeting child welfare as a key intervention point, helping prevent future justice system involvement among Native Hawaiian keiki and 'ohana. • Revitalize traditional healing and Mālama 'Āina practices to promote community well-being. • Reduce the number of ohana/keiki escalating from CWS low/moderate risk to high risk. • Pilot programs at one designated Pu'uhonua site as demonstration model. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.2 Establishment of a fully functional, high quality, culturally adapted, primary Native Hawaiian Health System which coordinates effective wellness activities/programs; (E Ola Mau a Mau) • 3.3 Decrease the number /percent of Native Hawaiians in jails and prison • 4.1 Preservation and perpetuation of Hawaiian language, culture, traditions, identity and sense of lāhui |

S&I Senior Director E. Farden: Mahalo, Chair, Vice Chair and Trustees. Mahalo, for your flexibility. Myself and Director Ku'ike Kamakea-'Ōhelo will be co-presenting for this.

'Ōiwi Wellbeing Director Kamakea-'Ōhelo: Aloha, Chair, Vice Chair, and Trustees. The Pu'uhonua Restorative Justice Program is designed to address one of the most pressing issues facing our Lāhui; the disproportionate impact of incarceration and child welfare on Native Hawaiians. Hawaiians make up nearly 40% of the state's prison population, and 40% of the child welfare services cases, despite being only 21% of Hawaii's population. So, the program reintroduces the traditional role of Pu'uhonua, a place of safety, reconciliation, and renewal, into a model context. It provides individuals and families with pathways to accountability and healing rooted in culture, rather than punishment. By reconnecting participants to Ohana, 'Āina, and 'Ike kupuna; pu'uhonua directly supports OHA's Mana i Maui Ola's strategic outcomes, reducing incarceration, strengthening families' well-being, and restoring Native Hawaiian identity.

Budget Overview

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Pu'uhonua Location | (1) Site, O'ahu |
| # of Cases to be Served | 55 'Ohana (approximately 275 Individuals) |
| FY26 Budget | <p>\$200,000</p> <p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$40,000 (20% Administrative fee, Program Coordinator intake, supplies, location, office access); \$10,000 program evaluation; and \$150,000 cultural service practitioners (based on 'ohana need (parenting skills, domestic violence, substance abuse, mental health) |
| Cultural Practices | Board & Stone, ho'oponopono (generative conflict resolution), lā'au lapa'au (medicine), lomilomi (healing massage), mālama 'āina (connection to land), hula & mele (dance & song), oli & pule (chant & prayer), wayfinding practices (voyaging), ho'opili 'ohana (family strengthening traditions), ho'oma'ema'e (cleansing rituals), ho'okipa (hospitality & community care), trauma-informed care |

Due Diligence – NHLC Feasibility Study

- Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation (NHLC) study identified child welfare services and family court as key intervention points
- Diverting/deterring Native Hawaiian children from foster care reduces long-term risk of incarceration
- Early culturally grounded support = breaking the pipeline from child welfare to justice system
- Findings show restorative and 'ohana-centered models are viable solutions to systemic challenges

Culture Based Services

A successful pilot requires cultural service providers that have the capacity to meet the needs of 'ohana before the court.

At this time none are on the Title IV-E list. So, services may initially be implemented as additive to Title IV-E services.

Service providers may require funding to build capacity and explore Title IV-E eligibility for state funding.

Achieving eligibility for DHS contracts might not be desired or possible using term funding from other sources may be needed.

S&I Senior Director E. Farden: For the budget overview, there's four areas that we wanted to highlight for the Trustees.

First is a Pu'uhonua Location, we do have a short list of locations on O'ahu for the pilot, one will be selected on that site. We'll take questions on the criteria if you have any.

The second is the number of cases to be served. Based on the conversations we've been having with Child Welfare Services of the low to moderate risk, intake that they receive. This was also based on the average number of families that can be serviced by a cultural practitioner, so we estimate 55 ohana, based on our Native Hawaiian size of our Ohana, this would be 5 persons per ohana, so we estimate 275 individuals to be served per year.

For the FY26 budget, we have \$200,000 that's been allocated for this program, and nestled within that \$200,000 is \$40,000, which would be an administrative fee for the Pu'uhonua site, that would also contract a program coordinator on-site for the administrative support, intake and case management, as well as \$150,000 that would be allocated towards the cultural practitioners providing services to the Ohana and families there at the site. Within that is also the 10,000 that would go towards the program and evaluation, that would make up the entire \$200,000 that's been allocated for the program.

Within the cultural practices, there are a suite of offerings that would cover the range of services in which Title IV-E; prevention services are used within CWS around mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence, and in-parenting skills.

S&I Senior Director E. Farden: For the due diligence, I just want to bring back the journey that we've got here to build the Kahua, in which we're building this Hale for Pu'uhonua. So, the NHLC feasibility study, although it was done for the specialty court, one of the things it did identify was child welfare services as a key intervention point in being able to intercept and divert. The foster care to prison pathway. So, this is something that we're also using to build upon the Pu'uhonua, and in diverting and deterring Native Hawaiian children from foster care, also reduces the long-term risk of prison. We see this in many other models in which we have sovereignty on how we want to do this, one of them being 'Aha Pūnana Leo, in identifying early intervention in language, this one, we're identifying early intervention for family care to ensure that our people are not overcrowding our prisons and incarceration rates.

With that, I'm also happy to talk through additional efforts that have been built up to this. If you have questions around that later.



S&I Senior Director E. Farden: With that due diligence now becomes, how do we build that partnership? Department of Health and Child Welfare Services have expressed a very strong interest in partnership with OHA on this pilot, so together we're building a referral program pathway that would center on Native Hawaiian cultural practices as a prevention strategy within the child welfare system. Originally, the specialty court was a sister program to Pu'ohonua, without that being funded, we still need a referral program, so we're super excited to be able to work with the state on this. This partnership really shows the shared goal of reducing the number of low to moderate risks that come into our child welfare services, so they don't become high-risk and court-mandated. So that's the joint service that we see here.

I do want to bring your attention to the numbers that you see on the bottom of your screen. The low-risk, moderate risk, and high risk are the intake processes for child welfare services. The numbers you see there are their estimated number of cases. Again, cases are going to represent at least 5 people within that family, and this is annually. So, looking at the low risk to moderate risk, how they would come in, and they would be referred to OHA as a trusted partner, in which then we would refer them to our Pu'ohonua site and our cultural practitioners to receive services.

Again, we have figures on the low to moderate rate, and then also, again, figures on the amount of families that we could impact, happy to answer those questions after the presentation.

S&I Senior Director E. Farden: Now that we're building a partnership to protect our Ohana, we also have to make that connection. So, in building the partnerships with Department of Health and Child Welfare Services, we now want to also be able to have a culturally grounded case coordination. So, this is where we would see families that are referred to by Child Welfare services to OHA as a trusted partner. The on-site program coordinator at the Pu'uhonua will also help ensure case management, calling families to say, we know that you've been referred to us, our program is going to start on this date, can I answer any questions to ensure that they are also following up and receiving services? And also coordinating with the cultural practitioners on site to provide traditional cultural healing practices on-site with the families, and then the integration of these services supports with accountability, reporting on both sides, for the families and for our program as well, healing and reconnection to 'Āina and community.

I'm happy to talk through any of the criteria that the team is considering when we choose the Pu'uhonua site, if there's questions.

Pu'uhonua & Cultural Service Providers

| Pu'uhonua | Cultural Service Providers |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ancestral Sanctuary of Safety – Pu'uhonua were sanctuaries of safety, reconciliation, and renewal. • Centralized Healing Supports – All services in one place: traditional healing, cultural practices, practitioners, housing, and 'āina-based engagement. • Safe, Non-Punitive Environment – Trusted sanctuary for 'ohana to engage without fear of judgment or punishment. • Integrated Care Model – Coordinators and cultural practitioners provide wraparound healing and accountability. • Breaking Cycles, Building Resilience – Reduces foster care-to-incarceration pipeline and builds 'ohana resilience. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore Identity and Dignity Practitioners reconnect individuals and families with language, genealogy, and cultural practices. • Facilitate Traditional Healing Support traditional practices to address trauma and strengthen 'ohana bonds. • Anchor 'āina-Based Practices Guide engagement with land and ocean (aloha 'āina, mālama 'āina) to promote balance and well-being. • Model Aloha and Kuleana Ground services in values of aloha, kuleana, and pono, ensuring accountability rooted in culture rather than punishment. • Build Intergenerational Resilience Create pathways of healing and thriving that ripple from keiki to kūpuna, reducing risks of system involvement. • Trusted Bridge Between Systems and 'Ohana Help families feel safe to engage, serving as cultural navigators between state agencies (CWS, DHS) and community healing. |

Community Engagement & Stakeholders

| Internal Stakeholders | External Stakeholders |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy & Implementation Health Outcomes Staff – Director & Strategy Consultant • Community Engagement • Advocacy • Research & Evaluation • Communications | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-site Program Coordinator • Identified Pu'uhonua Site(s) - Selection of (1) Site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nation of Hawai'i (Māimānalo, O'ahu) ○ Ahupua'a 'O Kahana State Park (Kahana, O'ahu) ○ Pu'uhonua 'O Wai'anae (Wai'anae, O'ahu) • Native Hawaiian Cultural Practitioners and Scholars • Hawaiian Legislative Stakeholders • Hawaiian Civic Clubs & Neighborhood Boards • Native Hawaiian Advocacy Groups • Federal & State Agencies • Legal & Property Stakeholders |
| <h4 style="margin: 0;">Community Engagement</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practitioners will co-lead community presentations and workshops with the Program Coordinator to strengthen awareness and support for the Pu'uhonua Restorative Justice Program. At least one presentation/workshop will be held each year, with 25% or more of participants' 'ohana engaged through their full and informed consent | |

‘Ōiwi Wellbeing Director Kamakea-‘Ōhelo: Historically, Pu'uhonua were sanctuaries of refuge and renewal. This program brings that vision forward today offering safe and non-punitive environments. Centralized healing and care rooted in cultural practice. The aim is to restore identity, strengthen Aloha 'Āina and build resilience across generations.

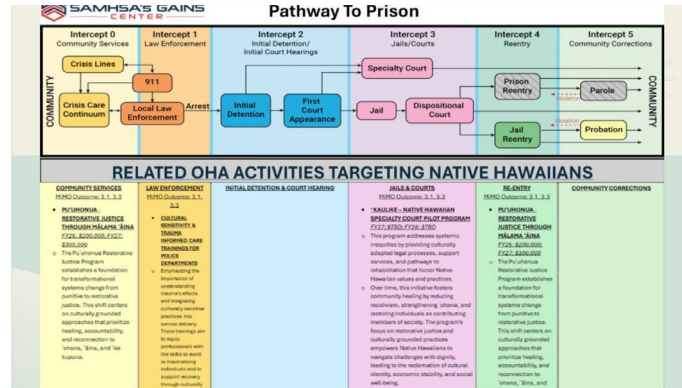
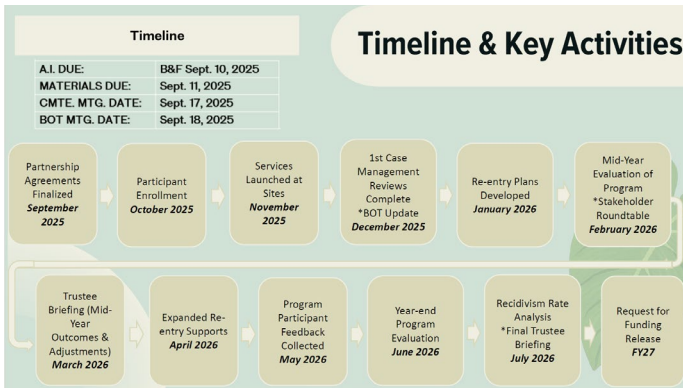
Community engagement and stakeholders. So, community voice is central, what this program will offer is what we will co-lead community workshop with the practitioners to build awareness and trust. At least 25% of the participating Ohana will help shape services through feedback and consent. It's very important that our program also includes those with the lived experience. That way, we ensure, the culture and the community that we create through this investment is informed by the respective community. So, stakeholders include practitioners, nonprofits, civic clubs, government partners, and legal advocates all working together to support Ohana.

Pu'uhonua Restorative Justice Program

| Program Budget | Deliverables |
|--|--|
| <p>Budget: \$200,000.00</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$40,000 (20% Administrative fee – Program Coordinator/intake, supplies, location/office access) ○ \$150,000 Cultural Service Practitioners ○ \$10,000 program evaluation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional healing and restorative practices • Design & deliver 'āina-based engagement & cultural revitalization • Participate in the evaluation of the program with OHA R&E, S&I Paia • Collaborate & build healthy, sustainable working partnerships • Engage w/ community stakeholders |

Scope & Implementation Approach

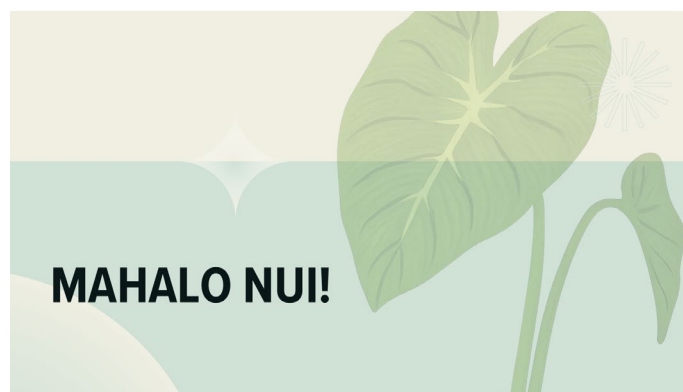
S&I Senior Director E. Farden: For the scope and implementation approach, you'll see the budget program here that I had also mentioned earlier in the slide. Again, the \$200,000 covers the site administration, program coordinator, program evaluation and the cultural service practitioners. What I do want to emphasize on this particular slide would be the deliverables, meaning, within this program, both the program coordinator, cultural practitioners, would work hand-in-hand with OHA's S&I Paia and research and evaluation. Of course, all of our programs have research and evaluation built in, but I think no more important than this particular one. Being that within Title IV-E, which provides a list of the service providers that can be selected and chosen by Child Welfare services to provide services to families. Many of our cultural practitioners are not on that list, so what that means is if families choose to go to that route, it becomes an out-of-pocket expense for them. In order to help provide and expand that list to include cultural providers the data that we'll gain from the pilot and going forward will be detrimental to that.



