

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

Phone: (808) 594-1888
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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

COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FINANCE (BF)

DATE: Wednesday, February 4, 2026
TIME: 10:00 a.m. or immediately following the conclusion of the OHA Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment (BAE) Meeting
PLACE: Remote Meeting by Interactive Conference Technology
Viewable at www.oha.org/livestream OR
Listen by phone: (213) 338-8477, Webinar ID: 854 9271 8331

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

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of Minutes – None
- III. New Business
 - A. **Action Item BF #26-01:**

Approval of a \$500,000 budget for the Permitted Interaction Group (PIG), established by BOT Action Item #25-18 on December 18, 2025, for the purpose of negotiating the official position of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) regarding U.S. military land leases scheduled to expire between 2028 and 2031 with the United States Army, United States Air Force, United States Navy, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
 - B. **Action Item BF #26-02:**

Approval of OHA funding for Ho'ākoakoa Lāhui event sponsorship awards for the following organizations and events for Fiscal Year 2025–2026, Quarter 4:

 1. Ho'oma'a Foundation – Rell Sunn Menehune Contest
 2. Imi Ola Canoe Club – Inaugural 'Imi Ola Canoe Club Long Distance Race
 3. Hawai'i Opera Theatre – Ho'oulu Festival: Kamalehua World Premiere
 4. Institute for Native Pacific Education and Culture (INPEACE) – Preschool Here I Come (PHIC)
 5. 'Āwili – Kālai Hawai'i: Youth Council Launch & Advocacy Summit
 6. Nā Leo Kāko'o o Ko'olauloa – Aloha Ko'olauloa
 7. Hānai Kaiāulu – Maku'u Cardboard to Soil Festival
 8. Four Strings at a Time – 'Ukulele Summit
 9. Hawaiian Community Assets – Project Maka'ala: Fraud & Scams Can Happen to Anyone

III. New Business (cont.)

B. Action Item BF #26-02: (cont.)

10. Boys & Girls Club of Hawaii – Project Hope
11. Nā Pu‘uwai Native Hawaiian Health Care System – Nā Pu‘uwai Hō‘ike Mana 2026
12. Hawaiian Historical Society – “Lei Ni‘ihau: Ni‘ihau is garlanded – with history, language, and beautiful lei pūpū” Gala & Fundraiser
13. Pālehua Conservation Initiative – Ke Kumu O Ke Ola
14. Purple Maia Foundation – Hawai‘i Cooperative Hui Gathering

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.

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. In the event that the livestream public broadcast is interrupted and cannot be restored, the meeting may continue as audio-only through the phone number and Webinar ID provided at the beginning of this agenda.

Meeting recordings will be made available on OHA’s website <https://www.oha.org/about/leadership/board-of-trustees/> as soon as practicable after the meeting.

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

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

- (2) Persons wishing to provide **oral testimony online** during the remote meeting, please use the link below:

Webinar ID: 854 9271 8331

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85492718331>

*(*if you are unable to link directly, copy and paste in search)*

To provide **oral testimony online**, you will need:


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

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

Once your oral testimony is completed, you may be asked to disconnect from the meeting. If you willfully disrupt the meeting or do not disconnect on your own, support staff will remove you from the Zoom meeting.

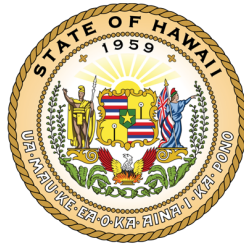
You can continue to view the remainder of the meeting on the livestream or by telephone, as provided at the beginning of this agenda.

Oral testimony online or at a physical meeting location will be limited to five (5) minutes. Oral testimony by telephone/landline **will not** be accepted at this time.


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

01/29/2026

Date



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

Phone: (808) 594-1888
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BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

560 N. Nimitz Hwy., Suite 200
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III. New Business

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OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Action Item

COMMITTEE ON BUDGET & FINANCE

January 28, 2026 – (deferred)
February 4, 2026

BF #26-01 (revised)

Action Item: Approval of a \$500,000 budget for the Permitted Interaction Group (PIG), established by BOT Action Item #25-18 on December 18, 2025, for the purpose of negotiating the official position of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) regarding U.S. military land leases scheduled to expire between 2028 and 2031 with the United States Army, United States Air Force, United States Navy, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

Co-Prepared by:

Kaiali'i Kahele
Chairperson, Board of Trustees

January 23, 2026

Date

Co-Prepared by:

Bill Brennan

Bill Brennan
Ka Pou Lihi Kono, Director of Communications

January 23, 2026

Date

Co-Prepared by:

Leina'ala Ley
Ka Pou Kihiku, Chief Advocate

January 23, 2026

Date

Co-Prepared by:

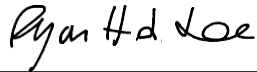


Grace Chen
Budget Chief

January 23, 2026

Date

Reviewed by:



Ryan Lee
Interim Chief Financial Officer

January 23, 2026

Date

Reviewed by:



Summer Sylva
Ke Pouhana Kūikawā, Interim Administrator

January 23, 2026

Date

Reviewed by:



Kaponi Kiakona
Board Counsel

January 23, 2026

Date

Reviewed by:



