

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 560 N. Nimitz Hwy., Suite 200, Honolulu HI 96817. All members of the public that wish to access the physical meeting location must pass a wellness check and provide proof of full vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours of entry.

Minutes of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs
Board of Trustees
MINUTES
August 31, 2023

ATTENDANCE:

Chairperson Carmen Hulu Lindsey
Trustee Dan Ahuna
Trustee Kaleihikina Akaka
Trustee Keli‘i Akina
Trustee Luana Alapa
Trustee Brickwood Galuteria
Trustee J. Keoni Souza
Trustee Mililani Trask
Trustee John Waihe‘e, IV

ADMINISTRATION:

Colin Kippen, Interim CEO
Casey Brown, COO
Ramona Hinck, CFO
Everett Ohta, Interim General Counsel
Nietzsche Ozawa, Interim Senior Legal Counsel
Carla Hostetter, Director, Office of Strategy Management
Alice Silbanuz, Director of Communications
Vijoy Chattergy, CIO
Kevin Chak, IT Support
Daniel Santos, IT Support
David Kozuki, IT Support

BOARD STAFF:

Lehua Itokazu, Board Secretary
Amber Kalua, Trustee Aide
Kanani Iaea, Trustee Aide
Anuhea Diamond, Trustee Aide
LeiAnn Durrant, Trustee Aide
Sommer Soares, Trustee Aide
Kahelalani Keawekane, Trustee Aide
Pohai Ryan, Trustee Aide
Kyla Hee, Trustee Aide
Richelle Kim, Trustee Aide
Mark Watanabe, Trustee Aide

Guest:

Nainoa Logan
Gerry Flintoft
Nainoa Logan

Call to Order

Chair Hulu Lindsey I'd like to call today's Board of Trustees meeting to order. Let the record reflect it is Thursday, August 31st, 2023, and the time is 10:03 a.m.

MEMBERS			Present	TIME ARRIVED
TRUSTEE	DAN	AHUNA	X	
TRUSTEE	KALEI	AKAKA	X	
TRUSTEE	KELI'I	AKINA		Joins meeting at 10:22 am
TRUSTEE	LUANA	ALAPA	X	
TRUSTEE	BRICKWOOD	GALUTERIA	X	
TRUSTEE	J. KEONI	SOUZA	X	
TRUSTEE	MILILANI	TRASK	X	
TRUSTEE	JOHN	WAIHE'E	X	
CHAIRPERSON	CARMEN HULU	LINDSEY	X	
			8	

There are **eight (8)** Trustees PRESENT, thereby constituting a quorum.

Chair Hulu Lindsey Aloha kākou everyone and welcome to our Board of Trustees meeting. This meeting can be viewed and observed via livestream on OHA's website at www.oha.org/livestream. We are recording today's meeting for the sole purpose of producing written minutes, which will become the official record of this meeting. Joining us today, we have our Board Counsel, Robert Klein, and our Interim CEO, Colin Kippen. Colin, would you please introduce our administrative staff joining us today.

Colin Kippen, Interim CEO Aloha kākou Trustees, thank you. I'd like to introduce Casey Brown, our Chief Operations Officer.

Casey Brown, COO Mahalo, from Administration is Interim General Counsel-Everett Ohta, Chief Financial Officer-Ramona Hinck, Interim Senior Legal Counsel-Nietzsche Ozawa. We also have our Communications Director-Alice Silbanuz and our Strategy Management Director-Carla Hostetter. We are always supported by our IT team, on the line we have Dan Santos and Kevin Chak, our System Engineers. Mahalo.

Chair Hulu Lindsey Thank you. Moving on to our first item on the agenda, Lehua, do we have anyone signed up to testify on this item?

Board Secretary No one is signed up to speak on this item.

New Business

Introduction of Board Investment Consultant, Consequent Capital Management, LLC – Vijoy Chattergy, Chief Investment Officer.

Chair Hulu Lindsey I'd like to introduce to the Trustees this morning our new Board Investment Consultant from Consequent Capital Management LLC, Mr. Vijoy Chattergy, who is its Chief Investment Officer?