‘Oiwī Wellbeing Director Kamakea-‘Ōhelo: So, the timeline for FY26 is as follows. Quarter 1, pre-implementation and planning. Quarter 2, program launch and baseline data collection. Quarter 3, full-service delivery, case coordination, restorative practices, housing, and employment supports. And quarter 4, evaluation and reporting to this committee and the full Board. This phased approach ensures steady progress and accountability.

The final slide places Pu'uhonua within the sequential intercept model, developed by SAMHSA's GAINS Center. The model is a nationally recognized framework that maps six points along the justice system, where interventions can prevent deeper involvement. OHA did not create the model, but we are using it to show where our programs fit. Pu'uhonua sits at intercept zero, in the community before the system entry, stabilizing ohana through child welfare partnerships, and preventing foster care. But it also plays a role at Intercept 4, during reentry from prison or jail back into the community. At intercept 4, Pu'uhonua provides re-entry supports like cultural healing, housing navigation and Employment Connections; reducing recidivism and ensuring that Native Hawaiians returning home can thrive.

We're working at both ends; the prevention before entry and support during re-entry. Pu'uhonua addresses the justice cycle comprehensively, breaking the pipeline into prison, while also closing the revolving door out of it.



‘Oiwī Wellbeing Director Kamakea-‘Ōhelo: With that, mahalo again for the opportunity to present before you.

Chair Alapa: Mahalo, thank you so much for your presentation. Trustees, any questions at this time?

Chair Alapa recognizes Trustee Galuteria.

Trustee Galuteria: Thank you, the budget for cultural service practitioners. By far the largest expenditure, can you explain to the Board how one becomes certified as a cultural service provider, what do you have to go through to be...

S&I Senior Director E. Farden: Mahalo for the question, and just for clarity is a question for the certification to be on the Title IV-E sheet providers list?

Trustee Galuteria: No, it's how do you become a cultural service provider, a practitioner. Is it a program, like the medical field, or you go into cultural service. What is it?

‘Ōiwi Wellbeing Director Kamakea-‘Ōhelo: Mahalo again, Trustee, for the question. At this point in time we haven't identified a specific process to identify or certify cultural practitioners. What we're leaning on is the institutional knowledge within the communities of service. So the programs, or partners within communities that have identified the need, and also know who can provide the service. So, in the presentation, we identify specific cultural practices, although we don't have a process to certify, I don't necessarily think that this program is built to create or identify what the process is. So at this point in time, it's who is providing the service in community and where we can make the connection to those who need the services.

Trustee Galuteria: Is there a current process that's within the bureaucracy where we don't have to reinvent the wheel. Or we can rely on them to execute to get to the end product?

‘Ōiwi Wellbeing Director Kamakea-‘Ōhelo: From my understanding, Lili'uokalani Trust, has provided these types of services before. And with that, what I learned is that, it's an opportunity for OHA to also invest into these points, through these critical points of re-entry or diversion.

Trustee Galuteria: Ok, Mahalo.

Chair Alapa recognizes Trustee Lindsey.

Trustee Lindsey: I just wanted to say that way back in 2013, this kind of program was actively advocated to the Trustees, and I'm so glad to see that we're finally going to get something like this off the ground. Because our people really need it when they come out of prison, sometimes they have no place to go, and therefore, recidivism, they end up back in prison. So, this is so wonderful, we've been waiting so long for this kind of program. Mahalo Elena and Ku'ike.

Chair Alapa recognizes Trustee Kahele

Trustee Kahele: First of all, I appreciate Chair modifying the agenda to be really an informational briefing, and I think that'll give us outside of the board table, a chance to work together and meet with you, to make whatever program this Board ends up approving something that can make a big impact in our criminal justice system as it relates to Native Hawaiians. So, I'll save my comments for later, since it's not for action. I do think, in its current form is very aspirational. We have a limited amount of resources, I think 200,000 in FY26, 300,000 in FY27, it's not enough to do all the aspirational things we're proposing, if you take Pu'ohonua, you take restorative justice, child welfare services, reducing recidivism. I think it needs to be a more targeted approach. And I'm sure other trustees are willing to sit down with the S&I team, and work on something that we can bring in front of this Board that can really target a specialty area, or whatever that is, and trying to get to the core, root of the problem

we're trying to address in this budget appropriation. So, I'll just leave it at that, and let me know when we can get together and talk about this. Thank you.

Chair Alapa recognizes Ka Pouhana Ferreira

Ka Pouhana Ferreira: I just wanted to Mahalo Chair for that, and I think part of that conversation with Trustees and S&I would be bringing in child welfare services, as well as the Department of Human Services, who are very excited as our sister State Department agency, really wanting to work hand-in-hand with OHA. They see a huge opportunity for us to collaborate and to really do something transformational. Mahalo.

Chair Alapa recognizes Trustee Akaka

Trustee Akaka: Mahalo. I want to thank everyone that made it possible to talk about this. I think it's so important as we talk about what our statistics are within our community. And how we can look at being preventive in certain actions, and how we can look at restoring our culture and reconnecting to our culture for those that are serving time, and look at ways that we can have that hand-in-hand with rehabilitating the Ohana as well. So, I look forward to seeing what comes of this, and I think this would be a potential set of site visits that we could do in terms of where the Pu'uhonua or Honua's may be, or whether it be with the Department of Human Services or Child Welfare services. I'm very thankful that this is being brought to our attention. Mahalo.

Chair Alapa asks if there is any further questions or discussion.

There is no further questions or discussion.

Chair Alapa: Thank you so much, appreciate your presentation, and obviously this would have a great impact on our people, because it's badly needed, and I hope all of us will come to a consensus... oh, go ahead Trustee Akaka.

Trustee Akaka: One more thing, in our experience yesterday as an OHA Ohana at Kūkaniloko, where we were working within the fields and clearing some of the areas in which they have been planting some of our Native Hawaiian Trees. I took time to speak with Uncle Tom to talk about what I was observing in driving around the property prior to the visit, and seeing that we have some growth there, is broaching the idea of having those that are serving time the opportunity to come onto the lands and help to maintain these lands, and that would be a way in which they can reconnect with their culture and give back to the community as, during monarchical times, the king had it where those would be there to help with the Alahele, so I think that that's one way in which we can incorporate those. And then he had shared with me, Uncle Tom, is that something like that had happened prior with I think it was OCCC, however, not having the contacts anymore as time has gone on since then, he did recommend that I speak to Ed Sniffen of DOT, as what they used to do would be to help clear in where the signage and poles are on the outer perimeter. So, given that Ed will be joining us next week at the Oahu Island Community Meeting, I think that's another great opportunity to further connect thoughts there, and how we can provide this reconnection to our Hawaiian culture. Mahalo.

Chair Alapa: Alright, mahalo, Trustee Akaka, for that.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- C. Action Item BF #25-75: Approval of funding for ‘Āina Aupuni Hawaii documentary on the legacy of the ‘āina through Hawaii’s complex social and political history and proposal for a living trust in the amount of \$135,100.00.***

Chair Alapa asks if there is anyone signed-up to testify on this agenda item.

BF Staffer Akina: No one has signed-up to testify on this agenda item.

Chair Alapa calls on Grace Chen and Ryan Lee to the table for discussion.

Vice-Chair Waihee moves to approve the reallocation up to \$135,100.00 of Fiscal Year 2026 from Personnel and Fringe for ‘Āina Aupuni Hawai‘i Documentary in the amount up to \$135,100.

Chair Alapa requests Ka Pouhana Ferreira provide an explanation for this ite.

Ka Pouhana Ferreira: Mahalo, the Board may remember that we had a visit from Dr. John Osorio, and he had brought a team that is working with him on producing a one-hour documentary on Hawaii Kingdom Crown and Government Lands, and exploring the history of those lands, the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom, and the long-standing issues of the underpayment to OHA for the 20% pro-rata share of the Public Land Trust revenues. So he brought the team forward to the table to basically share their various roles in the project, they are looking to start the project immediately, they already have \$40,000 of seed funding from Kanaeokana, which is Kamehameha Schools. And so they were looking for the balance of those ones so that the documentary could be completed, they are looking at distributing this broadly across the pae‘āina as an awareness and education piece, so that this is not just a Hawaiian issue, everybody needs to be aware of this issue. Dr. Osorio and his team are hoping that this documentary will shed some sorely needed light on the current plight of the stolen Hawaiian Kingdom crown and government lands, and the lack of the 20% pro-rata share to OHA.

Chair Alapa recognizes Trustee Akaka

Trustee Akaka: Mahalo, when Dr. Osorio did come to speak with us before he left, I did recommend, well, I thanked him for his and the team on working on this project, and I feel that when the project is done, that, what I had shared with him is I recommended a screening at the Hawaii State Capitol for those at the legislature, as well as throughout the county, so that this education and awareness can be more widespread so that there is a better understanding of the shared kuleana when it comes to our crown and government lands of our Hawaiian Kingdom.

Chair Alapa asks if there is any further discussion.

There is no further discussion.

Chair Alapa calls for a Roll Call Vote

| | | | | | | 12:02pm |
|-------------------------|---|---|-----------|------------|-------------------|----------|
| TRUSTEE | 1 | 2 | 'AE (YES) | A'OLE (NO) | KANALUA (ABSTAIN) | EXCUSED |
| DAN AHUNA | | | X | | | |
| KALEIHIKINA AKAKA | | | X | | | |
| KELI'I AKINA | | | X | | | |
| BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA | | | X | | | |
| KAIALI'I KAHELE | | | X | | | |
| CARMEN HULU LINDSEY | | | X | | | |
| J. KEONI SOUZA | | | X | | | |
| VICE-CHAIR JOHN WAIHE'E | 1 | | X | | | |
| CHAIR LUANA ALAPA | | | X | | | |
| TOTAL VOTE COUNT | | | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

VOTE: [X] UNANIMOUS [] PASSED [] DEFERRED [] FAILED

Chair Alapa notes for the record that ALL members present vote 'AE (YES) and the **MOTION PASSES.**

IV. NEW BUSINESS

D. Action Item BF #25-76: Approve the reallocation of funds from Fiscal Year 2026 Personnel & Fringe budget to fund the International Cultural Arts Network (ICAN) in the amount of \$5,000.00 for the September 18, 2025 Chief of War Season 1 Finale Screening at the Hawai'i Theatre.*

Chair Alapa asks if there is anyone signed-up to testify on this agenda item.

BF Staffer Akina: No one has signed-up to testify on this agenda item.

Chair Alapa recognizes Board Chair Kahele.

Trustee Kahele: Thanks Chair, thanks Trustees for considering this item. As you're well aware, the Chief of War series started about a month and a half ago and I'm not sure if everyone has had a chance to watch. Some went to the premiere, I've had a chance, every Friday I watch an episode. I think if there's 8 episodes and this Friday is the last episode in Season 1 and there is a couple of little mini behind the scenes clips on Apple TV, the plan was to show you one of those clips that featured several of the local Hawaii actors like Moses Goods and Kaina Makua.

ICAN was created by Robert Suka, Angela Laprete and Brian Keaulana and they have been really working hard over the last few years on mentoring and training the next generation of local actors in the Hawaii market, and they are a big part of Chief of War and tomorrow they're going to do a preview of the season finale at the Hawaii Theatre, so they approached OHA the along with a few of the other Ali'i Trust and community partners in helping to put this event on, Kamehameha Schools, the Hawaiian Council, HTA are all putting in resources for this premier tomorrow night, and that's what this is in front of us. So we have a chance to participate financially with KS and Hawaiian Council on this event and several of you I think everyone did receive an invite to attend at the Hawaii Theatre, if

you can. The hope is that season 1 is that season 2 or future seasons will continue, that will largely depend on funding and Apple and ICAN and the ability to hopefully continue the Chief of War series, bring it to Hawaii so that we can film in Hawaii and use a lot of the local talent we have here and the scenery and the historic sites and places that we have here in Hawaii rather than having to go to New Zealand or other places to do that filming. But in any case, it's an incredible series and I'm really enjoying watching it, and if we can, we're going to try and show a small piece of it again.

Trustees viewed Apple TV Chief Of War Preview "Making of 'Ohana"

Trustee Kahele moves to approve the reallocation of funds from Fiscal Year 2026 Personnel and Fringe Budget to fund the International Cultural Arts Network (ICAN) in the amount of \$5,000.00 for the Sept 18th, 2025 Chief of War Season 1 Finale Screening at the Hawaii Theater.

Chair Alapa recognizes Trustee Akaka

Trustee Akaka: Mahalo, I certainly do appreciate the perpetuation of our culture through our language, as I think that's one of the most powerful things about this series, and I do encourage that there is a continued effort regarding accuracy and likeness and the trueness of those that are being portrayed and the history of what has actually happened. I think a lot of some of the feedback received and comments there, it is rather a brutal and harsh reality of our history and it's told in a way through the lens of those that are sharing the story. So again, I think that the language is very good and I'm very thankful for all of the effort that if it takes as many takes as it does, that it's done as best as it can be done. Mahalo

Chair Alapa asks if there is any further discussion.

There is no further discussion.

Chair Alapa calls for a Roll Call Vote

| | | | | | | | Motion: 12:05pm Vote: 12:15pm |
|-------------------------|---|---|--------------|---------------|----------------------|----------|----------------------------------|
| TRUSTEE | 1 | 2 | 'AE (YES) | A'OLE (NO) | KANALUA (ABSTAIN) | EXCUSED | |
| DAN AHUNA | | | X | | | | |
| KALEIHIKINA AKAKA | | | X | | | | |
| KELI'I AKINA | | | X | | | | |
| BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA | | | X | | | | |
| KAIALI'I KAHELE | 1 | | X | | | | |
| CARMEN HULU LINDSEY | | | X | | | | |
| J. KEONI SOUZA | | | X | | | | |
| VICE-CHAIR JOHN WAIHE'E | | | X | | | | |
| CHAIR LUANA ALAPA | | | X | | | | |
| TOTAL VOTE COUNT | | | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |

VOTE: [X] UNANIMOUS [] PASSED [] DEFERRED [] FAILED

Chair Alapa notes for the record that ALL members present vote 'AE (YES) and the **MOTION PASSES.**

IV. NEW BUSINESS

E. Presentations by Administration:

1. Paid family leave update and implementation plan

Chair Alapa asks if there is anyone signed-up to testify on this agenda item.

BF Staffer Akina: No one has signed-up to testify on this agenda item.

Chair Alapa recognizes Ka Pouhana Ferreira

Ka Pouhana Ferreira: Mahalo, Chair. At this time, I'd like to ask Corey Nakamoto, our HR Director to provide the Board an update on paid family leave.