Ke Kua, Trustee John Waihe'e IV
Luna Ho'omalū o ke Kōmike Budget & Finance
Chair of the Committee on Budget & Finance

January 23, 2026

Date

Action Item BF #26-01 (revised): Approval of a \$500,000 budget for the Permitted Interaction Group (PIG), established by BOT Action Item #25-18 on December 18, 2025, for the purpose of negotiating the official position of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) regarding U.S. military land leases scheduled to expire between 2028 and 2031 with the United States Army, United States Air Force, United States Navy, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

I. PROPOSED ACTION

The Committee on Budget and Finance recommends approval of a \$500,000 budget for the Permitted Interaction Group (PIG), established by BOT Action Item #25-18 on December 18, 2025, for the purpose of negotiating the official position of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) regarding U.S. military land leases scheduled to expire between 2028 and 2031 with the United States Army, United States Air Force, United States Navy, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), which may include, as appropriate, funding for Ka Pa'akai and Public Trust analyses for the proposed land retention at the Pohakuloa Training Area (Hawai'i Island), Kahuku Training Area, Makua Military Reservation, Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area (O'ahu), and the Pacific Missile Range Facility (Kaua'i); advocacy efforts with elected officials in the State of Hawai'i and Washington, D.C., including statewide community briefings and listening sessions; a multi-platform communication strategy using long-form, short-form, and digital media to educate OHA beneficiaries, policymakers, and the general public statewide; and the establishment of a technical advisor working group of subject matter experts to advise PIG members, including a site visit to the island of Kaho'olawe in 2026.

II. ISSUE

Whether or not the Committee on Budget & Finance should approve and recommend to the Board of Trustees ("Board" or "BOT") approval of a \$500,000 budget for the Permitted Interaction Group (PIG), established by BOT Action Item #25-18 on December 18, 2025, for the purpose of negotiating the official position of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) regarding U.S. military land leases scheduled to expire between 2028 and 2031 with the United States Army, United States Air Force, United States Navy, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), which may include, as appropriate, funding for Ka Pa'akai and Public Trust analyses for the proposed land retention at the Pohakuloa Training Area (Hawai'i Island), Kahuku Training Area, Makua Military Reservation, Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area (O'ahu), and the Pacific Missile Range Facility (Kaua'i); advocacy efforts with elected officials in the State of Hawai'i and Washington, D.C., including statewide community briefings and listening sessions; a multi-platform communication strategy using long-form, short-form, and digital media to educate OHA beneficiaries, policymakers, and the general public statewide; and the establishment of a technical advisor working group of subject matter experts to advise PIG members, including a site visit to the island of Kaho'olawe in 2026.

III. BACKGROUND & DISCUSSION

On December 18, 2025, the BOT unanimously approved the establishment of a PIG, pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes §92-2.5(b)(2), for the purpose of negotiating the official position of OHA regarding U.S. military land leases scheduled to expire between 2028 and 2031 with the United States Army, United States Air Force, United States Navy, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). The Negotiation PIG, established to represent OHA as the State of Hawai'i approaches the expiration of military land leases on three islands, was tasked by the BOT with six specific objectives:

Action Item BF #26-01 (revised): Approval of a \$500,000 budget for the Permitted Interaction Group (PIG), established by BOT Action Item #25-18 on December 18, 2025, for the purpose of negotiating the official position of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) regarding U.S. military land leases scheduled to expire between 2028 and 2031 with the United States Army, United States Air Force, United States Navy, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

1. Formation of a Negotiation PIG (2025-2026)

Establish a Negotiation PIG to represent OHA as Hawai'i approaches the military lease expirations and to develop the Board's negotiation strategy. The PIG will initiate formal outreach to the Department of the Army, Department of the Navy, Department of the Air Force (through their respective Service Secretaries or designees), NASA, and Hawai'i's Congressional Delegation to establish and maintain communication channels.

2. Board Updates

Provide quarterly updates, at minimum, regarding progress on the fulfillment of the **PIG's** six objectives, to ensure continuous oversight, transparency, and alignment with Board policy.

Monthly updates will also be provided specifically regarding expenditures of the PIG budget, including validation that each expenditure acquired three required approvals from the relevant program Director, OHA Administrator, and OHA BOT Chair.

3. OHA Staff Support and Research

Direct Advocacy and Research & Evaluation staff to provide legal, historical, environmental, and technical research support, as needed and appropriate, including the development of Ka Pa'akai and Public Trust analyses where warranted by scope and timing, to ensure Native Hawaiian traditional and customary rights are fully protected and integrated into all strategic decision-making.

4. Rights and Trust-Based Strategic Framework

Ensure all strategies are grounded in Native Hawaiian rights and Public Land Trust obligations, affirming OHA's constitutional, statutory, and fiduciary responsibilities.

5. OHA Military-Leased Lands Technical Advisors

Identify Technical Advisors to support the Negotiation PIG. Membership will consist of subject-matter experts in:

- Negotiation
- Valuation and appraisal
- Legal, litigation, and administrative law
- Kia'i / 'Aina Stewards/ Cultural Practitioners
- Cultural and natural resource law and policy
- Military experts, advisors, and individuals (including retired members of the United States Armed Forces) with military training and infantry experience
- Political science and public policy
- International law, history, and academic research
- 'Opio / Next generation of Hawaiian leaders

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6. Multi-Platform Communications Strategy

Develop a statewide and national communications strategy-including long-form, short-form, and digital media-to educate beneficiaries, policymakers, and the general public regarding OHA's position, responsibilities, and advocacy related to military-leased lands.

