### STATE OF HAWAI'I

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

Due to COVID-19, the OHA Board of Trustees and its standing committees will hold virtual meetings until further notice. The virtual meeting can be viewed and observed via livestream on OHA's website at www.oha.org/livestream or listened by phone: (213) 338-8477. A physical meeting location open to the general public will be available at Kaua'i Community College Fine Arts Auditorium, 3-1901 Kaumuali'i Hwy.; Līhu'e, HI 96766. All members of the public that wish to access the physical meeting location must wear a mask and follow all applicable COVID-19 requirements of the meeting venue.

## Minutes of the Kaua'i Island Community Meeting of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs **Board of Trustees MINUTES** June 22, 2022

## ATTENDANCE:

Chairperson Carmen Hulu Lindsey

Trustee Leina'ala Ahu Isa

Trustee Dan Ahuna

Trustee Kaleihikina Akaka

Trustee Keli'i Akina

Trustee Luana Alapa

Trustee Brendon Kalei'āina Lee

Trustee Mililani Trask

Trustee John Waihe'e, IV

## <u>ADMINISTRATIO</u>N:

Sylvia Hussey, CEO

Ramona Hinck, CFO

Casey Brown, COO

Everett Ohta, Interim General Counsel

Nietzsche Ozawa, Interim Sr. Legal Counsel

Capsun Poe, CE Director

Alice Silbanuz, Comm. Director

Lei-Ming Ayat-Verdadero, BSA Mgr.

Joshua Koh, Multi-Media Designer

Jason Lees, Multi-Media Designer

Tiger Li, IT Support

Kevin Chak, IT Support

Daniel Santos, IT support

## BOT STAFF:

Amber Kalua, Trustee Aide

Kanani Iaea, Trustee Aide

Lehua Itokazu, BOT Secretary

Kauikeaolani Wailehua. Trustee Aide

Brandon Mitsuda, Trustee Aide

Ruben Sierra, Trustee Aide

Nathan Takeuchi, Trustee Aide

Anuhea Diamond, Trustee Aide

Claudine Calpito, Trustee Aide

## **GUEST:**

Kamealoha Hanohano-Pa-Smith

**Roslyn Cummings** 

Pulama Callejo

Tara Rojas

Kamuela Wong

Kiara Rodrigues

Alfred Medeiros

Nikki Cristobal

Kamuela Wong Nawai Aipa-Rivera

Rupert Rowe

## Call to Order

**Chair Hulu Lindsey** Calls the Board of Trustees Meeting to order for Wednesday, June 22, 2022, at 6:03 p.m. Board Secretary, please do a roll call.

	MEMBERS		Present	TIME ARRIVED
TRUSTEE	LEINA'ALA	AHU ISA		Joined mtg at 6:07pm (Zoom)
TRUSTEE	DAN	AHUNA	X	
TRUSTEE	KALEI	AKAKA	X	
TRUSTEE	KELI'I	AKINA	X	
TRUSTEE	LUANA	ALAPA	X	
TRUSTEE	BRENDON KALEI'ĀINA	LEE	X	
TRUSTEE	MILILANI	TRASK	X	
TRUSTEE	JOHN	WAIHE'E	X	
CHAIRPERSON	CARMEN HULU	LINDSEY	X	
			8	

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

**Chair Hulu Lindsey** Aloha kākou everyone and welcome to our Kaua'i Island Community Meeting. We are hear to listen to all of you on your mana'o and thoughts.

As reminder for those joining by Zoom, please mute your mics when you are not speaking and have your cameras turned off until called upon. The virtual meeting can be viewed and observed via livestream on OHA's website at <a href="https://www.oha.org/livestream">www.oha.org/livestream</a>

We are recording today's meeting for the sole purpose of producing written minutes which will become the official record of this meeting. Before we begin, I would like to ask each Trustee to introduce themselves and their staff.

**Trustee** Lee Aloha mai kākou, I am Brendon Kalei'āina Lee; I am an At-Large Trustee for the OHA. It's nice to be back here on Kaua'i. Joining me tonight is my Aide, Lei-Ann Durant. Mahalo for having us.

**Trustee Akina** Aloha mai kākou, it is wonderful to see all of you tonight. We look foward to all your mana'o and hearing from you this evening. I would like to introduce my Aide, Ruben Sierra. Mahalo to Trustee Dan Ahuna for hosting us.