Mana i Maui Ola
FY2026 Paid Family Leave Implementation Plan

PRESENTED BY
Corey Nakamoto
Human Resources
9/17/25

Overview

Project Name: FY26 Project Paid Family Leave
Project owner / lead: Corey Nakamoto
Stakeholders: OHA Team Members
Partners / collaborators: The Hartford & Mercer, Office of Enterprise Technology Services (Hawaii Information Portal)
Project description: Implementation of OHA paid family leave benefit program.
Strategic goals and intended outcomes: Positioning OHA as an employer of choice providing a unique benefit not offered by any other state agency.

HR Director Nakamoto: Aloha, Madam Chair, Vice Chair, Trustees, mahalo for this opportunity to update you all on the OHA paid family leave implementation program. I We wanted to let you all know that we are going to be partnering with The Hartford, which will be the insurance carrier who will be our third-party administrator, once we get the contract in place with the help of Mercer. We're also working with Enterprise Technology Services in regards to the Hawaii Information Portal, which is our payroll time and attendance system. As far as the strategic goals, this will help position OHA as an employer of choice.

Scope & Implementation Approach

Geographic focus: Statewide, all OHA employees

Key phases: Identify vendor, procure contract, transition TDI to Hartford, integration with HIP if possible, pay code creation in HIP

Budget Appropriation: \$184,100 in FY26 and \$184,100 in FY27

Staffing: OHA HR Paia and Hartford (Third Party Administrator)

HR Director Nakamoto: This program will apply to all employees statewide. The key phases of the program will be identifying the vendor, which we've already completed. Procuring the contract, which is what we're currently working with procurement on, and then we're gonna need to transition our temporary disability insurance coverage, which is currently with Pacific Guardian Life over to Hartford,

that was part of the requirement and agreement for them to become the third-party administrator of this program.

HR Director Nakamoto: Then we need to look into whether or not we are or will be able to integrate with the HIP payroll system, and then HIPAA is also in the process of creating a new pay code for this paid leave, given that this is the first of its kind, they don't currently have anything in their system for it. As I had explained earlier, given the other projects that they're currently working with, this particular project is scheduled to be worked on during the second quarter, in October, November, with an anticipated completion date of February of 2026. The staffing for this program will be administered by, again, Hartford, as well as the HR paia.

| Action Plan Matrix & Timeline | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--|--|-------|
| FY26 Timeline | Key Actions | Milestones | Deliverables | KPIs |
| Q1 FY26 | Procure contract with Hartford | Vendor selected | Finalize contract | KPI 1 |
| Q2 FY26 | Launch PFL program | Transition TDI and rollout PFL benefit | Develop implementation process and credit leave hours in HIP | KPI 2 |
| Q3 FY26 | Work with ETS to create leave code in HIP | Testing completed | Code available for use in HIP | KPI 3 |
| Q4 FY26 | Monitor and refine program | Identify necessary improvements | Implement improvements | KPI 4 |

Critical Information & Next Steps

Potential barriers: Inability of Hartford system to integrate with HIP
 Mitigation approaches: Manual entry or file upload

Expected impact at completion: Ability for OHA team members to receive paid benefits for qualified leaves, credited vacation and sick leave hours previously used, positive impact on recruitment and retention.

HR Director Nakamoto: This is the timeline; first quarter, we're working on, again, getting the contractor in place and finalizing that contract. Next quarter, we'll be transitioning the TDI coverage from PGL over to Hartford, as well as rolling out that paid family benefit. Then in the third quarter, once ETS is done with the creation of that new pay code, we'll begin testing that new pay code in the HIP system. By fourth quarter, we're just going to be doing some improvements, depending on what happens with each phase of the rollout.

Potential barrier; I did want to make you all aware that there is a potential barrier, with this implementation, which would be, the implementation between Hartford Systems and HIP. But we are also looking into a mitigation process, which would basically be a manual tracking on the HR team's part, and seeing if that data can then be somehow either uploaded or manually entered if the integration is not possible. Expected impact at completion, again, will be to allow all of the team members the ability to receive paid leave, family leave, for qualified leaves. We will also be crediting any vacation or sick leave hours that were previously used since January 1st of this year, and this should have, and has I believe, already had a positive impact on recruitment as well as retention.



HR Director Nakamoto: At this time, I'd like to open it up to any questions.

Chair Alapa recognizes Trustee Lindsey

Trustee Lindsey: Corey, can you please tell us who will qualify for this program.

HR Director Nakamoto: It would be anyone who has a qualified leave, so it wouldn't be a qualified leave for their own serious health condition, but it would be if they had a newborn or adoption, or if a family member had a serious health condition, that qualifies. So, Hartford, that would be part of their role in this program, is that they would do all of the intake of any applications for this paid leave, they would determine the qualification for those applications, and then they would track that and report that to us so that we can move ahead and make sure that those individuals that are receiving the compensation.

Trustee Lindsey: How long would a person be qualified? Let's say they just gave birth, how long is the coverage?

HR Director Nakamoto: It would be for 12 weeks. This program, which is a little different from FMLA, which is on a calendar year basis, would be on a rolling 12-month. So once an individual, requests and is qualified and begins receiving the benefit, then their eligibility going forward would start at that point for the next 12 months. So each individual would actually potentially have a different 12-month rolling period.

Trustee Lindsey: So if you don't give birth, or somebody in your family don't get sick, you would never qualify for this.

HR Director Nakamoto: It wouldn't be applicable, correct.

Trustee Lindsey: So, what degree of sickness would, um, a family member have for them to qualify.

HR Director Nakamoto: My understanding is that we would be following similar definitions as far as FMLA for a qualified serious health condition, so it would also need to be certified by a physician or a medical provider.

Trustee Lindsey: Okay, thank you.

Chair Alapa recognizes Trustee Kahele

Trustee Kahele: I can add to that answer, Corey. So, the definition of a serious illness would be either physical or a mental condition that would require inpatient care at a hospital or hospice, or residential healthcare facility. It would have to be certified by a physician, and it is only allowed for a direct family member, which is defined as your parent, or your child. As an example, if you have a parent, that is in terminal condition, and they are in hospice, or they are receiving cancer treatments, they require inpatient care and that physician certifies that, you as their caregiver, as their son or daughter needs to care for them, you can utilize this for that. It is up to 12 weeks, it can be taken in one-week increments, and it allows the OHA employee to care for their family member and receive full compensation and full benefits for that 12-week period, up to 12 weeks during an annual calendar year.

Trustee Kahele: The other option is if you have a child, and whether it is foster surrogacy, or childbirth, you also have that benefit as well. There's about a dozen states across the nation that have some form of paid family leave. This state has attempted to implement it, has been unable to implement it for its state government workers, because it requires the legislature to approve it, and up until now, the legislature hasn't. They've come close, but they haven't got it across the finish line. OHA is the first government agency in the state of Hawaii to implement a program like this, and to offer this additional benefit for our current employees and those that are looking to OHA as their next employer.

Chair Alapa recognizes Trustee Akaka

Trustee Akaka: I was wondering when it would be that we could have the policy created where this would then be effectuated, along with the procurement and so forth. So, for instance, if there is an employee that is requesting to have the FMLA, how soon could we roll this out?

Trustee Kahele: Well, the proviso language in the budget requires implementation by October 1. So, as Corey just briefed, they're using a third party to execute it, it's gonna actually offset our TDI costs, so we'll save some money from that. So, the program is good, because it'll pay for itself, maybe not entirely, but it will, by offsetting the TDI that we would pay. And I think Corey answered it in his presentation, if unable to execute it through the third party by 1 October, then their plan is to manually track it. If you're an OHA employee and you want to take advantage of this program starting October 1st, you can, and you should be able to, even if it requires manually tracking it for the employee.

Chair Alapa asks if there is any further discussion.

There is no further discussion.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

E. Presentations by Administration:

2. Ke Ala Pono: Sex Trafficking Initiative update

Chair Alapa asks if there is anyone signed-up to testify on this agenda item.

BF Staffer Akina: No one has signed-up to testify on this agenda item.

Chair Alapa recognizes Ka Pouhana Stacy Ferreira

Ka Pouhana Ferreira: Mahalo Chair, at this time, I'd like to invite back to the table our Senior Director of Strategy and Implementation, Elena Farden, and our Director of 'Ōiwi Wellbeing and Aina Momona, Ku'ike Kamakea-'Ōhelo.

S&I Senior Director E. Farden: Mahalo, Madam Chair and Vice Chair and Trustees. We'll have our director, Ku'ike Kamakea-'Ōhelo, present on the Sex Trafficking Initiative update.

Mana i Maui Ola
FY2026 Ke Ala Pono: Sex Trafficking Initiative Update

KE ALA PONO
SEX TRAFFICKING PREVENTION
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

PRESENTED BY
Strategy & Implementation
Health Outcomes

OHA
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Overview

| | |
|--|---|
| Project Name | Ke Ala Pono Sex Trafficking Prevention Awareness Campaign |
| Owner(s)/Lead(s) | Kū'ikeokalani Kamakea-Ōhelo |
| Description | This initiative will create a culturally grounded, survivor-informed Sex Trafficking Prevention Awareness Campaign that produces visually compelling informational collateral (posters, flyers, digital assets) for dissemination in high-traffic spaces, (e.g. airport, tourist districts, near military bases, urgent care clinics) as well as community centers and partner facilities. While the original request was designed for a proposed budget of \$115,000 for a comprehensive curriculum, the reduced \$35,000 allocation by the BOT forces OHA to adjust the full curriculum plan to an awareness campaign that is culturally grounded, survivor-informed and lays the foundation for a larger curriculum. |
| Goals & Outcomes | Alignment & Impact |
| <p>The Ke Ala Pono Sex Trafficking Prevention Awareness Campaign will produce:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between 300-500 physical collateral pieces printed and distributed • Campaign presence in two (2) to three (3) high-traffic sites (e.g. airport, transit hubs, community centers) • Digital asset library: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Translate materials in at least two languages (e.g. English and 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, or English and another identified language); and 2) Between 500 – 1,500 page views and/or between 200 – 500 downloads within FY26 | <p>3.1 Increased availability and access to quality, culturally based, and culturally adapted prevention and treatment interventions in 'ohana, schools, and communities; (E Ola Mau a Mau)</p> |

‘Ōiwi Wellbeing Director Kamakea-‘Ōhelo: Aloha, I’ll be giving an update on the Ke Ala Pono Sex Trafficking Prevention Awareness Campaign. Our original request for Ke Ala Pono was \$115,000 for a comprehensive survival-informed, culturally grounded curriculum. But with the BOT’s allocation of \$35,000, we’ve pivoted to an awareness campaign. This campaign will produce between 300 and 500 physical collateral pieces. Our campaign presence in 2-3 high traffic sites, such as airports, transit hubs and community centers, etc. And a digital asset library translated into at least two languages, with the target of 500 to 1500 page views, and about 200 to 500 downloads within FY26. The Holoī Ā Nalo Wāhine ‘Ōiwi report provides a sobering context for why this work matters, according to the Hawaii Health Data Warehouse summary of the report, Native Hawaiian females are just 10.2% of the state’s population, that account for more than 25% of missing girls. As we reported in Ka Wai Ola, the typical profile of a missing child in Hawaii is a 15-year-old Native Hawaiian girl from O’ahu, and according to our own published report about 43% of sex trafficking cases in Waikiki involve Native Hawaiian girls. The missing and murdered Native Hawaiian women and girls report also highlighted systemic barriers such as fragmented data collection, inconsistent racial identifiers, and cases being undercounted, when Native Hawaiians are grouped under Asian and Pacific Islander categories. So, recommendations most relevant to our work here include, 1 - establishing systemized data collection across agencies with disaggregated Native Hawaiian identifiers. 2 - raising public awareness so community, tourism, law enforcement and healthcare sectors understand their role. And 3- ensuring survivor, and community voices guide. Prevention strategies.

Program Description

| Outputs | | | Financial Considerations | | | |
|---|---|--|---|--------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Short-Term Outcomes: | Intermediate Outcomes: | Long-Term Outcomes: | Content design & survivor-informed messaging: | Printing & distribution: | Digital asset library design & toolkit: | Evaluation & reporting: |
| Increased community awareness of trafficking signs and resources; and Improved visibility of reporting hotlines and survivor support services. | Greater recognition of trafficking risks among visitors and residents; Increased calls to trafficking hotlines and referrals to support services. | Reduction in trafficking incidents through prevention and reporting; and Strengthened protection and safety for Native Hawaiian women and girls. | \$15,000 | \$12,000 | \$5,000 | \$3,000 |
| <p>While the OHA Health team originally requested \$115,000 to develop a full curriculum in alignment with this recommendation, the BOT reduced the allocation to \$35,000. This funding level is insufficient for a comprehensive curriculum; however, it can provide a critical opportunity to create a visible, impactful awareness campaign that reaches both residents and visitors.</p> | | | | | | |

‘Ōiwi Wellbeing Director Kamakea-‘Ōhelo: So, in line with those recommendations, our Short-Term Outcomes are raising awareness in tourism hubs and community sites, directly addressing invisibility identified by the task force. Promoting hotline visibility and survivor support resources.

‘Ōiwi Wellbeing Director Kamakea-‘Ōhelo: Our Intermediate Outcomes include greater recognition of trafficking risks among residents and visitors, and a measurable increase in hotline calls and referrals.

The long-term vision remains consistent with the MMNHWG report to reduce trafficking incidents, strengthen protections, and ultimately develop the comprehensive curriculum we originally envisioned.

Our \$35,000 allocation is broken down as follows, \$15,000 for survivor-informed design, \$12,000 for printing and distribution, \$5,000 for a digital asset library, and \$3,000 for evaluation and reporting.

Timeline

By Q4 FY26, the Sex Trafficking Prevention Awareness Campaign will be launched across two to three high-traffic sites, with reports on reach, impact, and recommendations for future expansion efforts (MIMO 31). This will be achieved by establishing partnerships with at least two subject matter expert organizations relating to the field of sex trafficking education & victim support. Long-term impact will be documented through reports and recommendations to scale the program towards a fully comprehensive, culturally sensitive curriculum to inform and better equip our State and communities about the dangers, signs, and treatment methods relating to sex trafficking

Timeline & Key Activities

- Q1 FY26:** Convene partners, outline plan, begin content development
- Q2 FY26:** Establish and finalize partnership agreements
- Q3 FY26:** Launch campaign across (3) high-traffic sites
- Q4 FY26:** Submit BOT report with findings and recommendations for scaling to full curriculum development.

Critical Information & Next Steps

- Launch campaign by Q4 FY26 in 2–3 high-traffic locations.
- Track reach, impact, and community engagement.
- Report outcomes and recommendations for expansion toward a comprehensive curriculum.