PROPOSED BUDGET: \$500,000.00

OHA Military-Leased Lands Technical Advisors Budget: \$60,000.00

The OHA Military-Leased Lands Technical Advisors group is being established to support the Negotiation PIG by providing independent, multidisciplinary subject-matter expertise on issues related to military-leased lands that are scheduled to expire between 2028 and 2031.

The advisory group will include experts in negotiation; valuation and appraisal; legal, litigation, and administrative law; cultural and natural resource law and policy; military operations and training; political science and public policy; international law and academic research; kia'i and 'aina stewards/cultural practitioners; and 'Opio representing the next generation of Hawaiian leaders. The diversity of expertise is essential to ensure that OHA's negotiating position is informed, credible, and grounded in cultural, legal, environmental, and policy considerations.

Although participation on the Technical Advisors group is voluntary, OHA will incur necessary costs associated with the formation, coordination, and facilitation of the group. These costs include hosting and administering meetings, which may involve inter-island travel and travel-related expenses to ensure equitable participation from advisors located across the state. Meetings hosted by OHA will also require food and refreshments, as well as materials, printing, and basic office supplies needed to support effective discussion, information sharing, and documentation. These expenses are reasonable and necessary to ensure consistent participation, productive meetings, and professional facilitation of the advisory process.

The Technical Advisors group is expected to meet at least twice per quarter, either in person, virtually, or through a hybrid format, depending on availability and subject-matter needs. Regular meetings are critical to allow advisors to respond to evolving negotiations, review technical materials, provide timely feedback to the Negotiation PIG and support OHA staff in preparing analyses, briefings, and recommendations.

The budget also includes funding for a 2026 site visit to Kaho'olawe, to be conducted in coordination with the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Oharra (PKO) and the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC). This visit is intended to provide Technical Advisors and PIG members with a shared, place-based understanding of the long-term impacts of military use on public trust lands, the process of restoration and stewardship, and the cultural, environmental, and policy lessons relevant to ongoing and future military lease negotiations. Costs associated with this visit may include transportation, logistical coordination, and related travel expenses.

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Overall, this budget supports the timely, reliable, and credible operation of the OHA Military-Leased Lands Technical Advisors group and ensures that the Negotiation PIG is informed by high-quality, independent expertise as OHA fulfills its constitutional, fiduciary, and trust responsibilities to Native Hawaiians and the broader community.

Advocacy Budget: \$140,000.00

Statewide Community Presentations, Consultations, and Listening Sessions. OHA will continue to be on the forefront by leading the statewide series of community presentations, consultations, and listening sessions to educate, inform, and empower the community on issues related to military-leased lands, while also gathering meaningful feedback to inform OHA's official position and advocacy efforts. Sessions have already been conducted in Hilo, Wai'anae, and Kekaha. Additional sessions will be held across Hawai'i, including Kahuku, Wahiawa, Maui, Moloka'i, Lana'i, Kona, Waimea, Lihu'e, Waimanalo, Honolulu, and other communities, as appropriate, to ensure broad geographic representation and inclusive participation, and feedback from communities where military leased lands are situated and that often bear the heaviest effects of restricted access and use of nearby lands.

Advocacy, Trustee, and Administrative Leadership will conduct two advocacy trips to Washington, D.C., in the Spring and Fall of 2026 for outreach and advocacy with national-level policymakers, including the United States Congress and the Department of Defense. The purpose of these engagements is to educate and inform federal decision-makers on ceded lands and the Public Land Trust; OHA's constitutional and fiduciary mandate to protect and steward the Public Land Trust; and OHA's position on any lease, exchange, alienation, dispossession, or condemnation of military-leased lands scheduled to expire between 2028 and 2031. Advocacy efforts will focus on the FY2027 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), coordination with Hawai'i's congressional delegation, engagement with key members and staff of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees, and direct consultation with the Department of Defense. Advocacy will also include outreach with state leaders during the 2026 legislative session, specifically focused on strengthening existing Hawai'i laws and legislative oversight over any attempted land exchange of public trust lands held by the State of Hawai'i pursuant to the Admissions Act, as well as consideration of a proposed constitutional amendment to prohibit destructive live-fire training on the State's public trust lands.

Additional Support. Implementation of this advocacy strategy may require securing the services of a Washington, D.C.-based lobbying firm with expertise in military and defense issues, including the NDAA; established relationships with Members of Congress and key committee staff; and experienced representation of Indigenous and Native Hawaiian interests.

