

**STATE OF HAWAI‘I
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
L & R Farms
2030 Farrington Ave.
Kaunakakai, HI. 96748**

Due to the threat of COVID-19, Governor Ige issued the most recent Emergency Twenty First Supplementary Proclamation dated June 7, 2021 that suspend parts of Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter 92, Public Agency Meetings and Records to, among other things, enable boards to conduct business without any board members or members of the public physically present at the same location.

The OHA Board of Trustees will hold virtual meetings until further notice. The virtual meetings can be viewed and observed via livestream on OHA’s website at www.oha.org/livestream or listen by phone: (213) 338-8477

**Moloka‘i Site Visit -1 Summary
Office of Hawaiian Affairs
Board of Trustees
Summary Report
July 18, 2022 – 10:30 A.M.**

ATTENDANCE:

Chairperson Carmen Hulu Lindsey
Trustee Kaleihikina Akaka
Trustee B. Kalei‘āina Lee
Trustee Luana Alapa
Trustee Dan Ahuna

BOT STAFF:

Lehua Itokazu, Board Secretary
Dayna Pa, Trustee Aide
Crayn Akina, Trustee Aide
Brandon Mitsuda, Trustee Aide
Ruben Sierra, Trustee Aide
Pohai Ryan, Trustee Aide
Anuheha Diamond, Trustee Aide

ADMINISTRATION:

Capsun Poe, Community Engagement Director
Alice Silbanuz, Director of Communications

GUEST:

Lyn Decoite
RJ
Walter Rawlins

I. Call to Order

Site visit starts at 11:00 a.m. The site visit starts late and everyone gathers on Maunaloa Hwy.

II. Introduction

Everyone introduces themselves to one another.

III. Site Visit

A. L & R Farms



Decoite Shares how he and wife, Lynn, both grew up on Moloka‘i working on family farms. Lynn worked on her 3rd generation family farm, and he worked on his family farm.

Together, they now grow the sweet potato that Lynn’s grandmother grew. They are 3rd generation farmers and their kids are 4th generation farmers. They are trying their best to encourage their children to be active in the family farm because it is rare to find 4th generation farmers.

They had difficulty selling their crop early on and decided to promote their product to hotels and chefs. The story of their 3rd generation owned farm was featured in restaurants and has a specific niche that they are able to cater to.

He explains that the reason why you do not see their potatoes in big chain stores is the cost to grow the potatoes and the market price that they would have to sell it at, the stores would not be profitable. There is no way they could stay in business. They are able to sell a quality potato and at better price by selling to the hotels and restaurants directly, creating added value.

COVID affected their farm because hotels and restaurants were shut down. Product was at a halt and their 500 acres were not producing. They are slowly starting up again and anticipate the Asian markets opening back up. They are planting an acre a week so that he can harvest an acre a week. The thought behind this is so they do not flood the market. The potato takes six months to grow and this will allow fresh product when needed.

They explain that they use MIS water on the particular property that they were showing. The farm is on DHHL land which gives them priority on the first two-thirds of water. They explain any water restrictions or cut-backs will affect them and they will uphold the same restrictions for the area they are farming. Having a vast amount of land allows the farm to rotate planting or keeping the land fallow. They look forward to getting their product back into the market



IV. Public Testimony

None

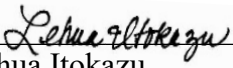
V. Announcements

None

VI. Adjournment

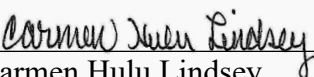
The site visit ended at 11:30 am

Respectfully submitted,



Lehua Itokazu
Board Secretary

Site Visit Summary Approved at Board of Trustees Meeting on January 12, 2023.



Carmen Hulu Lindsey
Chairperson, Board of Trustees


Attachments:

1. Excused Memo – Trustee Ahu Isa
2. Excused Memo – Trustee Akina
3. Excused Memo – Trustee Trask
4. Excused Memo – Trustee Waihe‘e



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS MEMORANDUM

Mea ho'omana'o a ke Ke'ena Kuleana Hawai'i

To: Chairperson Carmen Hulu Lindsey
From: Trustee Leina'ala Ahu Isa, Ph.D. 
Date: July 17, 2022
Re: Excused Absence – Two Site Visits

Please be advised that I am unable to attend the following two (2) Site Visits of the Board of Trustees:

(1) L & R Farms on Monday, July 18, 2022, at 10:30 A.M.; and

(2) Kunani and Ipolani Nihipali Residence - Ho'olehua Homestead on Monday, July 18, 2022, at 11:30 A.M.

If you have any questions, please contact my office.

Mahalo!



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Office of Trustee Keli'i Akina, Ph.D.
Interoffice Memorandum

Date: 18 July 2022
To: Chair Hulu Lindsey
CC: Lehua Itokazu, Kanani Iaea, Amber Kalua
From: Trustee Akina
Subject: OHA BOT Molokai Site Visits – July 18, 2022
L & R Farms 10:30 AM
Kunani & Ipolani Nihipali Residence 11:30 AM

Aloha e Chair Hulu Lindsey,

Referencing the OHA Molokai Island Site Visits on Monday, July 18, 2022, I will be returning from a previous travel engagement, and, regretfully, will not arrive on Molokai until late afternoon. While I will miss the morning site visits, I will be able to attend the BOT dinner and meeting at 5:00 PM and 6:30 PM, respectively, and the BOT meeting on July 19.

Please extend my apology to the Board.

Sincerely,

Trustee Akina



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Trustee Mililani B. Trask
Interoffice Memorandum

Date: July 17, 2022

To: Trustee Hulu Lindsey, Chair – Board of Trustees

From: Trustee Mililani B. Trask

Re: Excuse Absence for the Site Visit of the Board of Trustees to L&R Farms –
07/18/22 – 10:30 a.m.

Aloha Chair Lindsey,

Please excuse me from the Site Visit of the Board Trustees to L&R Farms on Monday, July 18, 2022. Please extend my excused absence and sincere apologies to the other members of the board.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mililani B. Trask", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mililani B. Trask
Trustee, Hawai'i Island

PHONE (808) 594-1888



FAX (808) 594-1868

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
560 N. NIMITZ HIGHWAY, SUITE 200
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

MEMORANDUM

TO: Trustee Carmen Hulu Lindsey, Chair
Board of Trustees (BOT)

FROM: Trustee John Waihe'e, IV, Member / At-Large

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Waihe'e, IV", written over a horizontal line.

DATE: July 16, 2022

SUBJECT: ATTENDANCE FOR THE 07/18 BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT)
SITE VISITS (2)

I am unable to attend the two site events scheduled for Wednesday, 07/18 - which include visits to: 1) L & R Farms; and 2) Kunani and Ipolani Nihipali's Ho`olehua Homestead Residence.

This memo serves as a request to be EXCUSED from these two site visits.

Please also extend my apologies to the rest of the Board of Trustees.

Mahalo.