‘Ōiwi Wellbeing Director Kamakea-‘Ōhelo: The timeline for FY26 is as follows.

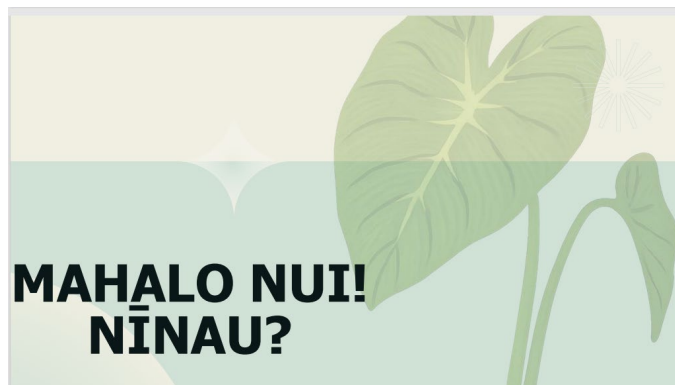
Quarter 1, content development and partner convening.

Quarter 2, finalized partnerships.

Quarter 3, launch campaign across two to three high-traffic sites.

Quarter 4, report back with reach, impact, and recommendations to this very committee and Board.

To close the MMNHWG Task Force report is clear, Native Hawaiian women and girls are disproportionately impacted and systemic failures worsen the problem. A current campaign is a strategic first step, but our long-term vision remains the development of a full survivor-informed, culturally grounded curriculum that invites the task force recommendations, raising awareness, improving data systems, and centering survivor voices to protect our communities. So, here in front of you, Trustees are the next steps as identified. With that, I conclude my report, and I'm open to any questions.



Chair Alapa: Thank you so much for that presentation, Kū'ike, I wanted to know, obviously, you did not receive the full amount, and that would be a difference of \$80,000 if you were to implement the \$35,000 for awareness. What would the \$80,000 be utilized for that you could achieve your program goals.

S&I Senior Director E. Farden: The \$35,000 was shifted to the awareness program because we didn't have the full 115. The 115 would have gone through a comprehensive curriculum development, that we would have identified with the law enforcement partner, pilot that out, and then reiterate for a larger full-scale. So, the original intent was a curriculum development. The awareness campaign with the budget constraints that we do have, we do see it as the initial primer that would lead towards long-term curriculum development, that's the larger goal. Because that was the part one response recommendation from the Missing and Murdered Native Hawaiian Women and Girls report, in which OHA was a part of that task force.

Chair Alapa: Mahalo

Chair Alapa recognizes Trustee Akaka

Trustee Akaka: Mahalo Nui to you folks for working on this. Kū'ike, I recall meeting you at our Waimānalo community meeting through Stacy, and that was the time in which one of our Oahu Island community meetings where I touched on those statistics that you did mention about that 43% of Native Hawaiian women in Waikiki and so forth, and who often falls under those that are experiencing or have lived experience in trafficking. I did want to ask, too, if you are working with those or collaborating with those that have lived experience, or work in programs such as this, and I do recall Ashley Maha'a, she was one of the presenters that was invited to speak on this, having lived experience in trafficking.

S&I Senior Director E. Farden: Sure, so one of the identified potential partners that we're asking to work with in helping to put these survivor-informed collateral pieces would be Ho'ola Na Pua, there might be Pouhana O Nā Wāhine as one of the other... and there's several others that we could also work with as well.

‘Ōiwi Wellbeing Director Kamakea-‘Ōhelo: Mahalo, Trustee, for the question, and I'm very open, so maybe offline, we're willing to connect, and that way we can make those connections so we can service our people. Thank you.

Trustee Akaka: Thank you. I did meet at one of those roundtables that was at OHA some years ago, Kalei from the AG's office, who had the courage to speak on her lived experience and in her current work is trying to work to mitigate this. So I'd be happy to talk to you folks further, and then we can connect you with those that we have met previously on these matters. Mahalo.

Chair Alapa asks if there is any further discussion.

There is no further discussion.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

E. Presentations by Administration:

- 3. Design of an official OHA organizational seal

Chair Alapa asks if there is anyone signed-up to testify on this agenda item.

BF Staffer Akina: No one has signed-up to testify on this agenda item.

Chair Alapa recognizes Ka Pouhana Stacy Ferreira

Ka Pouhana Ferreira: Mahalo Chair, at this time, I'd ask our Senior Director of Hawaiian Cultural Affairs, Hailama Farden, to come to the table for an update on the design of our Official OHA organizational seal.

Hawaiian Cultural Affairs Sr. Director H. Farden: Aloha, Chair, Vice Chair of Trustees. The next hour and 20 minutes... will be yours to enjoy if you allow me 2 minutes to update you. Ka Pouhana would like to update you. I think it was spring when we first discussed, the seal update, and so we finally secured a vendor, we did some procurement. Unfortunately, the vendor of choice that I would have selected did not meet the qualifications, because it was not submitted in a timely manner. So, we did go with another one that I'm willing to work with and I'm hopeful that very soon we'll have a proposal to pass through to you, we might see something great very shortly. Mahalo.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Ahuna moves to adjourn the RM meeting.

Chair Alapa asks if there is any discussion.

There is zero discussion.

Chair Alapa calls for a **ROLL CALL VOTE**.

| | | | | | | 2:40 p.m. | |
|-------------------------|-----------|---|---|-----------|------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| TRUSTEE | | 1 | 2 | 'AE (YES) | A'OLE (NO) | KANALUA (ABSTAIN) | EXCUSED |
| DAN | AHUNA | 1 | | X | | | |
| KALEIHIKINA | AKAKA | | | X | | | |
| KELI'I | AKINA | | | X | | | |
| BRICKWOOD | GALUTERIA | | | X | | | |
| KAIALI'I | KAHELE | | | | | | Departed mtg. at 2:39pm |
| CARMEN HULU | LINDSEY | | | X | | | |
| J. KEONI | SOUZA | | | X | | | |
| VICE-CHAIR JOHN | WAIHE'E | | | X | | | |
| CHAIR LUANA | ALAPA | | | X | | | |
| TOTAL VOTE COUNT | | | | 8 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

VOTE: [] UNANIMOUS [X] PASSED [] DEFERRED [] FAILED

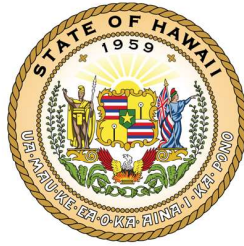
Chair Alapa adjourns the BF meeting at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pohai Ryan
Trustee Aide
Committee on Budget and Finance

As approved by the Committee on Budget and Finance (BF) on October 29, 2025

Trustee Luana Alapa
Chair
Committee on Budget and Finance



John D. Waihe'e IV - *Chairperson*
Dan Ahuna - *Vice Chair*

Phone: (808) 594-1888
Fax: (808) 594-1868

MEMBERS

Kaleihikina Akaka
Keli'i Akina, Ph.D.
Luana Alapa
Brickwood Galuteria
Kaiali'i Kahele
Carmen "Hulu" Lindsey
Keoni Souza

OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

KE'ENA KULEANA HAWAI'I

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

560 N. Nimitz Hwy., Suite 200
Honolulu, HI 96817

DATE: Wednesday, October 29, 2025
TIME: 1:50 p.m.
PLACE: 2025 Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs Convention
Outrigger Kona Resort & Spa, Keauhou Ballroom
78-128 Ehukai St.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Minutes

- A. April 2, 2025
- B. April 23, 2025
- C. April 30, 2025
- D. September 17, 2025

III. New Business

- A. Action Item BF #25-87 (revised):** Approval of OHA funding for a Ho'ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorship to Ulu A'e Learning Center for the 2026 Makahiki Ma Kapolei Event on January 31, 2026, in the amount of \$5,500.00*
- B. Action Item BF #25-98:** Approve awarding of OHA grant funding to E Ala E to support the administration of the Nā 'Elele Congressional Fellows Program in the amount of \$210,000 from FY2026 Budget Line Item 7674 and \$210,000 FY2027 Budget Line Item 7781
- C. Presentation by Administration:** Cultural Pathways to Career and Technical Education (CTE) implementation plan

IV. 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.

Public Testimony will be called for each agenda item and must be limited to matters listed on the meeting agenda. Hawai'i Revised Statutes, Chapter 92, Public Agency Meetings and Records, prohibits Board members from discussing or taking action on matters not listed on the meeting agenda.



ACTION ITEM

COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FINANCE

October 29, 2025

BF# 25-87 (revised)

Action Item Issue: Approval of OHA funding for a Ho‘ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorship to Ulu A‘e Learning Center for the 2026 Makahiki Ma Kapolei Event on January 31, 2026, in the amount of \$5,500.*

Prepared by: Lise Vaughan-Sekona Oct 22, 2025
Date
Lise Vaughan-Sekona
Ka Pou Kihi Ki‘i, Community Engagement Director

Reviewed by: K. Sean Kekina Oct 22, 2025
Date
K. Sean Kekina
Ka Pou Nui, Chief Operating Officer

Reviewed by: Everett Ohta Oct 22, 2025
Date
Everett Ohta
Ka Paepae Puka, General Counsel

Reviewed by: Summer Sylva Oct 22, 2025
Date
Summer Sylva
Ka Pou Hana Kūikawā, Interim Chief Executive Officer

Reviewed by: John Waihe‘e IV Oct 22, 2025
Date
Ke Kua, Trustee John Waihe‘e IV
Luna Ho‘omalua Kūikawā o ke Kōmike Budget and Finance
Interim Chairperson of the Committee on Budget and Finance

Action Item BF# 25-87 (revised): Approval of OHA funding for a Ho‘ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorship to Ulu A‘e Learning Center for the 2026 Makahiki Ma Kapolei Event on January 31, 2026, in the amount of \$5,500.*

I. Proposed Action

Approve and authorize FY 2026 sponsorship funding to Ulu A‘e Learning Center for the 2026 Makahiki Ma Kapolei Event on January 31, 2026, in the amount of \$5,500.*

| Organization Name | Event | Award Amount Recommendation |
|----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Ulu A‘e Learning Center | Makahiki Ma Kapolei January 31, 2026 3:30 PM – 6:30 PM 1077 Manawai Street Kapolei, HI 96707 (O‘ahu) | \$5,500* |
| Total Recommendations (1) | | \$5,500* |

II. Issue

Whether or not the Committee on Budget and Finance will recommend approval and authorize the Board of Trustees (“BOT” or “Board) to disburse the amount of \$5,500* to sponsor Ulu A‘e Learning Center for the 2026 Makahiki Ma Kapolei Event on January 31, 2026. The Action Item was previously presented at the October 15, 2025 Budget and Finance meeting and was advised by the Board to increase recommended funding from \$2,750 to \$5,500/ This revised Action Item and scoring matrices reflect the updated amount.

III. Applicant Organization Information

A. Event Representative: Miki‘ala Lidstone

B. Board Members of the Organization: Jamie Barut (President), Shirley Swinney (Treasurer), Monte M. McComber II (Secretary), Kelly Kitashima (Board Member)

C. Mission Statement: To empower and enrich lives through programs that develop skills, build confidence, and promote healthy relationships based on Native Hawaiian values and customs.

Action Item BF# 25-87 (revised): Approval of OHA funding for a Ho‘ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorship to Ulu A‘e Learning Center for the 2026 Makahiki Ma Kapolei Event on January 31, 2026, in the amount of \$5,500.*

IV. Background and Context

Makahiki Ma Kapolei, hosted by Ulu A‘e Learning Center, is a free, public cultural celebration that honors the Makahiki season, a traditional Hawaiian time of peace, abundance, and community connection. Set at the historic pā hula of Pu‘uokapolei, the 2026 event will mark the 9th annual gathering and continues to be the only open Makahiki celebration in the ‘Ewa moku. The festival creates a living link to the past by offering hands-on opportunities for attendees to participate in traditional Makahiki games such as ulu maika (stone disk rolling), moa pahe‘e (dart sliding), hukihuki (tug-of-war), kukini (foot racing), haka moa (chicken fighting), ‘ō‘ō ihe (spear throwing), hāpai pōhaku (stone carrying), he‘e hōlua (sledding), and hana hei (string figures). Alongside the games, participants will enjoy mele, hula, cultural workshops, a kōnane tournament, and Hawaiian music, creating an environment that blends cultural learning with festive community celebration.

The 2026 program also includes unique features that strengthen the inclusivity and cultural richness of the event. The first 40 minutes are reserved for keiki and families of Never Quit Dreaming, an organization that serves children with special needs, ensuring they can fully enjoy the Makahiki games in a safe and supportive space. The celebration will open with a wehena by haumāna of Ulu A‘e Learning Center and continue with music, food, and wellness offerings, including free beef stew dinner, ‘olena boosters, wai nīoi, local fruit giveaways, and prize opportunities. With an expected attendance of 200-300 participants, Makahiki Ma Kapolei invites people of all ages and backgrounds to connect with Hawaiian culture as active participants. By creating moments of joy, discovery, and cultural pride at Pu‘uokapolei, the event strengthens the preservation and perpetuation of Native Hawaiian traditions while fostering a deeper sense of community rooted in the values of peace and abundance.

V. Discussion

A. Benefits of OHA and OHA Beneficiaries

Alignment to Mana i Maui Ola’s Health Outcomes – Strategy 4: Advance policies, programs and practices that strengthen the health of the ‘āina and mo‘omeheu. Outcome 4.1: Preservation and perpetuation of Hawaiian language, culture, traditions, identity and sense of lāhui; 4.2: Increased community stewardship of Hawai‘i’s natural and cultural resources that foster connection to ‘āina, ‘ohana, and communities.

Action Item BF# 25-87 (revised): Approval of OHA funding for a Ho‘ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorship to Ulu A‘e Learning Center for the 2026 Makahiki Ma Kapolei Event on January 31, 2026, in the amount of \$5,500.*

This event addresses Strategy 4 by perpetuating cultural practices that are inseparable from the land and natural elements. Makahiki ma Kapolei (MMK) offers opportunities to engage in traditional Hawaiian games and ceremonies tied to the Makahiki season, which historically honored Lono and the cycles of nature. It educates participants, especially keiki, about seasonal practices rooted in careful observation and stewardship of the environment. The event also revitalizes traditions unique to Hawai‘i, ensuring they remain visible, valued, and actively practiced in modern community life. The event addresses Outcome 4.1 by engaging residents in cultural practices through makahiki games, as well as workshops that allow them to learn new cultural practices or enhance their existing skills. This helps preserve and perpetuate the Hawaiian culture, language, traditions, identity, and sense of lāhui. This event supports Outcome 4.2 by taking place at Pu‘uokapolei, a significant cultural site where over 300 volunteers participate annually in land stewardship. Volunteer efforts include clearing debris, removing graffiti, eliminating invasive species, and planting native flora. By holding the event at a place that directly benefits from community land stewards, the organization highlights the collective benefits of their dedication.

