



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

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

UPDATED MEMORANDUM

March 4, 2026

To: All OHA Staff

From: Kaiali'i Kahele, Chairperson, Board of Trustees 
John Waihe'e IV, Chairperson, Committee on Budget and Finance 

Subject: 2026 Office of Hawaiian Affairs FY2026 - FY2027 Budget Briefing Updates

Aloha kākou,

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) Board of Trustees (BOT) and the BOT Committee on Budget and Finance (B&F) will convene a series of informational budget briefings to: (1) receive updates on the execution status of FY2026 budgeted initiatives, and (2) evaluate proposed FY2027 budget realignments informed by available unallocated excess funds.

These briefings are intended to support informed fiscal oversight and decision-making by the BOT. They also provide OHA's executive leadership team, department heads, division directors, and appropriate support staff an opportunity to present status updates, outline proposed modifications, and discuss strategic budget priorities for the upcoming fiscal periods.

Please see the updated briefing schedule and slated presenters below.

Budget Briefing Schedule

Wednesday, March 18, 2026 during B&F Meeting

Budget Topics (Total of 3): Communications, Community Engagement (Beneficiary Services and Grants), and Hawaiian Cultural Affairs

Presenters: Communications Director Bill Brennan, Community Engagement Director Lise Vaughan-Sekona, Senior Director of Hawaiian Cultural Affairs Hailama Farden, and Appropriate Support Staff

Thursday, March 19, 2026 during BOT Meeting

Budget Topics (Total of 2): Operations and Resource Management – Land Assets

Presenters: Operations Manager Royce Campbell, Managing Director of Real Estate – Land Division Daniel Sandomire, and Appropriate Support Staff

Wednesday, April 1, 2026 during BF Meeting

Budget Topics (Total of 2): Corp. Counsel and Research & Evaluation

Presenters: General Counsel Everett Ohta, Research & Evaluation Director Carla Hostetter, and Appropriate Support Staff

Thursday, April 2, 2026 during BOT Meeting

Budget Topics (Total of 2): Information Technology and Strategy & Implementation

Presenters: Information Technology Director Guy Moriwaki, Strategy & Implementation Senior Director Elena Farden, and Appropriate Support Staff

Wednesday, April 15, 2026 during BF Meeting

Budget Topics (Total of 3): CEO, COO, and Board of Trustees

Presenters: Interim CEO Summer Sylva, COO K. Sean Kekina, Board of Trustees Chair Kaiali'i Kahele, and Appropriate Support Staff

Thursday, April 16, 2026 during BOT Meeting

Budget Topics (Total of 3): Human Resources, Investment/Resource Management – Financial Assets (Controller, Loans, and Procurement), and Advocacy

Presenters: Human Resources Interim Director, Investment Director/Interim CFO Ryan H. Lee, Chief Advocate Leinā'ala Ley, and Appropriate Support Staff

Content of the budget briefing presentations should include the following.

- **Executive Summary (by Program):** Provide key highlights for Trustees and meeting attendees, including the program's purpose, statutory requirements, alignment with Mana i Maui Ola, and overall impact on beneficiaries.
- **Financial Overview (FY2026):** Present budgeted versus actual expenditures for each program, with a brief explanation of any significant variances.
- **Initiative Status Update:** Summarize the progress of budgeted initiatives, including execution status, operational challenges, risks, and emerging opportunities.
- **Budget Realignment Proposals:** Outline proposed FY2027 budget realignments informed by available unallocated excess funds.

Each presentation should be made within ten minutes, followed by five minutes of questions and answers with Trustees. However, if a program needs additional time to effectively present and provide the above information, then the BOT and BF Committee teams will consider accommodating and preparing in advance for the extended presentation.

To allow ample time for Trustees to review budget briefing materials and presentations, department and division leadership, along with appropriate support staff, should prepare and complete their content in a timely manner to meet Sunshine Law requirements for posting meeting agendas and folders.

Please adhere to the following due dates for submitting your materials by:

1. Presentation on Wednesday, March 18, 2026 – Due **12:00 PM on Thursday, March 12, 2026**
2. Presentation on Thursday, March 19, 2026 – Due **close-of-business on Friday, March 13, 2026**
3. Presentation on Wednesday, April 1, 2026 – Due **12:00 PM on Thursday, March 26, 2026**
4. Presentation on Thursday, April 2, 2026 – Due **close-of-business on Friday, March 27, 2026**
5. Presentation on Wednesday, April 15, 2026 – Due **12:00 PM on Thursday, April 9, 2026**

6. Presentation on Thursday, April 16, 2026 – Due **close-of-business on Friday, April 10, 2026**

By adhering to these due dates, we ensure that Trustees and staff have adequate time to review materials and prepare for these important meetings.

Please upload any briefing materials [HERE](#), where a standardized presentation template will soon be provided, into the appropriate dated folder and confirm their successful upload via email to the following:

- Budget and Finance Team Melissa Wennihan and Crayn Akina
- Board Secretary Lehua Itokazu

Should you have any questions regarding the briefing schedule or need additional information, please contact the Board of Trustees Interim Chief of Staff Alena Kangas Auyoung.