Ka Pa'akai and Public Trust Analyses. The Advocacy and Research & Evaluation teams may provide legal, historical, environmental, and technical research support, including the development of Ka Pa'akai and Public Trust analyses, as appropriate and warranted by scope and timing, for the proposed land retention at the Pohakuloa Training Area (Hawai'i Island), Kahuku Training Area, Makua Military Reservation, Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area (O'ahu), and the Pacific Missile Range Facility (Kaua'i) to evaluate impacts to Native Hawaiian traditional and customary rights, cultural practices, and associated natural and cultural resources affected by long-term military use and proposed lease actions. A Ka Pa'akai Analysis is a legal framework established by the Hawai'i Supreme Court to ensure that Native Hawaiian rights protected under Article XII, Section 7 of the Hawai'i Constitution are meaningfully identified, evaluated, and reasonably protected before decisions are made involving public

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and ceded lands. The analysis requires decision-makers to: (1) identify the scope of traditional and customary practices exercised in the affected area; (2) determine the extent to which those practices are adversely impacted; and (3) identify feasible measures to reasonably protect those rights.

The purpose of a Ka Pa'akai Analysis is to move beyond procedural consultation and ensure substantive protection of Native Hawaiian rights by grounding land-use decisions in a documented, place-based understanding of cultural practices, 'ike kupuna, and ongoing connections to 'aina. This is particularly critical where State lands held in trust for Native Hawaiians have been subjected to intensive, long-term military use, including live-fire training, access restrictions, environmental degradation, and the displacement of traditional practices.

Notably, the Army failed to conduct meaningful Cultural Impact Assessments (CIAs) as part of prior Army-led Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) processes for the Pohakuloa Training Area or the Army's O'ahu EIS, despite multiple requests by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) for more complete inventories of cultural resources within these areas. The absence of sufficient assessments is a significant deficiency, as environmental review alone does not satisfy the State's constitutional obligation to protect Native Hawaiian rights, and a Ka Pa'akai Analysis cannot be completed without meaningful outreach and consultation with affected communities through a CIA. Without a Ka Pa'akai Analysis, neither the State nor its trust beneficiaries have a complete record upon which to evaluate whether continued military leasing, lease extensions, exchanges, or other forms of alienation are consistent with constitutional, fiduciary, and public trust obligations.

Given the scale, duration, and significance of the military land leases set to expire between 2028 and 2031, a comprehensive Ka Pa'akai Analysis remains a critical tool to inform negotiations, policy positions that can mitigate harm, and any future decisions regarding these lands.

Moreover, under controlling decisions of the Hawai'i Supreme Court, the State acts as a trustee-not a private landlord-when it leases or exchanges public lands. Long-term military leases and land exchanges that restrict access, diminish control, or impair trust resources require strict compliance with applicable statutes and an affirmative showing of net public benefit. Absent a clear record demonstrating meaningful consideration of alternatives, protection of cultural and environmental resources, and preservation of public trust interests, such actions are legally vulnerable. Public Trust Analyses showing compliance with these standards, and discussing Native Hawaiians' unrelinquished claims for crown and government lands of the Hawaiian Kingdom, is an important additional analysis to include as part of ongoing community and State assessment of military leases.

OHA will work collaboratively with DLNR and may engage, as appropriate, an independent, third-party expert with demonstrated cultural, legal, and technical expertise to assist with community outreach and interviews, historical and cultural research, and preparation of Ka Pa'akai and Public Trust analyses. Any contract work will help to ensure timely and thorough completion of the necessary work, while OHA and DLNR, as State agencies with the duty to ensure compliance with public trust and traditional and customary rights under the State Constitution, will maintain oversight and final accepting and revising authority over any resulting analyses.

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Communications Budget: \$260,000.00

Multi-Platform Communications Strategy: Implement a comprehensive communications plan to support a statewide survey on military-leased lands in Hawai'i, using a consistent message across traditional and digital media channels, including broadcast television, social media, geotargeted digital advertising, and audience profiling through behavioral and demographic targeting. The campaign will:

- (1) gather broad, statewide community input from Hawai'i residents-including Native Hawaiians, non-Hawaiians, and military-connected communities-regarding the future of U.S. military land leases scheduled to expire between 2028 and 2031;
- (2) demonstrate OHA's leadership, kuleana, transparency, and commitment to public engagement on one of the most consequential land issues of this generation;
- (3) elevate OHA's statewide visibility by establishing OHA as the central, trusted authority on military leased lands across all islands and demographics; and
- (4) drive traffic to OHA's survey.

Funding will support the production and distribution of a 28-minute Office of Hawaiian Affairs Military Leased Lands television program airing on major television networks and distributed across multiple platforms, focused on military land leases in Hawai'i, with a primary audience of OHA beneficiaries and State of Hawai'i residents concerned about the impacts of military land use and live-fire training in the Hawaiian Islands.

Short-form video content will be derived from the television program and deployed across wide-reaching and geotargeted digital channels, including Meta, TikTok, YouTube, Google Search Ads, Streaming Ads, and Pre-Roll Videos.