B. OHA Funding Event Sponsorship Benefits

The recommended sponsorship level is \$5,500.* Sponsor benefits have been defined for the \$5,500 level only and are as follows:

- OHA banner displayed at the event
- OHA logo on flyers and social media posts
- OHA recognition in advertising materials online or in other publicity spots
- Option for a dedicated OHA information table

Action Item BF# 25-87 (revised): Approval of OHA funding for a Ho‘ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorship to Ulu A‘e Learning Center for the 2026 Makahiki Ma Kapolei Event on January 31, 2026, in the amount of \$5,500.*

VI. Budget Authorization

Table 1: Sponsorships

| A | B | C | D | E | J | K | M | N | V |
|------|-------------|------|-------|--------------|------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|---------|---------------------------------------|
| ROW | Fiscal Year | APPR | FUND | PROGRAM DESC | EXPENSE CATEGORY | GL ACCOUNT DESC | SERVICE CODE | FY2026 | EXPENSE DESCRIPTION / BUDGET PROVISIO |
| 8517 | 2026 | 930 | TRUST | 3800 GRANTS | GRANTS | 56560-GRANTS IN AID - SPONSORSHIPS | 3800 | 635,000 | Ho‘ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorships |

VII. Certification

The following is the certification by the Budget Chief that the funds are available.



Grace Chen,

Budget Chief

Date: Oct 22, 2025

VIII. Recommended Action

Approve and authorize FY 2026 sponsorship funding to Ulu A‘e Learning Center for the 2026 Makahiki Ma Kapolei Event on January 31, 2026, in the amount of \$5,500.*

IX. Alternative Actions

- A. Approve a different funding amount for the sponsorship
- B. Do not sponsor event

X. Attachment (s)

- A. 2026 Event Information
- B. 2026 Sponsorship Application
- C. 2026 Scoring Matrices (Updated)

Action Item BF# 25-87 (revised): Approval of OHA funding for a Ho‘ākoako Lāhui Event Sponsorship to Ulu A‘e Learning Center for the 2026 Makahiki Ma Kapolei Event on January 31, 2026, in the amount of \$5,500.*

Attachment A

Event Information



MAKAHIKI

MA KAPOLEI

JANUARY 31, 2026

3:30-6:30pm

PU'UOKAPOLEI

Action Item BF# 25-87 (revised): Approval of OHA funding for a Ho‘ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorship to Ulu A‘e Learning Center for the 2026 Makahiki Ma Kapolei Event on January 31, 2026, in the amount of \$5,500.*

Attachment C

2026 Scoring Matrices (Updated)

View results

Respondent

143

Anonymous

28:00

Time to complete

APPLICANT & EVENT INFORMATION

Deadlines for Application Submissions:

July - September 2025 Events: **Closed** (March 31, 2025)

October - December 2025 Events: **Closed** (June 2, 2025)

January - March 2026 Events: **September 1, 2025**

April - June 2026 Events: **December 1, 2025**

1. **Name of applicant organization:** *

Ulu A'e Learning Center

2. **Name of event representative:** *

Event representative must be someone who is authorized to communicate with OHA staff and submit any required documents or information on behalf of the awarded organization.

Miki'ala Lidstone

3. **Event representative email and phone number:** *

[REDACTED]

4. **Describe the mission of the organization.** *

The mission of Ulu A'e Learning Center is to empower and enrich lives through programs that develop skills, build confidence, and promote healthy relationships based on Native Hawaiian values and customs.

5. **Organization's Governing Board and/or Executive Team** *

List the organization's governing board members' names and titles and the executive team members' names and titles.

Jamie Barut (president), Shirley Swinney (treasurer), Monte M. McComber II (secretary), Kelly Kitashima (board member).

6. **Name of event to be sponsored:** *

Makahiki Ma Kapolei

7. **Start date of event to be sponsored:** *

1/31/2026



8. End date of event to be sponsored:

For one day events, leave blank. For multi-day events, duration should be no longer than 30 days.

Please input date (M/d/yyyy) 

9. Time of event to be sponsored: *

Please provide start and end time for one day events. For multiple day events, please specify the hours for each day.

3:30-6:30pm

10. Address of event/activity: *

1077 Manawai Street
Kapolei, HI 96707
Pu'uokapolei is located at the top of Kapolei Regional Park

11. Identify island(s) where event will be held: *

- Hawai'i Island
- Maui
- Moloka'i
- Lāna'i
- O'ahu
- Kaua'i

EVENT SCOPE

12. Purpose Statement *

Please provide a short statement that describes the proposed event and its purpose.

The purpose of Makahiki ma Kapolei is to bring the community together in a cultural celebration of abundance and peace. As in earlier times—and likely on this very site—the day is filled with makahiki games, song, dance, cultural crafts, and a kōnane tournament.

With support from OHA, funding will provide tenting, a sound system, security, banners, honoraria for cultural practitioners, and supplies for the games.

Because preserving Hawaiian culture remains a priority of OHA, this event directly supports that mission by offering Native Hawaiians the opportunity not only to appreciate their history and culture, but also to actively participate in and perpetuate it.

Makahiki ma Kapolei is unique in the 'Ewa moku, as it is the only open event where the community can engage in traditional games and celebrations during the Makahiki season.

13. Describe the event services and activities from start to finish.

*

The description should depict what the event would encompass. Demonstrate the substance of the event. Include information from the following:

- Agenda (draft/past flyer)
- Event flyer (draft/past flyer);
- List of speakers and their area of expertise;
- List of exhibitors and their offerings; and/or
- Summaries of seminars, workshops, or other opportunities provided at the event.

Makahiki Ma Kapolei (MMK) is a free, public event held at the pā hula (hula mound) at Pu'uokapolei on Saturday, January 31, 2026, from 4:00–6:30 p.m. The celebration brings together families and community members to honor the Makahiki season. As in earlier times—likely on this very site—the day will be filled with Makahiki games, mele (songs), and cultural workshops.

Games include ulu maika (stone disk rolling), moa pahe'e (dart sliding), hukihuki (tug-of-war), kukini (foot racing), haka moa (standing chicken fighting), 'ō'ō ihe (spear throwing), hāpai pōhaku (stone carrying), he'e hōlua (hill sledding), and hana hei (string figures). In 2025, more than 220 people attended Makahiki Ma Kapolei.

MMK seeks to create moments of connection—inviting community members and visitors to immerse themselves in Native Hawaiian practices, not as spectators, but as participants. It is a space to learn new games, try ancestral skills, and experience the joy of discovery alongside family and friends. Most of all, it is an opportunity to deepen appreciation for the living traditions of the Native Hawaiian people, surrounded by the beauty and history of Pu'uokapolei.

The target audience is Hawai'i residents of all ages, genders, and ethnic backgrounds—particularly those interested in participating in Native Hawaiian traditions in the heart of a local community.

The event will include a special opening with the first 40 minutes dedicated to families of Never Quit Dreaming, an organization that provides special needs children with opportunities in sports programs and special events. This dedicated time allows these keiki—especially those on the autism spectrum—to participate in games in a supportive environment, free from the pressures of public scrutiny.

The event will also include a wehena (cultural opening) by the haumāna of Ulu A'e Learning Center, Hawaiian music, free beef stew dinner, olena boosters, wai nioi, local fruit give aways and prizes.

We expect approximately 200 – 300 participants.

The inaugural MMK took place in 2016 and this will be the 9th annual Makahiki Ma Kapolei event.

Saturday, January 31, 2026

3:30–4:00 Registration for Games

4:00–4:05 Opening Oli (bring your pū to sound at opening)

4:05–4:40 Closed Games – games for participants of Never Quite Dreaming

4:05–4:40 Kōnane Tournament and Cultural Workshops begin

4:40–5:40 Open Games – games open to all

5:30–6:30 Hawaiian Music

6:30 Panina

14. Total estimated number of individuals to attend the event: *

200-300

15. Estimated number of Native Hawaiians to benefit from the event: *

Last year, 90% of attendees identified as Native Hawaiian, based on registration data. This year, we anticipate more than 200 Native Hawaiians will attend the event.

ALIGNMENT TO MANA I MAULI OLA

16. Indicate the event's alignment to one of OHA's strategic directions below. *

Link to Mana i Maui Ola for more information: <https://www.oha.org/about/mana-to-maui-ola/>

- Educational Pathways
- Health Outcomes
- Quality Housing
- Economic Stability

17. Identify the strategy the event aligns to and describe how it aligns to it.

Note: The strategy should fall under the strategic direction identified in the previous question. *

Link to Mana i Maui Ola for more information: <https://www.oha.org/about/mana-to-maui-ola/>

Please use the format in the example below:

Strategy 3: Advance policies, programs and practices that strengthen Hawaiian well-being, including physical, spiritual, mental and emotional health. The event aligns with Strategy 3 because...

Strategy 4: Advance policies, programs and practices that strengthen the health of the 'āina and mo'omeheu.

This event aligns with Strategy 4 by perpetuating cultural practices that are inseparable from the land and natural elements. Makahiki ma Kapolei (MMK) offers opportunities to engage in traditional Hawaiian games and ceremonies tied to the Makahiki season, which historically honored Lono and the cycles of nature. It educates participants—especially keiki—about seasonal practices rooted in careful observation and stewardship of the environment. The event also revitalizes traditions unique to Hawai'i, ensuring they remain visible, valued, and actively practiced in modern community life.

Additionally, Native Hawaiian cultural practices and traditions emphasize respect for 'āina and encourages participants to engage in conservation efforts.

MMK strengthens cultural identity through cultural practices, which contributes to community well-being and encourages environmental responsibility.

18. Identify the strategic outcome(s) the event aligns to and describe how the event addresses the outcome and the impact the event will have. Note: The outcome should fall under the strategic direction and strategy identified in the previous responses. *

Link to Mana i Maui Ola for more information: <https://www.oha.org/about/mana-to-maui-ola/>

Please use the format in the example below:

Strategy Outcome 3.4: Communities are empowered to take care of iwi kupuna. This event addresses the outcome by...

Strategy Outcome 4.1: Preservation and perpetuation of Hawaiian language, culture, traditions, identity and sense of lāhui. This event addresses the outcome by engaging residents in cultural practices through makahiki games, as well as workshops that allow them to learn new cultural practices or enhance their existing skills. This helps preserve and perpetuate the Hawaiian culture, language, traditions, identity, and sense of lāhui.

Strategy Outcome 4.2: Increased community stewardship of Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources that foster connection to 'āina, 'ohana, and communities. This event supports the outcome by taking place at Pu'uokapolei, a significant cultural site where over 300 volunteers participate annually in land stewardship. Volunteer efforts include clearing debris, removing graffiti, eliminating invasive species, and planting native flora. By holding the event at a place that directly benefits from community land stewards, we highlight the collective benefits of their dedication.

19. **Describe how the event aligns to and addresses one or more of OHA's strategic foundation(s):**

'Ohana – Family. 'Ohana is instrumental to community empowerment. When families are strong and healthy, and when there is positive engagement within the 'ohana, from keiki to kūpuna, communities thrive. Connections to mo'omeheu and 'āina begin with connections within families.

Mo'omeheu – Culture. Culture is the essence of who Native Hawaiians are as a people. It includes all those things that distinguish the community: language, stories, customs, music, art, food, protocols, religions, values, traditions, and celebrations. Expressions of culture are both internal and external. Culture shapes Native Hawaiian worldview and thinking. It informs the ways in which individuals interact with one another and with 'āina. It influences the way Native Hawaiians interpret events and approach problem-solving.

'Āina – Land & Water. To Native Hawaiian kūpuna, the land was life. Imbued with mana, 'āina provides everything the community needs to survive. On an intimate level, Native Hawaiians are connected to the land by the generations of kūpuna who lived on the land and whose iwi rest here. Thus, the emotional ties to family, and the aloha for them, extends to the land that feeds us.

*

Use the following format:

First, list the name of the foundation(s). Second, demonstrate how the proposed event aligns with the selection.

'Ohana. Makahiki Ma Kapolei (MMK) provides a positive engagement opportunity for Native Hawaiian families to increase their participation in cultural activities within their own community and grow connections with family, neighbors and culture. It also strengthens intergenerational knowledge transfer by engaging cultural practitioners, kūpuna, and youth.

Mo'omeheu. This event perpetuates the values and customs of our kūpuna. Attendees are not just passive participants, they are actively engaged by participating in games, attending a cultural workshop, learning about conservation efforts at Pu'uokapolei and making connections with neighbors. Our cultural practices are the vessel to passing down stories, skills and history to the next generation. This contributes to a living culture and a strengthened identity.

'Āina. MMK reinforces the importance of balance, sustainability, and respect for natural resources. Through this event we aim to grow awareness of preserving our natural environment by promoting the stewardship of the culturally significant landmark of Pu'uokapolei. Not only does this event encourage the Native Hawaiian community to become stewards of the land, but it also invites other members of the public to increase their knowledge and appreciation for our Hawai'i.

BUDGET

20. **Provide the total amount of money being requested from OHA for the event.**

Maximum amount is **\$15,000**. No minimum amount. Requests for exceptions to the maximum budget request may require justification in the comments/questions section of the application. *

\$5,500

21. **Indicate each expense for which OHA funds will be used as a line-item and provide a brief description for each item. The items should sum to the total amount requested. For sponsorship packages, please list the sponsorship benefits. ***

OHA funds **shall not** be used for entertainment or perquisites (perks) per HRS 10-17(b)(3) however, HRS 10-17(b) does not expressly prohibit grantees from having or providing "entertainment or perquisites" as some aspect of their event.

OHA funds would cover the following expenses:

\$1,000 – sound system rental and technician
\$2,570 – equipment rental
\$350 – parking and security
\$350 – banners
\$1,000 – honorarium for practitioners
\$230 – supplies

Sound System/Sound Technician – We will contract a Sound System technician to provide and operate sound equipment. We estimate cost for set-up, break down and operation of equipment to be at \$1,000.

Equipment Rental – because the event is an outdoor festival, tents, tables, chairs, portable toilets, and a generator will be rented to provide shade and comfort areas as well as restrooms for kūpuna and spectators and a sound system to amplify performances and emcee. We estimate costs to be: \$2,570 for the rental of tents, tables and chairs.