Vijoy Chattergy, CIO Aloha kākou, thank you Chair, Trustees, staff and everyone else present. I want to start with a big mahalo for the opportunity to introduce ourselves today. I know you have some very serious items on the agenda in terms of what our island community is going through. We would like to

begin with some of the work we need to do on behalf of the Trustees. My name is Vijoy Chattergy and I serve as the Chief Investment Officer for Consequent Capital Management. I have grown up in the islands and then lived away for many years, often for school and for career, living in many of the major financial capitals of the world, but Hawai'i is always home for me and I live here now. I have been back for about 14 years or so. I'll note that in terms of my family, through two generations, we have about 100 years of public service on behalf of the State, mostly at the University of Hawaii but also in the public school system and at the Employees Retirement System. I am joined here today by one colleague, Gerry Flintoft, who is one of our private markets specialists and is very familiar with real estate and private equity. I hope you all get a chance to meet Gerry while he is here. I believe that some of our other colleagues have dialed in and are maybe listening, including Ken Simon, who is the CEO, Scott Chicho, who is originally from Hawai'i and now lives in Atlanta, he is the Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer of Consequent. Consequent is very privileged and honored to be able to serve the Board of Trustees at OHA. We were selected through a competitive public RFP. Consequent is based both in Atlanta and in Honolulu. It is African American owned and many of our clients include universities, hospital systems, Taft Hartley plans; some of them, though not all of them, are historical black college universities and indigenous tribes. We look forward to the relationship with OHA.

We are serving as the Independent Board Consultant and in that role, we look to be a trusted adviser and consultant to the Board and to work collaboratively with staff, your service providers, and fund managers as well. Our primary aim is to give independent and fiduciary directed advice to the Board on the investment of the Native Hawaiian Trust Fund and to do that primarily for the benefit of the Hawaiian people through their elected representation of the Trustees. That is how we view our role. I will note that for myself personally, the way I have always added value to clients and to employers over time is that I focus on portfolio construction and asset allocation, risk management and manager selection. I've had a fairly successful track record doing that. I note those value-added skills only to differentiate that we are not stock pickers. We are not going to tell you that you should invest in more Apple stock for example. There are people who make it their livelihood to do that. Also, we are not forecasters, so we don't necessarily know is the S&P 500 going to be up at the end of the year or if the recession is going to start in February. We may have opinions and informed opinions, but that's not really where we add value. We will add value to portfolio construction, risk management, and, although not necessarily for this mandate, we have a lot of relationships and we do due diligence on managers.

Our primary mandate, as I understand it, is that we are going to focus on policies. We are going to review, recommend, and comment on existing policies that will include the investment policy statement, the spending policy, governance, and any other policies that we're asked to have an opinion and give advice on, we are happy to do that. Second, we'll also review the portfolios in terms of the structure of your portfolio, the strategies that are included, and we intend to also have opinions and look at the fund managers and the service providers that you have managing the Native Hawaiian Trust Fund. We will also review and evaluate the performance over time and think about how it might perform in the markets as they're changing and going forward. Finally, we will also provide investment education for the Trustees and look forward to working with the Trustees individually and in groups. Education can be ongoing; it also can be selected on certain topics that are of interest to the Trustees. In addition to ourselves and Consequent, we have a network of experts that we can bring in to bear on particular topics so that you can get other perspectives and independent voices as you take more ownership and understanding of the way the investment assets should be managed.

In terms of next steps, we're very excited and honored to be here, and we are looking forward to working with everyone. We're hoping in the coming weeks and months that we're going to have the chance to

meet with the Trustees individually, with your staff, and with the OHA staff as well. We also plan to speak with each of the Manager of Managers to understand how they view and manage your assets. We will also talk to the service providers, then in the next coming months, we expect to look closely at the governance structure that the Board uses to oversee the Trust Fund as well as provide education. We are already starting to put together some suggestions. I'm looking forward to getting to know everyone very well, as is my colleague Gerry and the rest of the Consequent team. We're happy to conclude our remarks there and/or answer any questions that you might have at this time. We certainly appreciate that you have some big agenda items.