**Trustee Waihe'e** Aloha mai kākou, I want to thank everyone for coming out tonight. I am your Trustee At-Large and my Aide is Crayn Akina. I also want to thank Trustee Dan Ahuna and all the staff that put on this meeting. I look forward to hearing from all of you.

**Trustee Trask** Aloha Kaua'i 'ohana, I am Mililani and I live with my family in Ola'a on the Big Island. I am so happy to be here. I was so thankful two weeks ago, while on O'ahu, many of you folks called in that night because of all the dynamite that was happening. I was very thankful today that we had a chance to hear from others who are struggling to preserve the areas and the iwi. For that reason, I look forward to working with you. My Aide is Kaui Wailehua, aloha.

**Trustee Alapa** Aloha, so nice hearing from the Kaua'i people. I am so happy to be here; I am going into my second year serving as the Trustee for the islands of Moloka'i and Lāna'i. Big mahalo to Trustee Dan Ahuna and his staff, you folks did an outstanding job hosting and the 'ono food. I am looking forward to meeting all of you, hopefully, and of course hearing from you.

Trustee Akaka Aloha pumehana e Kaua'i 'ohana, I am so thankful to be here with you in person this year. I want to introduce myself; I am Kalei Akaka; I'm honored to serve as your O'ahu Trustee and as your Chair of the Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment. I am very proud to advocate for you. I also want to introduce my kōkua, Brandon Mitsuda, and my 'ohana. I want to mahalo our Kaua'i Trustee, Dan Ahuna, for having all of us here today. Also, Chair Hulu, her staff, and anyone here that made today possible. I want to mahalo the 'ohana that hosted today's site visit, that was very special and a good opportunity to hear what's going on in the community. Mahalo nui for letting us join you this evening and we look forward to what you have to share with us, mahalo.

**Trustee Ahu Isa** Aloha kākou, I am sorry I cannot be with you in person. I am happy that we can be face-to-face, even though I am participating through Zoom. My Trustee Aide is Nathan Takeuchi. Mahalo to Trustee Dan Ahuna for hosting the meeting.

Chair Hulu Lindsey I am the Maui Trustee and I presently chair our Board. I want to say aloha; thank you so much for coming this evening and we love to see the room full of beneficiaries. We know you have concerns and we are preparred to listen. Tonight, my staff with me is the Board Secretary, Lehua Itokazu, and my two Aides, Amber Kalua and Kanani Iaea. Also, we have our Chief Operating Officer, Casey Brown, he will be introducing our staff with us today.

Casey Brown, COO Aloha everyone, on Zoom we have our CEO-Sylvia Hussey, CFO-Ramona Hinck, Interim General Counsel-Everett Ohta, Interim Sr. Legal Counsel-Nietzsche Ozawa, Communications Director-Alice Silbanuz, Community Engagement Director-Capsun Poe, BSA Mngr.-LeiMing Ayat-Verdadero, IT Mngr.-Tiger Li, two of our Multi-Media Designers-Jason Lees and Josh Koh, and many other support staff online-Kevin and Dan.

Chair Hulu Lindsey Before I turn the mic over to your island Trustee, I want to thank Dan for the very warm hospitality that he has shown us while on island, and for all of you that came today to our site visit; mahalo nui for being so vigilant and for protecting our traditions and culture. With that said, I will turn the time over to your Trustee, Dan Ahuna.

**Trustee Ahuna** Welina mai kākou, thank you everyone for being here and taking the time to be here tonight. I would like to take the agenda out of order. After III. I would like to go to V. Community presenters first. Before I start, I would like to introduce my staff, my two Aides, Claudine Calpito and Anuhea Diamond. We are now moving to Community Presenters.

## **Community Presenters**

## Ko'olau Limu Project – Nalani Kaneakua and Lei Wann

Nalani Kaneakua Aloha kākou, I am Nalani, the Director – *inaudible*. Shares a 3-minute video on Koʻolau Kauaʻi Limu. *Inaudible*.

In the last two weeks, 4 ahupua'a are backed up or closed. Today, the 'ele'ele is growing in the river, it should be growing in the ocean. We have groups come through and we share our restoration project with them. We are growing huluhulu waena; I have not seen this since I was a kid. This seaweed needs fresh water and it is growing slowly.