Parking Contract – Kānehili Neighborhood Watch will be contracted to manage parking and security. \$350 is the cost of the parking contract.

Marketing – Cost of banners is \$350

Honorarium - cost for cultural practitioners is \$1,000.

Supplies – Cost for various supplies like portable lights, mats, shade tarps, water dispensers, bungee cords, and wood and paint for signs will be covered by other funds. \$230 is the cost for supplies.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR OHA COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, PARTNERSHIPS, AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

22. **Opportunities for OHA recognition: ***

List and clearly describe the community engagement, partnership, and public relations opportunities the event offers for OHA which may include, but are not limited to:

- Advertisements in event programs/television/radio/print ads
- OHA logo on event goods or items
- OHA logo on event signage
- OHA logo on event flyers
- Speaking opportunities for OHA representative
- Providing a table or method for distributing OHA program information at the event

Please outline specifically if your event is offering any formal tables for OHA representatives to attend as guests

We contracted Pueo Communications to market and promote the event. Sponsorship inclusions include displaying OHA's banner at the event and OHA's logo on flyers and social media posts. It also includes shoutouts in our advertising materials, online, or in other publicity spots. We will also provide a table at the event for OHA to distribute information.

23. **Social Media/Marketing Platforms: ***

Please provide your **organizations** social media usernames/handles, as well as any other platforms the event will be broadcasted on.

Please use the following format:

Instagram: @example

Facebook: link

X: @example

Website:

Other:

@ulualearningcenter
<https://www.facebook.com/uluae/>
<https://www.facebook.com/puuokapolei/>
<https://uluae.org>

REQUIREMENTS

24. **Important Notice:** Please send the following documents for the Applicant organization via email to sponsorships@oha.org **within 72 hours** of submitting this application. **Failure to do so may lead to delays, or automatic disqualification.** By submitting these documents, you acknowledge that they will be submitted promptly and in their entirety. OHA's preference is that all documents be sent in a single email. Please name your documents appropriately. Check each of the boxes below to indicate understanding of the requirement. Mahalo! *

Please select 4 options.

Event Information (flyers, posters, website details, etc.) DO NOT submit flyers for previous events.

IRS Letter of Determination - To verify tax-exempt nonprofit status.

Certificate of Vendor Compliance (CVC) - To verify the organization is registered to do business in the State of Hawai'i. To obtain this document, applicants must register with Hawai'i Compliance Express online at <http://vendors.ehawaii.gov>. Registration with Hawai'i Compliance Express may take up to two (2) weeks before access to the online CVC is granted. This certificate must be current within the fiscal year of the application date. OHA does not accept the DCCA Certificate of Good Standing

Completed W-9 - <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf>

25. **If the application is recommended for approval to the Board of Trustees, the event representative will be asked to attend the OHA Budget and Finance Committee meeting to respond to any questions. Attendance may be in-person or virtual.** *

I understand that the event representative is expected to attend BOT Budget and Finance Committee if recommended for approval.

26. **OPTIONAL: Please add any additional comments or questions below. Mahalo for your application!**

The flyer that we have is preliminary. An updated flyer will be designed with updated information as the event draws near.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

27. **Please read the following statements thoroughly:** By submitting this sponsorship application and selecting the following options, your agency and its affiliates, officers, employees and/or agents agree to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) from any and all claims, demands, liabilities, losses, damages, costs, and expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees, arising out of or in connection with this sponsorship application and participation in the associated event/activities. *

Please select 9 options.

- "I have applied for or received all applicable licenses and permits, when such is required to conduct the activities or provide the services for which a grant is awarded."*
- "I agree to comply with all applicable federal, state and county laws."*
- "I shall not use these funds for the purposes of entertainment or perquisites (perks)."*
- "I agree that all activities and improvements undertaken with funds received shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and county statutes and ordinances, including applicable building codes and agency rules; "*
- "The applicant will indemnify and hold harmless the office, the State of Hawai'i, its officers, agents, and employees from and against any and all claims arising out of or resulting from activities carried out or projects undertaken with funds provided hereunder, and procure sufficient insurance to provide this indemnification if requested to do so."*
- "I agree to make available to the office all records the applicant may have relating to the operation of the applicant's activity, business, or enterprise, to allow the office to monitor the applicant's compliance with the purpose of this chapter; "*
- "I agree OHA can have access to records pertaining to this grant."*
- "I understand that this grant award shall be monitored by the OHA to ensure compliance with Hawaii Revised Statutes § 10-17 and the purposes and intent of the Grant;"*
- "I agree to complete evaluation(s) follow-up by OHA to determine whether the event attained the intended results in the manner contemplated."*

28. By typing/signing your name below, you certify that the information provided is true and accurate to the best of your knowledge. You also acknowledge that typing your name acts as your electronic signature, which holds the same legal weight and validity as a handwritten signature, and you consent to be bound by the terms and conditions outlined in this agreement.

Your name: *

Miki'ala M. Lidstone

Action Item BF# 25-87 (revised): Approval of OHA funding for a Ho‘ākoako Lāhui Event Sponsorship to Ulu A‘e Learning Center for the 2026 Makahiki Ma Kapolei Event on January 31, 2026, in the amount of \$5,500.*

Attachment B

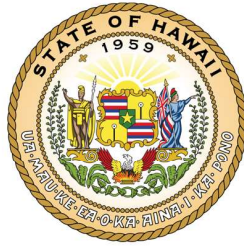
2026 Sponsorship Application

| Evaluation Criteria | Description | Matrix | | | | | Application Score |
|--|---|--|--|--|---|---|-------------------|
| | | Poor | Fair | Good | Meets Expectation | Exceeds Expectation | |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| A. Event Scope | 1. The application outlines event services or activities that provide significant benefits to the Native Hawaiian community. | No Benefit: The application does not describe a purpose and services/activities that provide benefits to the Native Hawaiian community. No relevance or alignment to community needs is evident. | Minimal Benefit: The application describes a purpose and services/activities with limited or unclear benefits to the Native Hawaiian community. Contributions are minor, indirect, or lack detail about the expected impact. | Moderate Benefit: The application outlines a purpose and services/activities that provide some benefits to the Native Hawaiian community. While contributions are evident, they may lack specificity, depth, or widespread impact. | Significant Benefit: The application presents a purpose and services/activities that clearly and meaningfully benefit the Native Hawaiian community. Contributions are well described, address community needs, and demonstrate a positive and tangible impact. | Exceptional Benefit: The application outlines a transformative purpose and services/activities with significant and wide ranging benefits to the Native Hawaiian community. Contributions are highly detailed, culturally relevant, and demonstrate sustainable, long term impacts. | 5 |
| | 2. The application indicates a proposed number of total attendees which is achievable and reflects an opportunity for significant OHA reach into the community. | Extremely Low Reach The proposed total number of attendees is extremely low, suggesting minimal opportunity for OHA to effectively reach the community. | Limited Reach The proposed total number of attendees is low and indicates limited opportunity for OHA to connect with the community. | Moderate Reach The proposed total number of attendees is reasonable and reflects a moderate opportunity for OHA to reach into the community. | Significant Reach The proposed total number of attendees is substantial, demonstrating a significant opportunity for OHA to make meaningful connections with the community. | Exceptional Reach The proposed total number of attendees is exceptionally high, representing a significant opportunity for OHA to connect with a wide portion of the community | 3 |
| | 3. The application indicates a proposed number of Native Hawaiian attendees which is achievable and reflects a significant positive impact on the betterment of conditions of Native Hawaiians. | Extremely Low Attendance: The proposed number of Native Hawaiian attendees is extremely low, suggesting minimal reach or impact on the community | Low Attendance: The proposed number of Native Hawaiian attendees is below expectations, with limited potential to positively impact the community. | Moderate Attendance: The proposed number of Native Hawaiian attendees is reasonable and suggests some potential for positive community impact. | High Attendance: The proposed number of Native Hawaiian attendees is substantial, indicating a significant potential for positive community impact. | Exceptional Attendance: The proposed number of Native Hawaiian attendees is exceptional, reflecting an exceptional potential for positive and widespread community impact. | 4 |
| Alignment Mana i Maui Ola Strategic Plan | 1) The application clearly demonstrates how the event will directly and meaningfully address the selected Strategy. | No Alignment The application fails to demonstrate how the event will address the selected Strategy. There is no clear connection or evidence of alignment | Minimal Alignment The application provides limited or vague information about how the event will address the selected Strategy. The connection is weak, indirect or unclear. | Moderate Alignment The application demonstrates a reasonable connection to the selected Strategy. While some aspects are clearly addressed, the explanation lacks depth or strong supporting details. | Strong Alignment The application provides a clear and well supported explanation of how the event will directly and meaningfully address the selected Strategy. The connection is evident and relevant. | Exceptional Alignment The application demonstrates an outstanding and thorough alignment with the selected Strategy. The event is highly relevant, impactful, and clearly designed to directly address the Strategy. | 5 |
| | 2) The application clearly demonstrates how the event will have significant community impact in alignment with one or more Strategic Outcome. | No Impact The application fails to demonstrate how the event will have a significant community impact. There is no clear connection to any Strategic Outcome. | Minimal Impact The application provides limited or vague information about how the event might impact the community. The connection to the Strategic Outcome is weak, indirect, or unclear. | Moderate Impact The application shows a reasonable potential for community impact. The event aligns with one or more Strategic Outcomes, but the explanation lacks depth or strong supporting details. | Significant Impact The application clearly demonstrates how the event will create meaningful and substantial community impact. The alignment with one or more Strategic Outcomes is well supported and evident. | Exceptional Impact The application provides a compelling and detailed explanation of how the event will deliver outstanding and wide reaching community impact. The alignment with one or more Strategic Outcomes is exceptional, with a clear path to achieving meaningful outcomes. | 5 |
| | 3) The application clearly demonstrates how the event will align with one or more Strategic Foundation. | No Alignment The application fails to demonstrate any alignment with the Strategic Foundations. There is no clear connection or relevance. | Minimal Alignment The application provides limited or vague information about how the event aligns with one or more Strategic Foundations. The connection is weak, indirect or unclear. | Moderate Alignment The application shows a reasonable connection to one or more Strategic Foundations. While alignment is evident, the explanation lacks detail or strong supporting evidence. | Strong Alignment The application provides a clear and well supported explanation of how the event aligns with one or more Strategic Foundations. The connection is evident and relevant. | Exceptional Alignment The application demonstrates outstanding alignment with one or more Strategic Foundations. The explanation is detailed, compelling, and clearly shows how the event is highly impactful and clearly designed to directly address to the Foundation(s). | 5 |

| Budget | 1-2 Inappropriate/Unreasonable The amount requested is clearly inappropriate or unrealistic, and no line item budget is provided, or the budget is unreasonable or incomplete. | 3-4 Minimally Appropriate The amount requested is questionable or somewhat appropriate. The line item budget is included but lacks clarity and details. | 5-6 Moderately Appropriate The amount requested appears generally appropriate, and a line item budget is provided with reasonable detail. Some elements may require further explanation or clarification. | 7-8 Appropriate/Reasonable The amount requested is appropriate for the proposed event, and the line item budget is detailed and justifies the requested funds. | 9-10 Highly Appropriate /Well-Justified The amount requested is highly appropriate and aligns with the proposed event. The line item budget is exceptionally detailed and demonstrates careful planning and justification for all expenses. | 10 |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|----|
| Opportunity for OHA Public Recognition | No Opportunities The application fails to identify any community engagement, partnership, or public relations opportunities for OHA. There is no evidence of OHA's potential reach into the community. | Minimal Opportunities The application provides limited or vague descriptions of community engagement, partnerships, or public relations opportunities. The opportunities appear minimal and do not demonstrate meaningful OHA reach into the community. | Moderate Opportunities The application describes reasonable opportunities for community engagement, partnerships, and public relations. These opportunities demonstrate some potential for OHA to reach the community but may lack depth or detail. | Significant Opportunities The application provides a well supported description of community engagement, partnerships, and public relations opportunities. These opportunities are meaningful and clearly reflect significant potential for OHA to connect with and impact the community. | Exceptional Opportunities The application outlines outstanding opportunities for community engagement, partnerships, and public relations. The described opportunities are compelling, highly detailed, and demonstrate an exceptional potential for OHA to achieve broad and meaningful community reach. | 8 |
| Name of Applicant Organization: | Ulu A'e Learning Center | | | | | |
| Name of Sponsorship Evaluator: | [REDACTED] | | | | | |
| Brief Explanation for Recommendation: | Though attendance is not as high as other events, this event has been identified by BOT as having a significant impact on it's community in alignment with OHA strategic plan. In addition, OHA staff and Trustees are invited to be hands on participants at this event providing a significant opportunity for OHA public recognition. | | | | | |
| Tiers for Recommended Funding: | 45- 50 points: Recommended 100% of eligible budget requested 40- 44 points: Recommended 75% of eligible budget requested 35- 39 points: Recommended 50% of eligible budget requested 34 points or lower: Not recommended | | | | | |
| Name of Applicant Organization: | Yes | | | 10:20:25 | Total Score (out of 50 points) | 45 |
| Date of Evaluation | Requested Amount: \$5,500 | | | | | |
| Recommended Sponsorship | Recommended Amount | | | | | |
| Recommended Amount | | | | | | |
| Eligible Requested Amount: | Eligible Requested Amount: \$5,500 | | | | | |

| Evaluation Criteria | Description | Matrix | | | | | Application Score |
|--|---|--|--|--|---|--|-------------------|
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| Name of Applicant Organization: | Ulu A'e Learning Center (Miki'ala Lidstone) | | | | | 10 |
| Name of Sponsorship Evaluator: | Yes | | | | | 45 |
| Brief Explanation for Recommendation: | Event is smaller in number of attendees as well as timeframe of event, but also a smaller request of money | | | | | |
| Tiers for Recommended Funding: | 45 50 points: Recommended 100% of eligible budget requested 40 44 points: Recommended 75% of eligible budget requested 35 39 points: Recommended 50% of eligible budget requested 34 points or lower: Not recommended | | | | | |
| Date of Evaluation | 21 Oct 25 | | | | | |
| Requested Amount: | \$5,500 | | | | | |
| Eligible Requested Amount: | \$5,500 | | | | | |
| Total Score (out of 50 points) | | | | | | |



John D. Waihe'e IV - *Chairperson*
Dan Ahuna - *Vice Chair*

Phone: (808) 594-1888
Fax: (808) 594-1868

MEMBERS

Kaleihikina Akaka
Keli'i Akina, Ph.D.
Luana Alapa
Brickwood Galuteria
Kaiali'i Kahele
Carmen "Hulu" Lindsey
Keoni Souza

OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

KE'ENA KULEANA HAWAI'I

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

560 N. Nimitz Hwy., Suite 200
Honolulu, HI 96817

DATE: Wednesday, October 29, 2025
TIME: 1:50 p.m.
PLACE: 2025 Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs Convention
Outrigger Kona Resort & Spa, Keauhou Ballroom
78-128 Ehukai St.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Minutes

- A. April 2, 2025
- B. April 23, 2025
- C. April 30, 2025
- D. September 17, 2025

III. New Business

- A. **Action Item BF #25-87 (revised):** Approval of OHA funding for a Ho'ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorship to Ulu A'e Learning Center for the 2026 Makahiki Ma Kapolei Event on January 31, 2026, in the amount of \$5,500.00*
- B. **Action Item BF #25-98:** Approve awarding of OHA grant funding to E Ala E to support the administration of the Nā 'Elele Congressional Fellows Program in the amount of \$210,000 from FY2026 Budget Line Item 7674 and \$210,000 FY2027 Budget Line Item 7781
- C. **Presentation by Administration:** Cultural Pathways to Career and Technical Education (CTE) implementation plan

IV. Adjournment

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OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Action Item

COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FINANCE


October 29, 2025

BF #25-98

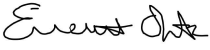
Action Item: Approve awarding of OHA grant funding to E Ala E to support the administration of the Nā ‘Elele Congressional Fellows Program in the amount of \$210,000 from FY2026 Budget Line Item 7674 and \$210,000 FY2027 Budget Line Item 7781

Prepared by:  Oct 23, 2025


Kuuleianuhea Awo-Chun Date
Director of Education and Culture-Based Learning

Reviewed by:  Oct 23, 2025


Elena Farden Date
Senior Director of Strategy and Implementation

Reviewed by:  Oct 23, 2025

Everett Ohta Date
General Counsel

Reviewed by:  Oct 23, 2025

Summer Sylva Date
OHA Administrator

Reviewed by:  Oct 23, 2025

John Waihe‘e IV Date
Chairperson, Committee on Budget and Finance

ACTION ITEM BF #25-98: Approve awarding of OHA grant funding to E Ala E to support the administration of the Nā ‘Elele Congressional Fellows Program in the amount of \$210,000 from FY2026 Budget Line Item 7674 and \$210,000 FY2027 Budget Line Item 7781

I. PROPOSED ACTION

Approve awarding of OHA grant funding to E Ala E to support the administration of the Nā ‘Elele Congressional Fellows Program in the amount of \$210,000 from FY2026 Budget Line Item 7674 and \$210,000 FY2027 Budget Line Item 7781.

II. ISSUE

Whether the Board should approve awarding of OHA grant funding to E Ala E to support the administration of the Nā ‘Elele Congressional Fellows Program in the amount of \$210,000 from FY2026 Budget Line Item 7674 and \$210,000 FY2027 Budget Line Item 7781.

III. BACKGROUND & DISCUSSION

Introduction

In the current Biennium budget, Lines 7674 and 7781 provide a total of \$420,000 in category 56530 - GRANTS IN AID. This request is to authorize these funds to be granted to E Ala E, a Virginia-based 501(c)(3) that preserves and perpetuates the vibrancy of Native Hawaiian people and culture in the spirit of aloha (<https://www.ealaehcc.org/about-us>). E Ala E collaborates with the Nakupuna Foundation, a NHO (Native Hawaiian Organization) that connects Native Hawaiians to ‘ike kupuna while preparing them for their futures in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) (<https://nakupunafoundation.org/our-purpose/>). Together, these organizations have provided cultural and educational programming to support beneficiaries in both Hawai‘i and the DC-Maryland-Virginia (DMV) area. Specifically, they have experience in implementing initiatives similar in scope to the Nā ‘Elele Congressional Fellows Program (CFP).

Background

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) partnered with the Hawaiian Native Corporation (HNC), a Native Hawaiian Organization (NHO) whose mission and vision are to perpetuate Hawaiian culture and share aloha (<https://www.hnc.org/>). Together, OHA and HNC will co-fund fellowship stipends for beneficiaries who hold bachelor’s degrees. As an NHO, HNC carries the kuleana to support community efforts that improve the conditions of Native Hawaiians — a responsibility that aligns directly with OHA’s statutory mandates.

The joint program seeks to uplift beneficiaries interested in developing advocacy and civic engagement leadership skills. Fellows will gain experience by working in Hawai‘i’s congressional delegation (CODEL) offices, relevant congressional committees, or federal agencies in Washington, D.C. Funding from OHA and HNC will provide stipends of up to \$70,000 for as many as six Fellows to cover the costs of relocation and living expenses in the Washington, D.C. area.

An implementation plan for this program was presented before the OHA Budget and Finance Committee on September 3, 2025. Updates to the implementation plan were presented to the OHA Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment Committee on October 15, 2025.

ACTION ITEM BF #25-98: Approve awarding of OHA grant funding to E Ala E to support the administration of the Nā ‘Elele Congressional Fellows Program in the amount of \$210,000 from FY2026 Budget Line Item 7674 and \$210,000 FY2027 Budget Line Item 7781

Discussion

During the design phase of Nā ‘Elele, questions arose regarding the employment status of Fellows, residency requirements for those working in Washington, D.C., and compliance with federal ethics and conflict-of-interest policies. By granting funds to E Ala E, these challenges can be effectively addressed. As an established Native Hawaiian organization with the necessary infrastructure and capacity, E Ala E can legally administer stipends for individuals placed in congressional and federal offices. This partnership ensures that the program operates in full compliance with Washington, D.C. employment and regulatory requirements.

A Memorandum of Agreement, currently being finalized by OHA and HNC legal teams, would allow funding to go from OHA and HNC to E Ala E. E Ala E would also work with the Nakupuna Foundation to:

- Assist with the facilitation and selection process, as needed
- Support onboarding and orientation of Fellows
- Host regular D.C.-based engagements that:
 - Provide local support networks and mentorship opportunities
 - Enhance learning through workshops, guest speakers, and networking
 - Facilitate reflection and future planning tied to Fellows’ advocacy skills
- Manage fund distribution and fiscal oversight
- Provide regular updates and final deliverables to the OHA Board of Trustees

A key advantage of this grant award is E Ala E’s physical presence and established networks in the D.C.–Maryland–Virginia (DMV) region. This on-the-ground connection offers Fellows immediate access to mentorship, professional development, and logistical support—critical elements that OHA alone cannot provide without a D.C. office. E Ala E’s staff can also assist Fellows in completing their final work products and coordinating presentations to the OHA Board at the conclusion of their fellowship year. Part of their proposal ensures that any unused funds are returned to OHA. Because E Ala E will be conducting regular fiscal monitoring and reporting, OHA will know early-on if there will be potential unspent monies. Given that scenario, OHA may consider adding additional programming for the current Fellows, or carryover to the next fiscal year to increase opportunities for the next round of acceptance.

To enable this level of support, an administrative stipend of \$50,000 is proposed. This cost would be shared between OHA and HNC. While this expense was not included in the original allocation, the following funding options are offered to help move the initiative forward:

1. Request HNC cover the administrative stipend cost in year 1, with OHA committing to cover the costs in Year 2. This would allow OHA time to adjust the budget and secure adequate funding while maintaining the target of up to 6 Fellows in the inaugural cohort.
2. Admit 5 Fellows into this cohort. This would allow the program to move forward within the current budget parameters while still providing meaningful opportunities for leadership development. It would also leave sufficient funds to cover the administrative stipend in FY27, should carryover funds be permitted.
3. Add funds to this budget line item to cover the administrative stipend, once OHA’s total

ACTION ITEM BF #25-98: Approve awarding of OHA grant funding to E Ala E to support the administration of the Nā ‘Elele Congressional Fellows Program in the amount of \$210,000 from FY2026 Budget Line Item 7674 and \$210,000 FY2027 Budget Line Item 7781 contribution has been determined with HNC. This would require additional Board approvals, which could delay program launch.

While the administrative stipend was not initially budgeted for, the benefits will outweigh the costs. Securing a funding pathway will allow OHA to advance this fellowship—an investment in the next generation of Native Hawaiian advocates and policy leaders who are essential to carrying forward OHA’s mission and the work of our lāhui at this critical juncture. Their networks, experience, and commitment to cultivating Native Hawaiian leadership in federal spaces make them ideal collaborators. Supporting this effort now will expand pathways for emerging leaders and reaffirm OHA’s commitment to the collective future of our people through advocacy here in Hawai‘i and elsewhere.

IV. TIMEFRAME

October – Early November: BOT Decision-making

If Approved:

October: Prepare materials for launch (application, website, media assets)

November: Finalize MOA; Launch Applications

December: Notify selected Fellows; Funds to non-profit; Onboard Fellows

January: Fellowship begins

January-December: Ongoing programming, monitoring, and reporting to BOT

January 2027: Final hō‘ike to BOT

V. BUDGET AUTHORIZATION

| | | | | | | | |
|------|------|-----|-------|---------------------------------|--|---|---------|
| 7674 | 2026 | 930 | TRUST | 7110 EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS | 56530-GRANTS IN AID - COMMUNITY GRANTS | Grants, Subsidies, Purchases of Services, and Donations (GSPD)/Community Grants as authorized by the BOT and administered and monitored by the assigned Program. | 210,000 |
|------|------|-----|-------|---------------------------------|--|---|---------|

| | | | | | | | |
|------|------|-----|-------|---------------------------------|--|---|---------|
| 7781 | 2027 | 930 | TRUST | 7110 EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS | 56530-GRANTS IN AID - COMMUNITY GRANTS | Grants, Subsidies, Purchases of Services, and Donations (GSPD)/Community Grants as authorized by the BOT and administered and monitored by the assigned Program. | 210,000 |
|------|------|-----|-------|---------------------------------|--|---|---------|

VI. BUDGET CERTIFICATION

ACTION ITEM BF #25-98: Approve awarding of OHA grant funding to E Ala E to support the administration of the Nā ‘Elele Congressional Fellows Program in the amount of \$210,000 from FY2026 Budget Line Item 7674 and \$210,000 FY2027 Budget Line Item 7781

The following is the certification by the Budget Chief and Chief Financial Officer that the funds are available:



Grace Chen

Budget Chief Officer

Date: Oct 23, 2025

VII. RECOMMENDATION

Approve awarding of OHA grant funding to E Ala E to support the administration of the Nā ‘Elele Congressional Fellows Program in the amount of \$210,000 from FY2026 Budget Line Item 7674 and \$210,000 FY2027 Budget Line Item 7781.

VIII. ALTERNATIVES

- A. Take no action
- B. Grant the funds to an alternate organization

IX. ATTACHMENTS

- (a) E Ala E Proposal



E ALA E

HAWAIIAN CULTURAL CENTER

Date:

10.22.2025

Submitted to:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs

Purpose:

Administration of the Nā 'Elele Congressional Fellowship Program

Submitted by:

E Ala E Hawaiian Cultural Center

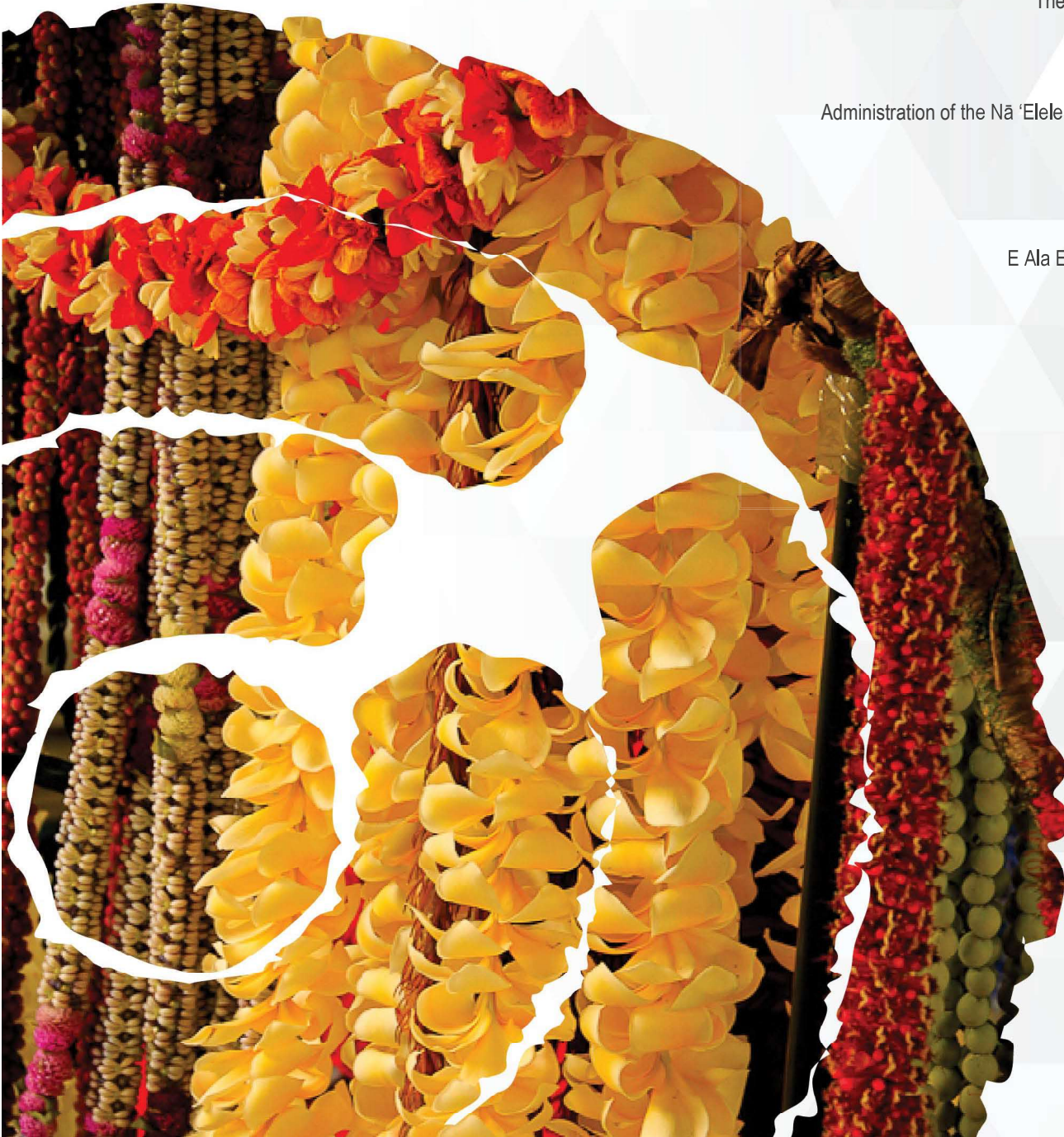
6801 Blue Slate Court

Alexandria, VA 22306

info@ealaehcc.org

(703) 853-9903

<https://www.ealaehcc.org/>





1. Executive Summary

E Ala E Hawaiian Cultural Center (“EHCC”) respectfully submits this proposal to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to administer the **Nā ‘Elele Congressional Fellowship Program** (“Fellowship”), a vital initiative aimed at providing hands-on legislative experience to college students and recent graduates of Native Hawaiian descent. Through this Fellowship, participants will gain unparalleled exposure to federal policymaking while developing the skills and knowledge necessary to become civic leaders and advocates for their communities.