Media Campaign Duration: April 2026 - November 2026

Tactics:

- A foundational long-form 30-minute educational documentary
 - The documentary is a public education piece created to ensure communities are informed before they are asked to participate in surveys about military land leases nearing expiration.
 - Grounded in aloha 'aina, kuleana, and 'ike kupuna, the documentary equips viewers with the historical, legal, and cultural context necessary for meaningful consultation.
- Short form videos based on longform documentary (:30s, :60s, up to 3:00 minutes)
- Longform interviews on Broadcast Television

Distribution Channels:

- Broadcast Television:
 - Documentary airing multiple times across various dates
 - Short form videos to air in local news and lifestyle shows as well as on OHA website
- Social Media (geotargeted):
 - YouTube (*full documentary, short reels, clips*)
 - Facebook/ Instagram/ TikTok(*Short Reels, clips*)
 - National and Local

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- Digital (geotargeted)
 - o Google Display and Search Ads
 - o Programmatic Ads across targeted websites
 - o Streaming Ads, OTT (Over-the-Top) Ads, or Connected TV (CTV) Ads
 - o Pre-Roll Promo Videos on news platforms and YouTube
 - o National and Local

Budget:

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
Documentary & Broadcast Television	\$199,790
Military Leased Lands Survey and Digital Marketing	\$60,210
TOTAL	\$260,000

IV. TIMEFRAME

Immediate action and approval of the proposed budget is recommended for the Negotiating PIG, as well as the Advocacy, Research & Evaluation, and Communications teams, to begin their work, as negotiations for the FY2027 National Defense Authorization Act are already underway and key statewide communication opportunities are rapidly approaching that must be leveraged.

V. BUDGET AUTHORIZATION

The total proposed budget of \$500,000 is funded via a reallocation of surplus funds identified between July 1, 2025, and December 31, 2025. These savings were generated specifically from:

- Personnel Budget Overages: Excess funds within the personnel line item.
- Unfilled Positions: Salary and benefit savings from vacancies maintained during that six-month period.

After the reallocation of \$500,000 for "AI BF 26-01 Use," the fund maintains a healthy net surplus of \$721,609, as detailed in Table 1 below.

FY26 Core Operating Budget - Personnel & Variance Summary
Summary of 6-month actuals (7/1/25 -12/31/25) used for allocation.

Table 1. FY26 Core (Operating) Budget-Personnel Costs and Variance Summary

FUND	Budget Proposed * (for 6 months)	Personnel Costs (7/1/25 - 12/31/25)	Variance Surplus (Deficit)
CORE OPERATING (930)	10,289,841	9,068,232	1,221,609
Less: Reallocate for AI BF 26-01 Use	(500,000)		(500,000)

Action Item BF #26-01 (revised): Approval of a \$500,000 budget for the Permitted Interaction Group (PIG), established by BOT Action Item #25-18 on December 18, 2025, for the purpose of negotiating the official position of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) regarding U.S. military land leases scheduled to expire between 2028 and 2031 with the United States Army, United States Air Force, United States Navy, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

TOTAL	\$	9,789,841	\$	9,068,232	\$	121,609
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*Budget reflects a revised fringe rate of 59.54%, to be formalized in the February "FY26 Budget Realignment #1".

Project Expenditures Plan

The expenditure plan is designed to front-load community consultations and state-based travel in FY26, while long-term advocacy and communications efforts scale up in FY27. Table 2 outlines the project's timeline and categorical spending.

Table 2. Project Budget and Estimated Costs

Proposed Description	Grand Total	FY26 (1/1/26- 6/30/26)	FY27 (7/1/26- 6/30/27)	Expense Type / Account Code
1. Military-Leased Lands Technical Advisors				
a. Meetings, refreshments, printing, & supplies	20,000	6,667	13,333	57255-Conferences/Meetings
b. Inter-island travel for equitable participation	40,000	13,333	26,667	54810-Other Travel (In-State)
Subtotal (1)	\$ 60,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 40,000	
2. Advocacy Budget				
a. Community Presentations & Consultations	10,000	10,000		57255-Conferences/Meetings
b. Maui to Kaho'olawe Travel (1 trip: 25 persons)	25,000	25,000		54310-Subsistence (In-State)
c. Washington D.C. Trips (2 trips: 4 persons)	25,000	12,500	12,500	54510-Subsistence (Out-of-State)
d. D.C.-Based Lobbying Firm	120,000	20,000	100,000	57110-Services on a Fee Basis
e. Ka Pa'akai and Public Trust Analyses (Incl. above)				- Placeholder
Subtotal (2)	\$ 180,000	\$67,500	\$ 112,500	
3. Communications Budget				
a. Public Information & Media Campaign	260,000	86,667	173,333	54010-Advertising
Subtotal (3)	\$ 260,000	\$86,667	\$ 173,333	
Grand Total Estimated Costs	\$ 500,000	\$174,167	\$ 325,833	

Action Item BF #26-01 (revised): Approval of a \$500,000 budget for the Permitted Interaction Group (PIG), established by BOT Action Item #25-18 on December 18, 2025, for the purpose of negotiating the official position of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) regarding U.S. military land leases scheduled to expire between 2028 and 2031 with the United States Army, United States Air Force, United States Navy, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

VI. BUDGET CERTIFICATION

The following is the certification by the Budget Chief and Chief Financial Officer that the funds are available:

Grace Chen

Ryan Lee

Grace Chen

RyanH. Lee

Budget Chief

Interim Chief Financial Officer

Date: January 23, 2026

Date: January 23, 2026

VII. RECOMMENDATION

Approve a \$500,000 budget for the Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) established by BOT Action Item #25-18 on December 18, 2025, for the purpose of negotiating the official position of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) regarding U.S. military land leases scheduled to expire between 2028 and 2031 with the United States Army, United States Air Force, United States Navy, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Funding shall include, as appropriate: Ka Pa'akai and Public Trust analyses for the proposed land retention at the Pohakuloa Training Area (Hawai'i Island), Kahuku Training Area, Makua Military Reservation, Kawailoa-Poamoho Training Area (O'ahu), and the Pacific Missile Range Facility (Kaua'i); advocacy efforts with elected officials in the State of Hawai'i and Washington, D.C., including statewide community briefings and listening sessions; a multi-platform communications strategy utilizing long-form, short-form, and digital media to educate OHA beneficiaries, policymakers, and the general public statewide; and the establishment of a technical advisor working group of subject-matter experts to advise PIG members, including a site visit to the island of Kaho'olawe in 2026.