Trustee Akaka Aloha Aunty Nalani, I would like to do a site visit one of these days.

Nalani Kaneakua Of course, bring your tubbies and goggles.

### Pihana ka 'Ikena - Sean Chun and Maco Wai'ae'ale

**Sean Chun** *Inaudible*. Pihana ka 'Ikena is a non profit. They focus on traditional Hawaiian healing. He expresses that a change needs to happen at Kamokila Village. They take care of the heiau located mauka; they do not see anyone else taking care of this area. They have many goals, some are creating a kauhale, creating a living museum, and bring a positive change to the environment mauka to makai in Wailua.

**Trustee Akaka** Are you looking for a home?

**Sean Chun inaudible** – recording is poor.

## Mālama Hule'ia - Peleke Flores

Nathan Chock Aloha, I am Nathan Chock; I am a board memeber for Mālama Hule'ia. Inaudible

**Peleke Flores** inaudilbe. His main concern is to secure land for the fish pond.

## **Community Concerns and Celebrations**

**Nawai Aipa-Rivera** He shares his kuleana to Wailua; he is a decendant from this area and takes care of the land while asking permission before gathering. He believes Kamokila has always been taken cared of and has operated to the best of their ability with what they had.

**Ka'ea'ea** Cruz He is a member of Pihana ka 'Ikena and looks up to all the men in this group. As a kanaka, and father, Pihana will do what is right on that land. Thank you all for coming.

William Fernandez Works at Kamokila Village and represents his family who has created and cared for Kamokila Village for over 60 years. They have installed infrastructure, a thatched hale, and many native plants and trees. Hundreds of school children from the Hawaiian islands have come to Kamokila. His 'ohana is committed to service the community and honor these Hawaiian traditions. He humbly asks for the continued support in their efforts to maintain their cultural heritage.

**Benjamin Fernandez** Shares that Kamokila is his 2nd home; his earliest memories are from the age of 8 years old. His is asking for OHA to assist and help get Kamokila back from DLNR.

William Fernandez Shares that people are saying the land is crying and he corrects them by saying yes, the land is crying for her family that took care of her to return back there. Kamokila was cared for by his family and

they have welcomed everyone to work together to possibly make the area better. He wants his family to return back to Kamokila so that they can continue to take care of her.

**Lehua Fernandez** Shares her memories as a child about Kamokila Village. Her family took care of this land and there was a heiau that she and her 'ohana looked after. Every generation has learned how to take care of this area.

**Mahina L.** She is from Wainiha and has lived there for fifty years; she expresses that her roots are deep. For many from Wainiha and other Kauai families, everyone is related. She has witnessed the floods of this area and the hewa that has taken place. There are thirty billionaires that live on Kaua'i she wants everyone to know how bad the state of affairs are for the Hawaiian people. Everyone is moving away, and she wants people to be able to move home. She encourages that everyone must work together.

Halealoha Ayau He brings up the ongoing concerns of the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) and their mismanagement of the burial sites program. This was brought up twice last year in different press conferences. This led to a resolution being passed by the legislature to create a cultural working group to investigate allegations of mismanagement by SHPD. He shares the history of how the program got started at SHPD and how it has gone downhill: lack of training, lack of responsibility, no adequate communication with the community with respect to inadvertent discoveries or claims to lineal and cultural descendants. Caring for our kūpuna is one of the most important kuleana. In an op-ed piece, he says he and Dr. Abad asked OHA, because the care of our kūpuna is one of the most important responsibilities that we have, that it was their opinion that it belongs to a Hawaiian entity and away from the tyranny of the State of Hawaii. He says they never got a formal answer. He states that if we are going to do this at the international level, then we need to do so at home first.

Andre Perez He is from Kōloa, Kaua'i and has been away for awhile and plans to return home soon; he wanted to visit his community in Kūloa where he grew up and where his mother is from. He wants to help his community and better understand the iwi issues. He is an organizer and wants to help organize his community and mālama the kūpuna. He acknowledges the work that Halealoha and many others have done to mālama the iwi over the past thirty-five years. He shares that over the thirty-five years, over 6,000 repatriations of iwi kūpuna have been secured. There are seven more kūpuna to come home this August. As a lāhui, we should seize the opportunity by any means; so much work and planning goes into bringing our iwi home and it does not come without cost to the na'au and spirit. As far he knows, OHA has not comitted any financial funding for this work. His small non-profit, Ko'ihonua, is using some of their money to support this work. He plans to ask his friends, Native Americans, for money but he does not believe he should be asking Native Americans for money to bring home our kūpuna. He hopes that a dialogue can happen and continue with OHA.