EHCC is a Virginia-based 501(c)3 non-profit organization that preserves and perpetuates Native Hawaiian culture. Through a variety of educational and community-centric events throughout the year, our organization serves the community as a bridge between organizations in Hawai‘i and the National Capital Region. Our organization is uniquely positioned to administer this program, with a proven record of managing student engagement programs, a deep commitment to Native Hawaiian advancement, and strong relationships with partners in Washington, D.C. and in Hawai‘i.

2. Program Overview

The EHCC applauds the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA), and its Board of Trustees, in the recognition of the need for opportunities such as the Nā ‘Elele Congressional Fellowship Program. This Fellowship is a unique opportunity to develop a 12-month career development program designed to:

Empower Native Hawaiian Students

through direct exposure to the federal legislative process.

Foster Leadership Development

in the next generation of policy-minded Native Hawaiians.

Strengthen Representation

of Native Hawaiian perspectives in national legislative discussions.

It is our current understanding that selected Fellows will be placed in a Congressional office or committee, with a preference for members of the Hawai‘i Congressional Delegation. Fellows will work full-time in Washington, D.C. and engage in congressional work within the parameters set by House and Senate ethics guidance as well as respective host office guidelines.



3. Program Assumptions

While OHA will remain responsible for the final selection of Fellows with support from both the Hawaiian Native Corporation and EHCC, the below highlights our assumptions for the general guiding principles for selecting Fellows. These guidelines may change and evolve in execution, but these were used in shaping how programming would work for the program.

A. Eligibility

- Must be from Hawai'i, with a preference for those of Native Hawaiian ancestry.
- Must have recently graduated from an accredited college or university, receiving a bachelor's degree by January 2026.
- Be able to relocate to Washington, D.C. for the full fellowship term.
- Must demonstrate a strong interest in public policy and civic engagement and a strong desire to serve Native Hawaiian communities.

B. Fellowship Structure

- There will be a target of six fellows per cohort, subject to availability of funding and positions.
- OHA will coordinate with various Congressional offices and committees to identify fellowship placement opportunities.
- The program does not provide travel, housing, transportation, fringe benefits, or hourly compensation.
- Fellows will receive a fixed stipend, from which they are individually responsible for managing expenses and tax obligations.

C. Compliance and Accountability

- Fellows must meet all deadlines and responsibilities as outlined by both the administering organization and their host Congressional office.
- Fellows must comply with all federal and Congressional rules, including restrictions on legislative areas and office activities.
- Ongoing compliance monitoring and professional development will be conducted by our organization to ensure a successful Fellowship experience.



4. Program Guiding Principles

EHCC envisions this Fellowship as a way to create a pipeline to federal service for individuals interested in a career in public service at any level and creating a pool of qualified individuals prepared for a career in government or government-adjacent fields. In its administration of the Fellowship, EHCC is guided by the following goals:

- 1 **Cultivate Civic Leadership:** Equip Native Hawaiian Fellows with skills and experiences to lead in public service.
- 2 **Support Professional Readiness:** Prepare Fellows to meet the demands of high-level Congressional work environments.
- 3 **Ensure Accountability and Compliance:** Provide oversight to ensure Fellows meet program and Congressional guidelines.
- 4 **Uphold Cultural Integrity:** Integrate Native Hawaiian values and cultural practices to support identity and connection throughout the experience.
- 5 **Foster a Lifelong Network:** Build a strong alumni base of Native Hawaiian professionals in policy, government, and leadership roles.

5. Program Administration Framework

EHCC proposes the following program administration framework, which can be refined and updated based on feedback and evolving needs from OHA and other key partners:

A. Application and Selection

- A competitive application and selection process will be administered by the OHA; however, EHCC is open to involvement in outreach, recruitment, and selection processes, to ensure highly qualified applicants.

B. Fellow Orientation and Onboarding

- EHCC will design an orientation and onboarding program to cover program expectations, provide a briefing on Congressional ethics guidelines, tax implications of the stipend, and key office expectations.
- EHCC will create an orientation manual outlining the above expectations, as well as providing supportive information about Washington, D.C., and housing suggestions.

C. Ongoing Support



- EHCC will conduct monthly check-ins with Fellows and host offices.
- EHCC will perform mid-term and final evaluations with Fellows.

D. Structured Mentorship Matching

EHCC may facilitate structured mentor matching to further support Fellows in their professional and personal development.

E. Professional Development Series

While recognizing the substantial time commitments that Fellows may face during certain periods, EHCC will design and host a regular professional development series, which could include the following topics (as examples):

- Federal Policy and Native Hawaiian Issues
- Legislative Research and Briefing Writing
- Navigating Careers in Government
- Advocacy and Community Organizing

F. Oversight and Accountability

The program will maintain high standards of integrity and transparency through:

- Fellowship Agreements signed by all participants.
- Progress reports from fellows and feedback from host offices.
- Enforcement of program deadlines and policies.
- Financial tracking of stipend disbursements.
- Regular communication with OHA and partner organizations throughout the Fellowship term.
- A comprehensive summary report provided to OHA upon completion of the program.

G. Exit and Transitional Phase

In coordination with OHA and other partners, EHCC recommends the following components to guide the program's exit and transition phase, ensuring continuity and sustainability beyond the Fellowship term:

- **Final Capstone Presentation:** Each Fellow presents a short policy brief, legislative reflection, or community impact proposal to stakeholders and peers.
- **Exit Interviews and Evaluation:** Collect feedback on the Fellowship experience and assess personal and professional growth.
- **Fellowship Certificate and Alumni Induction:** Provide an official recognition of Fellowship completion and induction into Nā 'Elele Congressional Fellowship Program Alumni Network.
- **Alumni Network Engagement:** Ongoing opportunities for mentorship, policy engagement, and leadership development.



H. Record Retention

- EHCC will retain digital and physical records involved in its administration of the Fellowship, which will be the property of the Fellowship program.

6. Organizational Capacity

EHCC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit Hawaiian cultural organization based in Alexandria, Virginia, that was formed to preserve and perpetuate the vibrancy of the Native Hawaiian people and culture. The organization was founded with a shared vision and common values to help create an inclusive community for people from all backgrounds who desire to come together in the spirit of aloha.

EHCC has a strong history of supporting Native Hawaiian students and professionals through culturally grounded programs and leaders and advisory board members who include former educators, federal policy professionals, and business professionals.

Ku‘ulei Stockman, Administrator for the Nā ‘Elele Congressional Fellowship Program

Ku‘ulei Stockman brings extensive leadership experience and cultural expertise to her role as Chief Executive Officer of EHCC. With a background in education and community engagement and a career spanning executive leadership, program development, and nonprofit management, Ku‘ulei is well-equipped to support fellows and provide robust administrative support, and has direct experience with mentoring fellows from the Native American Political Leadership Program at George Washington University.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Education from Albion College and has held executive positions in both the private and nonprofit sectors.

Ku‘ulei has a demonstrated sustained commitment to organizational leadership and cultural mentorship. Her decades of experience position her as a strong mentor for fellows and a capable administrator for managing and supporting program operations.

Ku‘ulei is supported by a team of EHCC Board Members and volunteers who represent leaders in policy advocacy, political engagement, business, and culture.



7. Budget

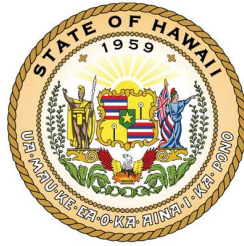
E Ala E has developed a working budget that aligns to the cost elements contained within Section 5 of this proposal. While it's understood that the requirements of administering the program and providing additional wrap-around program services to the Fellows may evolve significantly during the first year, we would propose a total fixed price administrative stipend of \$50,000. Should costs exceed this initial budgetary target, EHCC is prepared to offset the first-year costs with other unrestricted available funds provided by the Nakupuna Foundation.

Moreover, EHCC anticipates that it will directly distribute \$70,000 in aggregate to each individual Fellow in monthly installments. Should a Fellow for any reason not complete 12 months of the program or start after January of 2027, EHCC will return any unutilized funds at the end of the fellowship term or redirect those funds to a future Fellow, should OHAMake such a direction.

8. Conclusion

By administering this Fellowship, EHCC will help bridge the gap between Native Hawaiian communities and the federal legislative process. We believe that empowering Native Hawaiian youth to engage with national policymaking is a powerful step toward long-term systemic change. We look forward to ensuring that each Fellow is equipped not only to succeed in Washington, D.C., but to bring that experience back to uplift their communities in Hawai'i and beyond. Mahalo ā nui for your consideration.

Ku'u lei Stockman
Co-Founder/Chief Executive Officer
E Ala E Hawaiian Cultural Center



John D. Waihe'e IV - *Chairperson*
Dan Ahuna - *Vice Chair*

Phone: (808) 594-1888
Fax: (808) 594-1868

MEMBERS

Kaleihikina Akaka
Keli'i Akina, Ph.D.
Luana Alapa
Brickwood Galuteria
Kaiali'i Kahele
Carmen "Hulu" Lindsey
Keoni Souza

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KE'ENA KULEANA HAWAI'I

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Mana i Maui Ola

FY2026

Cultural Pathways to Career and Technical Education
Implementation Plan

PRESENTED BY

Kuuleianuhea Awo-Chun
Strategy and Implementation



Overview

Item Name

Cultural Pathways to Career and Technical Education

Owner/Lead

Kuuleianuhea Awo-Chun

Description

The Native Hawaiian Cultural Practitioner Pathway initiative uplifts practitioner knowledge to ground culture- and career-based education 'ike kupuna.

By the end of FY2026, schools and community partners will work together to:

- Draft cultural practitioner based criteria for curricula and teaching requirements
- Create curricula grounded in practitioner 'ike aligned with CTE standards
- Provide professional development for kumu
- Implement pilot program

Overview

Internal Stakeholders

BOT, S&I, COMMS, CE

External Stakeholders

DOE High School, HFCS, Community Partners

Impact

While Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs are driven by workforce and industry standards, this program pilots curricula designed by and for cultural practitioner knowledge, needs, and expertise. This program will:

- strengthen haumāna connection to their cultural heritage
- equip them with practical skills in traditional practices
- expose them to career opportunities in sustainable industries.

In addition to workforce potential, the program aims to inspire new generations of cultural practitioners. Through hands-on learning and real-world applications, the program will meet both cultural and economic needs, contributing to broader goals of Native Hawaiian self-determination and economic sustainability.

| Strategic Goal | Outcome | MiMO Alignment |
|--|--|---|
| <p>1. Elevate Practitioner Authority – Recognize cultural practitioners as educators and knowledge holders</p> | <p>Practitioner-led frameworks established; ≥ 2 criteria developed to guide teaching requirements; ≥ 4 practitioners employed</p> | <p>MiMO 2.3: Building frameworks grounded in ‘ike kupuna as movement toward our own methods and measures of success.</p> |
| <p>2. Integrate Culture-Based Curricula – Embed Hawaiian epistemologies, protocols, and ‘āina-based learning into public school programs.</p> | <p>Two culturally grounded curricula designed and implemented in pilot schools.</p> | <p>MiMO 1.3: Culturally grounded curricula linking education to sustainable careers.</p> |
| <p>3. Strengthen Teacher Capacity – Equip educators to deliver culturally rigorous, place-based curricula.</p> | <p>≥ 10 educators trained and mentored in culturally grounded pedagogy.</p> | <p>MiMO 1.3: Increased access to culture-based learning and necessary resources</p> |
| <p>4. Expand Student Opportunity – Increase Native Hawaiian student access to cultural career pathways.</p> | <p>≥ 50 students engaged in experiential ‘āina-based learning connected to workforce readiness.</p> | <p>MiMO 3.1: Native Hawaiian economic self-sufficiency and resilience.</p> |
| <p>5. Model Systemic Change – Demonstrate proof of concept for integrating Indigenous frameworks into state systems.</p> | <p>Culturally rigorous frameworks and evaluation tools produced for replication and scale.</p> | <p>MiMO 8.2: Advancement of cultural integrity and practitioner authority in education.</p> |

Deliverable**Success Measures****Comprehensive Curricula (2 pathways)**

Two culturally grounded curricula developed and piloted by June 2026; at least two courses offered using these curricula.

Practitioner Certification Program

Certification criteria established by Feb 2026; at least four practitioners teaching by June 2026.

Hands-On Learning Partnerships

Partnerships with ≥ 4 community organizations established by Jan 2026; ≥ 50 students engaged in hands-on learning.

Teacher Professional Development

Conduct professional development workshops for ≥ 10 teachers by June 2026; at least ten high school educators trained in pilot curricula.

Action Plan Timeline

| Quarter 1 Jul - Sept | Quarter 2 Oct - Dec | Quarter 3 Jan - Mar | Quarter 4 Apr - Jun |
|---|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Build partnerships with schools and community partners• Inform kupuna council, Papa Ola Lokahi | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Formalize partnerships• Convene practitioners• Draft Curricula• BOT Updates | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teacher Professional Development• Pilot program• BOT Updates | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pilot Program• Documentation and final reporting |
| | Funding tranche 1 | Funding tranche 2 | Funding tranche 3 |

Critical Information & Next Steps

Potential barriers

- Unable to meet proviso deliverables in time allotted
- Schools unable or unwilling to pilot program in their day to day curricula
- Practitioners not able to convene or come to consensus

Mitigation approaches

- Add OHA staffing support via S&I team
- Move the curriculum into afterschool and weekend opportunities
- Develop curriculum with content practitioners deem “noa” (approved for use)

Critical Information & Next Steps

Next Steps

- Meet with interested partner schools
- Collaborate on design and outcomes specific to school, practitioner, and community needs
- Formalize partnerships
- Begin implementation process (fiscal, programmatic)
- BOT updates throughout process

**MAHALO NUI!
NINAU?**