All unspent funds shall be returned to the Native Hawaiian Trust Fund upon the dissolution of the Negotiating PIG or no later than November 3, 2026.

VIII. ALTERNATIVES

- A. Amend the recommended action; or
- B. Do not approve the recommended action.

IX. REFERENCES

None



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Action Item BF #26-01

Additional Reference

COMMITTEE ON BUDGET & FINANCE

February 4, 2026

Description:

Detailed budget is being provided to support deliberation by the Board of Trustees Committee on Budget & Finance for a \$500,000 budget for the Permitted Interaction Group (PIG), established by BOT Action Item #25-18 on December 18, 2025, for the purpose of negotiating the official position of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) regarding U.S. military land leases scheduled to expire between 2028 and 2031 with the United States Army, United States Air Force, United States Navy, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), which may include, as appropriate, funding for Ka Pa‘akai and Public Trust analyses for the proposed land retention at the Pōhakuloa Training Area (Hawai‘i Island), Kahuku Training Area, Mākua Military Reservation, Kawailoa-Poamoho Training Area (O‘ahu), and the Pacific Missile Range Facility (Kaua‘i); advocacy efforts with elected officials in the State of Hawai‘i and Washington, D.C., including statewide community briefings and listening sessions; a multi-platform communication strategy using long-form, short-form, and digital media to educate OHA beneficiaries, policymakers, and the general public statewide; and the establishment of a technical advisor working group of subject matter experts to advise PIG members, including a site visit to the island of Kaho‘olawe in 2026.

I. ORIGINAL PROPOSED BUDGET, PER ACTION ITEM BF #26-01 (DATED 01/28/2026)

Proposed Description	Grand Total	FY26 (1/1/26 – 6/30/26)	FY27 (7/1/26 – 6/30/27)	Expense Type / Account Code
1. Military-Leased Lands				
Technical Advisors				
a. Meetings, refreshments, printing, & supplies	20,000	6,667	13,333	57255-Conferences/Meetings
b. Inter-island travel for equitable participation	40,000	13,333	26,667	54810-Other Travel (In-State)
Subtotal (1)	\$ 60,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 40,000	
2. Advocacy Budget				
a. Community Presentations & Consultations	10,000	10,000	-	57255-Conferences/Meetings
b. Maui to Kaho‘olawe Travel (1 trip: 25 persons)	25,000	25,000	-	54310-Subsistence (In-State)
c. Washington D.C. Trips (2 trips: 4 persons)	25,000	12,500	12,500	54510-Subsistence (Out-of-State)
d. D.C.-Based Lobbying Firm	120,000	20,000	100,000	57110-Services on a Fee Basis
e. Ka Pa‘akai Analysis	(Incl. above)	-	-	Placeholder
Subtotal (2)	\$ 180,000	\$ 67,500	\$ 112,500	
3. Communications Budget				
a. Public Information & Media Campaign	260,000	86,667	173,333	54010-Advertising
Subtotal (3)	\$ 260,000	\$ 86,667	\$ 173,333	
Grand Total Estimated Costs	\$ 500,000	\$174,167	\$ 325,833	