Chair Hulu Lindsey When I hear you say the word education, I am assuming that you mean you will gather us in a training situation so that we can learn more.

Vijoy Chattergy, CIO Absolutely. Whatever makes it most convenient for the Trustees, we will cater to that. We also feel that there are opportunities when it comes to managers and asking them to provide education or conferences. We will be happy to have separate sessions and tailor it to the Trustees as a group or individually.

Trustee Alapa Regarding the portfolio, what is your vision and where would you like to see the portfolio be in the next 3-4 years?

Vijoy Chattergy, CIO We have not done our formal review of the portfolio but we have had a look at it. As the assets continue to grow for OHA, you are getting to a size that you should be thinking about updating the overall structure of the portfolio and to be a bit more focused on strategies and managing for risk downside the way a lot of institutions see their portfolio. I also think that you want to think of your portfolio holistically toward the goals as you as Trustees are defining in terms of returns, risks, and in terms of the types of exposures that you want. We anticipate the markets to be more challenging over the next decade, we possibly may need to consider what other strategies can enhance that. In 2022, many markets, particularly portfolios that were exposed to only traditional stocks and equities, performed poorly. Many came back in 2023 but 2022 was a wakeup call. For a long-term investor that does not need to call on those assets at that time, it might not be such an issue because markets will come back, but if you are funding programs or giving out grants, the timing of those sorts of cash flows independent of the market conditions proved to be problematic for an institution. We want to make sure the portfolio, to the best of our abilities, will always support your mission and your vision.

Trustee Souza I like that you mention the real estate aspect of it and maximizing the potential of our portfolio so that we can do more for our beneficiaries. Thank you guys, I look forward to working with you. Mahalo.

Trustee Trask Mahalo Vijoy. When we looked at retaining you, I was pleased to see the services that you would render included some training. When I came on to the Board, there was a debate going on about Bitcoin. The debate was some Trustees wanted to put money towards this. I was not sure about it because this does not have any type of history. The first several months this thing was pumping and now principles are going to prison, everybody lost their money. I am not sure how we judge the stability and the future. I am telling you this because you will be giving us training. When you go through the training, it will help me understand if you go through the examples. I will need advice that will not necessarily be portfolio advice but whether or not I should take land and convert it to our portfolio. The State now owes our office hundreds of millions. Do we look at collecting it for portfolio investments? Is it risky? Should we say we will take 300 acres instead of the \$600 million that you owe us? I just want to put this out there. One of the things that we are trying to do is balance assets in the portfolio and assets that remain in the 'āina. I am so happy to have someone here to give us advice.

Vijoy Chattergy, CIO I will note that something like Bitcoin was very alluring to a lot of investors. I was very surprised to learn that many endowments made investments in the Bitcoin early on. For me, my questions back to them were can I see your policy proposal, your procedures on how to approve this investment? That to me would have been interesting to understand how you convince a board of trustees that have fiduciary responsibility to make that kind of an investment. At the time, it's a little speculative, I don't know what it exactly does. I don't fully understand the parameters of that market and I never got a chance to look at that policy, they never shared it. I would say that one of the ways that you, as institutional investors, as fiduciaries, and Trustees, can manage your portfolio is to know your long-term investors, policies, and procedures. You have to go back to two things, what are your existing and governing policies? And secondly, go back to your mission as you've defined it. What are you trying to accomplish? It's not to get the highest returns in your investment portfolio, it's to support your mission in supporting the people of Hawai'i, the Hawaiians of Hawai'i. As long as you're able to achieve that over the long term, which is into perpetuity, then whether you invest in the highest-flying investment idea that some investment bank brings to you or not isn't really what you're trying to do. I hope people make a lot of money off Bitcoin or what have you. I don't have anything against people doing that, but does it fit with your policies, and does it will help you to achieve your mission as you've defined it as a Trustee? That's the important thing to keep you disciplined to know, hey, am I getting too far out ahead into things that I don't understand, but they sound good? That's the kind of a check that I would encourage over time. We can talk about that when it comes to governance and fiduciary responsibilities, we'll have those conversations and training until you feel comfortable. The second part of what you were talking about when it comes to things outside of the portfolio, we have a very specific mandate to advise you. I know when Punahou receives land as a donation, they quickly sell it and take the cash and invest it in the portfolio. I think it is a cultural difference. A lot of the ali'i trust, if they get land as a contribution, they tend to hold on to it.