**Shane Cobb-Adams** Comes from Mānoa, but grew up in Anahola. His academic background is in psychology; he is a researcher by trade. He writes grants and helps start charter schools. He has dedicated over twenty-five years to the education field because the data says education is a transformative practices that can change the plate of our people, rise them up. He, among others in the community, feel that it is time for a change in Kamokila. He is in support of Pihana ka 'Ikena to take over and care for this land. He believes OHA will not see a better steward than Pihana ka 'Ikena

Josh Ka'ili Walters He is the most senior member of the mens group of Pihana ka 'Ikena. Since 2006, he has been a part of their lua, lomi lomi, and lau lapa'au. He explains that the group does everything for their culture and their cultural practices are only for them. They do not do it for tourist and tourist are not invited. He knows the Fernandez family; he is friends with them, he respects them. He explains that it is just one family, Pihana ka

'Ikena is a lot of families that are willing to take on more kuleana to support their community. He believes it is time for a change and the land belongs to the Hawaiians.

**Herbert "Pati" Faima** He resides in Anahola and speaks in support of Pihana ka 'Ikena to take care of Kamokila Village. His group promotes healing and everyone needs healing.

**Kaniho Giminiz** He is a full-time musician and also works at Mālama Hule'ia. He asks OHA to support Pihana ka 'Ikena to take care of Kamokila Village.

**Noa Ka'aumoana** He is from Hā'ena, his foundation and learnings are from hale Pihana ka 'Ikena. He has been able to learn a lot through Pihana and speaks in support of them taking care of Kamokila Village. He acknowledges and thanks the Fernandez 'ohana for taking care of Kamokila all these years.

**Kahealani Hamakua** She is originally from Moloka'i and has been living on Kaua'i for the past ten years. She is support of Pihana ka 'Ikena; she has been a part of their hui for more than five years. She supports the idea of Pihana ka 'Ikena taking care of Kamokila. She mahalos the Fernandez 'ohana that has taken care of this wahi.

Ashley Alapai Speaks on the protection of iwi kūpuna. Better laws are needed. She shares that people come from all over to mālama the iwi and encourages that people need to apply for the working group. She believes there is a disconnect between OHA and the Planning Commission, between OHA and SHPD, and OHA and the burial councils. She speaks on the housing in Hanalei that were suppose to be single housing dwellings and are now vacation rentals. This is continuous and more like this is happening around our island. She would like the word "inadvertent" to be changed to "desecration".

Erin Cobb Adams Born and raised in Anahola, and a proud member of Pihana ka 'Ikena; he shares that over time, with the influx of more people, the change of the community, different ideals and being a student at UH Hilo, he became a very angry Hawaiian. He came home with his biosystems engineering degree intending to become an engineer, but he had a hole eating at him; the hole was filled by working with children; he realized this while working as a tutor. He is specific on his community needs and shares that promises have been made on many levels by the State etc., nothing has changed. He states that if we do not support capacity building by Native Hawaiian communities that can address different issues on a personal level, an ohana level, a community level, then we are going to head in a bad direction. You cannot support building more homes on DHHL without supporting communities. You have to have organizations that address cultural identity and give Native Hawaiians a vision of how to function in this society, otherwise all those holes will end up in Hālawa prison and all the prisons in Hawai'i. He states that he is here today to give all his support Pihana ka 'Ikena

**Tara Rojas** Is from Ewa Beach Hawai'i, a kia'i and kanaka aligned; she is a kanaka ally. She will speak up and use her voice, share, and make connections to help huli the hewa. She thinks that OHA should be working more with DHHL, SHPD, the burial council, and DLNR. She believes that our minds, the mindset, need to decolonize, and everyone get together to huli the hewa. She hopes this meeting is not an hour long where everything falls on deaf ears. She wants Kaua'i to remain Kaua'i.