II. REVISED PROPOSED BUDGET, PROVIDING UPDATED DATA FOR ACTION ITEM BF #26-01 (DATED 01/28/2026)

Program Component	Itemized Activity	Projected Cost	FY26	FY27	Justification
1. Technical Advisory Group (\$60,000)	a. Advisor Logistics: Neighbor island travel to NLK	\$ 7,560.00	\$ 3,780.00	\$ 3,780.00	Ensures geographic diversity and equity for neighbor-island practitioners. <i>Assumptions: (\$225 R/T same-day airfare + \$90 taxi) x 4 travelers from neighbor islands x 6 meetings</i>
	b. Facilitator(s)	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	Experienced facilitator(s) for productive engagement, synthesis of information, OHA stance formulation, and strategy support. <i>Assumptions:</i> • \$3,000 per FY (\$1,000 per meeting) for meals and refreshments • \$3,220 per FY for print jobs, supplies, meeting materials, etc. for productive group meetings
	c. Meetings, Refreshments, Printing, & Supplies	\$ 12,440.00	\$ 6,220.00	\$ 6,220.00	• Place-based training to understand the physical costs of military land restoration. • Boat charter, safety logistics, and PKO coordination. <i>Assumptions: (\$300 R/T airfare + \$350 per night for hotel + \$150 per diem) x 21 travelers (9 Technical Advisors + 4 PIG Trustees + 4 Trustee staff + 1 ELT + 1 Advocacy + 1 Comms + 1 Ops)</i>
	d. Kaho'olawe Site Visit in August 2026	\$ 17,850.00	\$ -	\$ 17,850.00	
Subtotal		\$ 52,850.00	\$ 17,500.00	\$ 35,350.00	
2. Advocacy & Policy Operations (\$160,000)	a. Statewide Community Presentations, Consultations, and Listening Sessions	\$ 11,580.00	\$ 5,790.00	\$ 5,790.00	Logistics for statewide travel, venue rentals, and community refreshments. <i>Assumptions:</i> • \$2,500 per O'ahu event • \$4,166.67 per neighbor island event (including travel at \$175 per R/T flight + 1 \$90 rental car for 4 NLK-based staff - 2 from Advocacy or ELT, 1 from IT, and 1 from Comms) • FY26: 1 O'ahu events + 1 neighbor island events (2 total) • FY27: 1 O'ahu event + 1 neighbor island event (2 total) • FY26: (1 x \$2,500) + (1 x \$3,290) • FY27: (1 x \$2,500) + (1 x \$3,290)
	b. D.C. Advocacy: 2 Delegation Trips	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	Direct engagement with Congress/NASA on FY2027 NDAA land provisions. <i>Assumptions: \$408.33 unanticipated DC advocacy costs per traveler per trip + ((\$800 per R/T airfare + \$350 per night for 4 nights total + \$145 per diem for 5 days total) x 2 trips x 6 travelers per trip)</i>
	c. Advocacy Retainer: Specialized D.C. Defense/Indigenous Firm	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	Professional "boots on the ground" in D.C. dedicated to tracking relevant legislation that informs OHA's stance, strategy, and efforts. Hourly rate used for budgeting may be on the lower end of the market rate for this caliber of work that OHA is seeking. <i>Assumptions: \$400/hour for 150 hours of work each FY</i>

	d. Ka Pa'akai (6) and Public Trust (6) Analyses and Consultation	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	In preparation of up to six Ka Pa'akai and Public Trust analyses, OHA will work collaboratively with DLNR and may engage, as appropriate, an independent, third-party expert with demonstrated cultural, legal, and technical expertise to assist with community outreach and interviews, historical and cultural research, and preparation of Ka Pa'akai and Public Trust analyses.
Subtotal		\$ 171,580.00	\$ 85,790.00	\$ 85,790.00	
3. Multi-Platform Communications (\$260,000)	Phase 1 - Education and Inform the Community: Documentary and social media videos (Feb. - Mar. 2026)	\$ 144,000.00	\$ 144,000.00	\$ -	<i>Quote from vendor:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30-min. documentary (\$45,000) • Documentary-derived social media videos (\$12,000) • 12x prime time documentary airing (Apr. - May 2026) on 3 major Hawaii television networks (\$87,000)
	Phase 2 - Gathering Input from the Community and Lāhui (May - Aug. 2026)	\$ 49,000.00	\$ -	\$ 49,000.00	Ad. campaign with displays and videos of documentary-derived content, including call to action for OHA's survey <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ad. campaign content on 3 major Hawaii television networks • Social media display - ads for target audience on feeds, stories, market places, reels, etc. (125,000 estimated monthly impressions) • Video pre-roll - ads for target audience prior to played videos on browsed websites (40,000 estimated monthly impressions) • Paid search - sponsored ads and content in search results of related Hawaiian events, meetings, and/or grants (125-250 estimated monthly clicks) <i>Quote from vendor:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$19,000 for 4 months of digital campaign • \$30,000 for 4 months of broadcast campaign
	Phase 3 - OHA Share-Out of Media Campaign and Survey Results (Sept. 2026 - Jan. 2027)	\$ 39,000.00	\$ -	\$ 39,000.00	OHA will share its results of the educational campaign and survey. Vendor will do a digital and broadcast campaign on the findings and what the lāhui and community want regarding Military Lands Leases in Hawaii. Vendor will create and run digital and TV broadcast ads regarding the results <i>Quote from vendor: (Same digital campaign deliverables as Phase 2)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$19,000 for digital campaign (5 months) • \$20,000 for broadcast commercials and interviews
	Vendor Contingency	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,000.00	
	Survey Platform Support	\$ 3,570.00	\$ 1,785.00	\$ 1,785.00	Upgraded package during PIG campaign period for OHA's existing survey tool to manage response volume and enhance analytics.
	OHA-Composed Advocacy Mele Production	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 11,000.00	Uniting mele to spread OHA's message, motivate action and social change, and provide another medium to keep cause at the forefront.
Subtotal		\$ 275,570.00	\$ 165,785.00	\$ 109,785.00	
TOTAL REQUEST		\$ 500,000.00	\$ 269,075.00	\$ 230,925.00	

III. COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

OHA will implement a comprehensive communications plan to support a statewide survey on military-leased lands in Hawai'i, using a consistent message across traditional and digital media channels, including broadcast television, social media, geotargeted digital advertising, and audience profiling through behavioral and demographic targeting. The campaign will:

1. gather broad, statewide community input from Hawai'i residents—including Native Hawaiians, non-Hawaiians, and military-connected communities—regarding the future of U.S. military land leases scheduled to expire between 2028 and 2031;
2. demonstrate OHA's leadership, kuleana, transparency, and commitment to public engagement on one of the most consequential land issues of this generation; and
3. elevate OHA's statewide visibility by establishing OHA as the central, trusted authority on military leased lands across all islands and demographics; and (4) drive traffic to OHA's survey.