I'm talking about land in Hawai'i. There's a cultural and a value difference in that approach. I'm not saying that one is better than the other, but you as a trustee and an overseer, have the fiduciary responsibilities to recognize those values and that difference. This should help to guide you in terms of what you would do with that kind of an opportunity. Now I'll note more recently, if you look at something like Kamehameha Schools, they have moved into selling some land and being strategic in a different way. It seems like that came about through a process of discussion and decision making. I would advise that that would be the kind of collaborative conversation that you, as trustees, would have to be able to make that decision. And then we, as your advisors, would say, have you gone through a process? Does this make sense? We would help to make sure that whatever the decision or policy is going to be executed as to your direction. That is sort of our role and it may be another party, a fund manager or special manager that actually executes a sale or managing a land asset. We would help you to make sure that the decision is a sound decision, right or wrong, but it's a sound decision, and that the decision is being implemented and executed as to your prescribed policies.

Trustee Trask If I could follow up with a few things. One, because you're going to be helping us with policies, the time will come when we are not here, and neither are you. The policies of this office will survive. When I looked at policy and talked with this attorney, he said that the practice is to have your policies express them with brevity. I really disagree because most Hawaiians don't have any kind of background. We have to go from land to portfolio or we're going from cash out the money and pick up this sacred area. When we get to that and look at the policies, I think we should approach it with the mind that the future OHA board members may not have a strong background in investment, in the portfolio, and I would like to have a segment of the training that helps us as trustees. What does that mean? Are we going to get the Bitcoin or not? The second thing is, I would like something in the training. If you could

advise or help us with regards to how we might invest jointly with other Government and private sectors that work for our people, not everybody in the public, not this private company but our people. Example: moving now, we have several properties, it's land, it's not a portfolio. Some people are saying too much pilikia. I tell you, Trustees, get rid of them. Turn it back over, Saiki wants it and you're not going to get past them. Get the money and put them into the portfolio, but on this parcel at Kaka'ako we have also the Kamehameha schools.

I've spoken with their CEO, some of their Trustees, no details, but let's leave the door open. We help Hawaiian children to be educated, that is one of your goals isn't it? The other thing is that right now, Trustee Kalei Akaka and I are going to come to the Board to partner with DHHL for Kūpuna housing; a high-rise structure for them. LT, Lili'uokalani Trust, is another Hawaiian trust that serves our people. So, in two instances now, other trusts are coming forward to begin this discussion and I feel like I need some guidance. We all are big trusts, one caring for kūpuna, one to help education, and us for everything else. How can we partner so that we can maximize our trust with all three?

Trustee Akina Mr. Chattergy, thank you for being here. How would you describe the line between fiduciary oversight, which must be exercised by trustees, and management of assets, which is an administrative function? Where would you draw the line so that we know the difference? And the second question would be, how can you equip us so that, even though we don't have financial management backgrounds per say, we will be confident in carrying out our fiduciary oversight?

Vijoy Chattergy, CIO Thank you for the question. I look forward to working with you going forward. I would respond in terms of how do you delineate the oversight, the fiduciary responsibility, versus kind of the more operational or execution? First, I would say that fiduciary responsibilities at the end of the day can never be delegated away. It is always the fiduciary responsibility of the Trustees as the governing body and the oversight body for all of OHA but it's especially for the investment portfolio; therefore, any operational execution that is taken on behalf of the organization, the Trustees, at the end of the day, must be comfortable and feel that they have the right level of transparency and accountability from any group. That delineates what staff, what your service provider should be doing. They should be executing and fulfilling your policy mandate as you've defined it, and then they need to be able to report back and be transparent and accountable for executing that policy. This would be typical in most institutions on the way they sort of divide up the idea of fiduciary versus operational or execution. At the end of the day, the Trustees should not only feel comfortable with the policies that they're making, but they should feel that anything that they need to understand can be explained to them or shown to them over time by whomever is the group that is executing your policy and procedures.