**Noelani Naumu** She mahalos the Fernandez 'ohana for all that they have done; she has known them since she was little, but her heart and na'au are with Pihana ka 'Ikena. She shares how vaccines almost killed her son but when Aunty Mako reached out to her, that is where the healings began for her son. The Pihana ka 'Ikena men have offered and shared so much with her husband, and have been there for him and her 'ohana. She has pilina to both sides and she is uncomfortable standing in front everyone, but she knows she needs to speak her truth. She states it is time for the evolution and time for the huli.

**Kulanui Perez** She is a student at UH West Oahu; she studies archaeology and shares that it is very hewa. She is the only kanaka in the program; she is the only student on her island of Kaua'i who is active on the campus as an archaeologist student. Things are happening from Princesville to Kekaha and have been surveyed by Kikuchi, an archaeologist who died over twenty years ago and a lot of his stuff is held on campus. She shares that their voices are being silenced due to the genocide that is happening in the archaeology community. Hawaiian voices do not matter; they will take any voice over a Hawaiian voice. Her request to OHA is representation, they need legal representation.

**Anna Peters** Originally from the Big Island but has resided on Kaua'i for the last 21 years, she has been a member of Pihana ka 'Ikena for the last 13 years. The group has done many community events, provided training to many schools and organizations. On Kaua'i, there is a high rate of teenage suicide, there is an infestation of drugs, and many kūpuna are raising their own grandchildren; she wonders why and how they can support their families to be stronger.

Ilima Rivera Born and raised on Wailua, Kaua'i. She has been a part of Kamokila Village for a long time where she has educated hundreds of school children and thousands of people from around the world. She shares some of the history of Kamokila Village and stories of our ali'i and festivals that took place. She would like to continue this work.

Kamealoha Hanohano Pa-Smith Has been working with the Fernandez 'ohana for a while. They needed help since they were having issues with their lease with DLNR. He assisted them by arranging meetings with DLNR and with OHA. They have been trying to figure out a way on how they could continue being the stewards of that 'āina. The entire situation has affected not one family but multiple families, school systems, and the community. He shares what he appreciates about the Fernandez family is that they are planted in both the traditional and modern world. He believes the solution is collaboration, and all the available land can be overseen by OHA as part of their legacy lands.

Maunakea Trask Shares that he is the ex-county attorney for Kaua'i. He volunteers for Uncle Rupert, specifically for Kāneiolouma, and is an ex-Vice Chair of the Kaua'i and Ni'ihau Island Burial Council. He shares that he believes that he is the only Kaua'i and Ni'ihau Burial Council member not to be renewed on the board. When he joined, the board had not met for six years. He started a Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) and went out into the communiy and found people, signed them up, and finally there was quorum. Things started to get done and he started to think that the State would follow the Hawaiian Administrative Rules. He had an idea to go out into the community and get kama'āina testimony-and identify where the iwi kūpuna were before the dozers came. He wrote up the affidavits for each testimony but then stopped getting agendas. He states that the answer to issues, to our iwi kupuna, are not a mistake. He believes everything that OHA has heard tonight is symptomatic of a larger issue, it is the lack of self-determination. As a Hawaiian, he is tired of his people, the community, and the nation getting scraps. This is our land, we have been here the longest and there is no logical explanation why we have the worse socio-economic status, housing, health, and education. This not who we are. He shares the good work done at Alekoko Fishpond. It was bought by Maluhine from Okada Trucking and given to Hawaiians; that was not State money, community money, or Hawaiian money. So far, we have been reactive as a community and defined by who we oppose and what we oppose. He believes we need to become developers with the money being received by DHHL and OHA. He is asking OHA to take the next step, Imua, kūlia i ka nu'u, this is our land and you are our Trustees. We should not be wards of the State, we should be the State. He states that the Trustees are his ali'i and they need to act accordingly. The game being played in not chess, it is konane. As long as there are moves, we have a chance. We need to do more than what has been done.

**Rupert Rowe** He is the Po'o at Kāneiolouma. He believes the identity of our people is important and that we all be called kānaka. Only a kanaka can make the pain disappear. There is no such person as a Hawaiian, that is a make believe word. He shares that he supports the Village and that we need to all move forward. His last request to OHA is that they take to the Supreme Court and demand that the identity of our people should be heard worldwide.

