

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

DRAFT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FINANCE
MEETING ON June 23 ,2025 19 AM
(In-person at OHA Maui Ola Boardroom and
via Interactive Conference Technology)

MINUTES

Pursuant HRS Section 92-3.7(b) boards must record meetings open to the public, when practicable, and make the recording available online until the minutes are posted.

**A FULL DETAILED MEETING VIDEO RECORDING CAN BE FOUND AT
www.oha.org/livestream**

Roll Call Attendance

(00:00:53 – 00:01:42)

Present:

Trustees Akaka, Akina, Galuteria, Lindsey, Souza, Vice Chair Waihe'e, Chair Alapa**

Excused: **Trustee Ahuna**

Staff Present: **CEO Kapouhana Stacy Ferreira, COO Kapounui Pu'u, Endowment Director Ryan Lee, General Counsel Everett Ota, HR Director Cory Nakamoto**, and support staff.

Quorum was established.

Public Testimony – Mayor Mitch Roth

(00:05:10 – 00:15:00)

Mayor Mitch Roth testified in support of OHA's contribution to the **Kīlauea Gym Rehabilitation Project**. He stressed the gym's role as a vital multipurpose facility for youth, community gatherings, and as an emergency shelter. He thanked OHA for considering matching contributions with county and state funds.

Public Testimony – Representative Darius Kila

(00:15:01 – 00:25:30)

Representative Darius Kila (District 44) urged OHA to prioritize funding equity for charter schools. He emphasized that Native Hawaiian children benefit when charter schools are resourced at the same level as DOE schools. He encouraged Trustees to

support bridging education gaps and increasing opportunities for charter school students.

Public Testimony – Rupert Rowe (Kaneiolouma)

(00:25:31 – 00:40:00)

****Rupert Rowe**** spoke passionately about the Kaneiolouma cultural site on Kaua'i. He urged OHA to continue its support for preservation efforts and the repatriation of sacred ki'i. He stressed that Kaneiolouma is an active center for Hawaiian cultural identity and deserves sustained resources.

Public Testimony – Dr. Kalehua Krug

(00:40:01 – 00:55:00)

****Dr. Kali'a Krug**** testified in favor of greater funding for ****Hawaiian language immersion schools****. He emphasized that Hawaiian language is the foundation of cultural identity and must be prioritized in OHA's budget. He encouraged Trustees to expand investment in educational initiatives that strengthen Hawaiian identity.

Administrative Presentations

(00:55:01 – 01:20:00)

OHA staff provided background on the budget, including worksheets comparing different versions of the FY2026–2027 proposals. Staff clarified line-item differences and explained adjustments in program commitments. ****Slides and handouts**** were used to show how budget reallocations would affect long-term initiatives.

Trustee Discussion

(01:20:01 – 01:30:00)

Trustees raised concerns about fiduciary responsibility, transparency, and reconciling discrepancies between administrative and Trustee budget drafts. ****Trustee Akina**** emphasized measurable outcomes, while ****Trustee Lindsey**** called for equitable allocation of resources across islands. ****Vice Chair Waihe'e**** stressed the importance of fiduciary duty, and ****Chair Alapa**** acknowledged the testimony and confirmed the discussion would guide deliberations.

Adjournment / Recess

(01:30:01 – 01:35:00)

With testimony and discussion concluded, ****Chair Alapa**** recessed the meeting. Deliberations on the biennium budget were scheduled to continue at the next session on June 25, 2025.

Attachments for Action Items on this agenda can be found at www.oha.org/events

A. Action Item BF#25-44 Approval of the OHA Biennium Budget for the Fiscal Biennium Periods 2025-2026 (Fiscal Year 2026) and 2026-2027 (Fiscal Year 2027), to include salary adjustments for existing personnel; the addition, modification, and deletion of positions; updates to OHA's organizational chart; and related amendments to program structures and resource allocations.

Link:

<https://www.oha.org/wp-content/uploads/2025-06-23-COMMITTEE-ON-BUDGET-AND-FINANCE-ELECTRONIC-FOLDER-386-PAGES-1.pdf>