Funding will support the production and distribution of a 30-minute Office of Hawaiian Affairs Military Leased Lands television program airing on major Hawaii television networks and distributed across

multiple platforms, focused on military land leases in Hawai‘i, with a primary audience of OHA beneficiaries and State of Hawai‘i residents concerned about the impacts of military land use and live-fire training in the Hawaiian Islands. Short-form video content will be derived from the television program and deployed across wide-reaching and geotargeted digital channels, including Meta, YouTube, Google Search Ads, Streaming Ads, and Pre-Roll Videos.

Strategy: Implement a comprehensive communications campaign to support an Office of Hawaiian Affairs

statewide survey on military leased lands in Hawai‘i utilizing a consistent message deployed across traditional and digital media channels including broadcast television, social media, geotargeted digital advertising, and audience profiling through behavioral and demographic targeting.

Goal(s):

- Gather broad, statewide community input from Hawai‘i residents including Native Hawaiians, non-Hawaiians, and military-connected communities regarding the future of U.S. military land leases scheduled to expire between 2028 and 2031.
- Demonstrate OHA’s thought leadership, kuleana, transparency, and commitment to public engagement on one of the most consequential land issues of this generation.
- Elevate OHA’s statewide visibility by establishing OHA as the central, trusted authority on military leased lands across all islands and demographics.
- Drive traffic to OHA survey.

Campaign Duration:

- (10) Months, April 2026 – January 2027

Tactics:

- Develop a foundational longform 30-minute educational documentary
 - The documentary is a public education piece created to ensure communities are informed before they are asked to participate in surveys about military land leases nearing expiration.
 - Grounded in aloha ‘āina, kuleana, and ‘ike kūpuna, the documentary equips viewers with historical, legal, and cultural context necessary for meaningful consultation.
- Develop short form videos based on longform documentary (:30s, :60s, up to 3:00 minutes)
- Schedule longform media interviews on Broadcast Television

Distribute longform and shortform content across multiple channels:

- Broadcast Television:
 - Full Documentary to air multiple times across various dates
 - Longform Media Interviews
- Social Media (geotargeted):
 - YouTube (*full documentary, short reels, Longform Media Interviews*)
 - Facebook (*Short Reels, Longform Media Interviews*)
 - Instagram (*Short Reels, Longform Media Interviews*)
- Digital (geotargeted):
 - Good Display and Search Ads
 - Programmatic Ads across targeted websites
 - Streaming Ads, OTT (Over-the-Top) Ads, or Connected TV (CTV) Ads
 - Pre-Roll Promo Videos on news platforms and YouTube

Phase 1- Educate and Inform the community:

February 1, 2026 - March 30, 2026 (Production)

- Asset Development:
 - 30-minute documentary = \$45,000
 - Social Media Videos derived from = \$12,000
- Television Distribution: (April- May)
 - Prime time airings of the documentary across all local channels
 - All airings will be in prime time from 6pm to 10pm Monday to Thursday over a 2-week period.
 - Each station will air Promotion announcements promoting the show.
 - Each station group will include a live interview to promote the TV show, aired twice on six major Hawaii broadcast networks (total of 12 airings) during prime time at 6:30 PM, 7 PM, and 9 PM
- Cost: \$87,000
- Total budget for Phase 1: \$144,000

Phase 2- Gathering Input from the Community and Lahui

May 2026 – August 2026

- Multi-Channel traditional and digital media advertising campaign (display and video)
- Deploy short videos and display ads derived from documentary across targeted websites, streaming services, YouTube, and social media channels including Facebook and Instagram
- The call to action will be to participate in the OHA survey.
- Each ad will be hosted and coordinated with OHA social media pages.
- Traditional Media:
 - *May, June, July and August (4 months)*
 - Aired on three major Hawaii broadcast networks
- Social Display: Facebook & Instagram Campaign
 - Ads delivered to target audience on their feed, stories, marketplace, reels, etc.
 - 125,000 estimated monthly impressions per month
- Video Pre-Roll Campaign
 - Ads delivered to target audience prior to played videos on websites browsed
 - 40,000 estimated monthly impressions per month
- Paid Search / SEM Campaign
 - Sponsored ads & content delivered in search results of related Hawaiian events, meetings and/or grants
 - 125-250 estimated monthly click per month
- Digital Campaign = \$19,000 (4 months) Broadcast
- Campaign = \$30,000 (4 months)

Phase 3 – OHA will share its results of the educational campaign and survey. Vendor will do a digital and broadcast campaign on findings and what the community wants in regard to the Military Lands Leases in Hawaii. Vendor will create and run digital and TV broadcast ads.

September 2026 to January 2027 – 5 months

Same digital campaign deliverables as Phase 2

- Digital Campaign (5 months) = \$19,000
- Broadcast commercials and Interviews = \$20,000

Budget for Phase 1	\$144,000
Budget for Phase 2	\$49,000

Budget for Phase 3	\$39,000
Contingency	\$18,000
Grand Total	\$250,000 plus tax