**Amber A.** She explains her genealogy and how it ties her to different places: Kaua'i, Hilo, and Honolulu. She hopes the Fernandez 'ohana and Pihana ka 'Ikena can collaborate and get along.

Nākai'elua Villatora She is here to testify against the continued desecration of 'āina, resources, and iwi kūpuna. The State Historical Preservation Division (SHPD) and County of Kaua'i need to be held accountable for the violations of their fidiciary duties. It is known that Kaua'i is the only island that when un earthing an iwi kūpuna is to reintern to different locations. She has experienced lack of proper procedures conducted by SHPD and the County of Kaua'i Planning Commission to benefit the private landowner. She has personally been intimidated by KPD off duty officers while documenting and filed a complaint that is currently being processed in the Police Commission. The developers have continually used explosives that are not permitted by the County. She urges OHA to assist in litigation and to hold each contractual agreement accountable for desecration.

**Roslyn Cummings** She speaks on working the front line for iwi kūpuna. She realizes that it is not only her responsibility but everyone's responsibility. Majority of the protectors are women. She is tired of the political aspect and the division among everyone when it comes to what will happen to the iwi. She has witnessed our own kānaka willing to dig up their own 'ohana and leave the rest of them in the ground. There are many developments that are coming up in Kōloa; she wants to know if everyone will let them build and be their servants or stand up.

**Kiara Rodrigues** She wants everyone to understand that when you want to protect iwi kupuna, there has to be a balance and think about the emotions, the imprints left on the kūpuna. She does this to protect our iwi and for her children and the next 21 generations.

**Alfred Medeiros** Is a kia'i from Oahu, an iwi and water protector. His ancestors came to him while he was in Kōloa and told him to stand firm and hold that line. He says OHA needs to become more involved, he doesn't believe they are there for the Hawaiians; the Trustees have more than a job, they have kuleana. He is willing to get arrested and die protecting the iwi.

## **Announcements**

Trustee Ahuna Tomorrow morning we have our Board meeting at 9:30 am back in this same room.

## **Adjournment**

Trustee Waihe'e Moves to adjourn the meeting.

Trustee Akaka Seconds the motion.

Adjournment							
TRUSTEE		1	2	'AE (YES)	A'OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
LEINA'ALA	AHU ISA						Left meeting at 9:20 am
DAN	AHUNA			X			
KALEIHIKINA	AKAKA		X	X			
KELI'I	AKINA			X			
LUANA	ALAPA						Was not present at the time roll call
BRENDON KALEI'ĀINA	LEE			X			
MILILANI	TRASK			X			
JOHN	WAIHE'E	X		X			
CHAIR CARMEN HULU	LINDSEY			X			
TOTAL VOTE CO	DUNT			7			

Chairperson Carmen Hulu Lindsey Adjourns the Board of Trustees meeting at 9:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lehua Itokazu
Board Secretary

As approved by the Board of Trustees on January 26, 2023.

Carmen Hulu Lindsey
Chairperson, Board of Trustees

Attachments:

The recording for this community meeting was inaudible for many parts. A video recording is available upon request. Email <a href="mailto:botmeeting@oha.com">botmeeting@oha.com</a>

## Attachments:

- 1. Community Sign-in Sheet
- 2. Island Community Report Executive Summary



MEETING TYPE:

[ ] BOARD

6/22/22

[ ] COMMITTEE

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

LOCATION:

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MEETING TYPE:

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

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6/22/22

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MEETING TYPE:

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[4] COMMUNITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

LOCATION: KCC - F

FEES MEETING 6/22/22 KCC - Fine Arts Auditorium

Lithue Kawai

NAME AND/OR	STREET	ADDRESS	ZIP CODE	AREA CODE /	FMAII
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BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

LCC - Fine Arts Auditorium

Lihue, Kauai

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Lihue, Kauai

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## Island Community Report: Kaua'i

**Executive Summary** 



## Current Native Hawaiian Conditions on Kaua'i



## Educational Pathways Data

- 27% of Kaua'i DOE students are Native Hawaiian (2,627 / 9,658) and 92% of the two Kaua'i Hawaiian Focused Charter students are Native Hawaiian.
- Of the total number of Kaua'i Island Class of 2021 public high school graduates (662), 33% (217) were Native Hawaiian.