Trustee Akina I appreciate those broad strokes and agree with you, but could you give me some examples as to what activities the Trustees should be engaged in? Regarding their fiduciary duty and what activities the Administration would be doing, what would be the difference between the two?

Vijoy Chattergy, CIO For example, the Trustees would want to define the policies and procedures that might include the amount of risk, the types of investments that are acceptable to be in the portfolio, and then they might delegate to staff or managers to go out and execute that. For example, let's take something like private equity where Jerry is an expert. Often what consultants and fund managers will tell you is that you need to be nimble because opportunities come up and the managers need to make decisions. If you go back to a board, then it takes too long and you miss the opportunity so, what some institutional investors will do is the board will say, okay, we will give you something that we're going to define as discretion in a box. At the beginning of the year, your consultant will come and tell us what's your plan for private equity? What are the kinds of investments you are going to make? What's the

allocation to this strategy or that strategy? How much dollars are we thinking about committing? Then every quarter and again at the end of every year, they need to come back and tell the Trustees, based on the discretion that you gave us, this is what we did, and it met your guidelines or there was a violation and so we did this to correct it. Buyouts and what have you, a board would be able to maintain its fiduciary responsibility but allow for the operation to be responsive and flexible to market conditions, but not to the point where suddenly they're taking discretion outside the box, right? We've defined the box at the beginning of the year. We expect you to show the transparency and accountability of how you're executing that. Then you come back as often as you want but come back at least once a year and let's see what you did. That's redefined into the following year's discretion in a box. That's one example in one particular asset class where the Board would be able to maintain its fiduciary role and still demand accountability and transparency by anyone they're delegating the execution to.

Trustee Akina Thank you and I appreciate you talking about staying within the box or drawing within the lines. I think the same is true for the Trustees. We also have to define the box within which we operate and stay within that as well.

Trustee Galuteria Thank you Chair. Your reflection, we're about to embark on the conversation about Maui. A couple of days into the devastation HECO's stock plummeted, a couple of days later it came back. What do you attribute that to?

Vijoy Chattergy, CIO Let me preface my answer by first saying that I don't have any special insight or knowledge about what's going on with HECO stock or HECO activities. I just read what's in the newspaper. I don't want to influence or act like I know something that I don't know. I'll also note that HECO stock was the first stock I ever bought myself, and I still own it. It's kind of just buy and hold forever kind of a thing and whatever it becomes is fine. What I would say is that there are a lot of investors and people who follow a stock like HECO, and what happened on Maui caused the traditional investor and a manipulative energy provider has a very different investment outlook and opportunity than the risk profile that was created because of the events on Maui. You have many stock investors realizing that's not something to be holding anymore, so they sell. I guess they have some clarity in terms of who is responsible for what happened on Maui. Other investors may have sold off too much and then decide it's not going to be as bad and make something of an investment. Again, that's probably a very different profile than the sort of the mom-and-pop investor that traditionally holds Hawaiian Electric in Hawai'i. They're going to cause the price of that stock to move even daily, as you described it, based on information that becomes available in the public. That gives some idea of what the future prospects are for the company and for the stock. For a typical mom and pop Hawai'i investor like me, who bought and do a monthly investment or something, you don't really think about it. That's not the game that we do but unfortunately, we are affected by it at this point with everything that's going on. Let me just leave it there because I really don't have any special insight.

Trustee Galuteria The day traders that made it come back so quickly it...

Vijoy Chattergy, CIO Could be. You could describe them as day traders or other types of speculators, yes.

Trustee Akaka I just wanted to say welcome to Vijoy and Jerry. Mahalo nui for taking on this endeavor with us. We're looking forward to working with you. One of the things I wanted to ask you is in terms of the holistic approach that you had mentioned earlier, what would be the time frame we are looking at?