### Health Outcomes Data

- As of June 6th, the COVID-19 positivity rate (7-day moving average) is 26.5% (220 daily average tests), there are 9 new hospitalizations (220 total), and have been 30 total deaths in Kaua'i County
- 78% of Kaua'i County residents received at least one (1) dose of a COVID-19 vaccine (55,896), 72% received at least two (2) doses (51,875), and 48% received more than two (2) doses (33,867).



## Quality Housing Data

- The Native Hawaiian homeownership rate in Kaua'i was 66%, compared to 62% for the total Kauai population and 56% of the statewide Native Hawaiian population.
- The Department of Hawaiian Homelands has 743 leases on Kaua'i, 7% of the 9,957 leases statewide.
- DHHL lands on Kaua'i comprise a total of 20,575 acres, 10% of the total 203,981 acre DHHL land holdings.
- 4,315 Native Hawaiians are waitlisted for Residential (1,707), Agricultural (2,280), and Pastoral (328) lots.



## **Economic Stability Data**

- 22% of Native Hawaiians on Kaua'i have some college but no degree, 13% have an associate's degree, 7% have a bachelor's degree, and 5% have a graduate or professional degree.
- Native Hawaiian Median Household Income in Kaua'i County was \$67,230, compared to \$65,101 for all races Native Hawaiian Median Household Income was 103% of all races countywide.
- The COVID-19 pandemic had significant negative effect on Native Hawaiian household finances. Many Native Hawaiian survey respondents on Kaua'i reported being worse off during than before the pandemic, including an increase from 2% to 15% of Native Hawaiians who were not making ends meet.

## Current Issues on Kaua'i

Kauanoe o Koloa Project: On April 19 and 20, 2022, OHA Compliance Program was in receipt of several beneficiary complaints regarding the County permitting of work for the subject project, allegations of disturbed heiau, and reports of destruction of Kaua'i cave spider habitat. The alleged heiau disturbance was subsequently reported to the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) and the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) as a possible HRS 6E-11 violation. OHA Compliance Program further put out a request to the County for any permit approvals related to the project and evidence of some kind of Ka Pa'akai Analysis in fulfillment of Article XII, Section 7, constitutional obligations. See Full Report, page 19

Polihale State Park Mismanagement: Stakeholders have proposed a plan to address the state's mismanagement of increasing public abuse of the Polihale State Park, which has resulted in harm to the park's cultural resources, including burials and heiau. See Full Report, page 13 Missile Defense Agency (MDA) Re-Opening of Public Scoping to now include Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF): PMRF is one of two sites currently being considered as a possible site for a homeland defense radar. Advanced planning studies and an EIS narrowed the siting prospects from four to two, which triggers a re-opening of public scoping and commenting. This re-opening of the public scoping and commenting is considered pre-consultation and precedes the release of the EIS. OHA Compliance Program will continue to monitor this project, track community input and then review and provide OHA's formal comments on the EIS when it is available. See Full Report, page 14

<u>Wai'oli Valley Taro Hui:</u> The partnership between OHA and University of Hawai'i's Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law continues to assist area taro farmers with securing necessary permits and approvals to ensure that they can legally continue to use Wai'oli Stream's water after the 2018 flooding damaged the area's lo'i kalo system. See Full Report, page 16

Hanapēpē Early Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA) Outreach for Port Allen Airport Security Fence: The environmental review process and associated CIA were initiated for a project intended to replace the existing Port Allen Airport fence, which is located near the Hanapepe Salt Ponds, an important cultural resource that has been the subject of several BOT Kaua'i community meetings. OHA Administration will continue monitor the project and review the Environmental Assessment and CIA when they are ready for review. See Full Report, page 15

## Current Grantees Serving Kaua'i

Kanu O Ka ʿĀina Learning 'Ohana • Hawaiian Community Assets • Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement • Hawaii Community Lending • Kukulu Kumuhana O Anahola • The Hawaiian Church of Hawaii Nei • Supporting the Language of Kauai, Inc. • Hawaiian Islands Land Trust • Alu Like, Inc. • Hanalei River Heritage Foundation • Āina Hoʻokupu o Kilauea • Kupu • Homestead Community Development Corporation • Papa Ola Lokahi • University of Hawaii at Manoa

## Current Kaua'i Lending

• 22 active Native Hawaiian Revolving Loan Fund/Consumer Micro Loan Program loans, \$1,340,126 total amount lent