Vijoy Chattergy, CIO It is a process and we need everyone to buy into it. You want to make changes in an institutional portfolio for the long term. I think our first effort will be to review policy and make

recommendations in terms of board structure in governance, and simultaneously we will be talking to different managers. We would then come back to the Trustees and talk about our findings there. Based on feedback that we get from you, then we would have a better idea of what the timing would be to making changes. Reaching a holistic view is a way to manage a multi asset strategy portfolio. We're learning and we can measure that in the existing structure. What is the impact of having so much money with JP Morgan or Goldman Saks? We can start to identify that and then make a case on what kind of changes or best transitions need to happen. It is not an exact answer, but I think this will be ongoing and it will be important to keep having these conversations moving forward.

Trustee Akaka I have a better idea now, thank you. I hear what you are saying, I am also applying it to some of the investment training and conversations we had with Commonfund in February of this last year in terms of the movement that we need to make and needing to do that sooner than later.

Chair Hulu Lindsey I would like to say that Vijoy will be reporting to the Resource Management Committee under the leadership of Trustee Waihe'e. There's no question in my mind, just from this introduction, that I think we need to look at the policies immediately. I remember when I was the Resource Management Chair and I went to a New York conference with our Investment Manager at the time, and I was standing by him and I heard him telling one of the money managers, *oh, I think I'm going to move \$10 million to another fund.* And I thought, wow, this guy is so powerful. He is moving our money; he doesn't have fiduciary duty without asking us. I asked him afterwards can you just do that? He said *Ohh yeah, me and the CEO have the authority to do that without the Board.* That's when this whole thing came about that we needed an investment advisor to the Board to make sure what's happening is in our best interest as far as our fiduciary duties. So, thank you Vijoy. I'm sure that John will be in touch with you, and our staff is open for you to call whoever you need. I think you would call our Treasure Director first, who is Ryan, and any help you need from us, you can direct that to John. We'll be here and waiting for you to teach us.

Vijoy Chattergy, CIO We will try our best, mahalo.

Chair Hulu Lindsey Thank you. I'm going to take the agenda out of order only because we have a community concerns person from the Wai'anae Comprehensive Health.

Community Concerns and Celebrations

Nainoa Logan My name is Nainoa Logan. I am from the Waianae Economic Development Council. I've been blessed to be under the tutelage of Joseph Lapilio, and he told me all about you guys coming into Wai'anae on Tuesday. I'm here to report a couple of things, I wanted to report to OHA the Maui efforts that Waianae Economic Development Council has been doing. We have supported 10 lead applicants through the Hawai'i Community Foundation because most of the nonprofits and the people in Maui are so busy doing the work that they don't have time to write the grants. These 10 lead applicants have supported 52 other community nonprofits, mainly Native Hawaiians, along with small business partners or Native Hawaiian owned to the tune of about \$14 million. They're still being reviewed, but that's what we've been able to do so far. We've fiscally sponsored two Native Hawaiian nonprofits to raise funds and then disperse them directly to the individuals on Maui.

For me, there were two topics of discussion that I wanted to present to the Board in our efforts to continue to support Maui. The first one was learning from previous state disasters, the floods on Kaua'i and the lava flows in Puna. There are still Native Hawaiians in tents five years later. Families that are still struggling to get back on the land. We're going to play a quick video of one of the projects that we're a part of. *Video is shared.*

We launched this and there are literally 1,000 housing projects coming up trying to do something for Maui. What I wanted to do is whoever supports and whatever efforts they support, it's not just about housing, it's the wrap around services that need support. It's the nonprofit organizations delivering financial literacy, business development, economic structures, helping them with healing, connecting to 'āina, agra-forestry, and gardening. This was one project that we wanted to present. The second project that we want to ask for support with is the Wai'anae Community Model. We know that Ke'eumoku and the groups have created a consortium to be at the table. Wai'anae has always been kū'ē in the sense that we will build our own table and we will ask everybody else to come to the table so that we can tell you what Wai'anae wants. We would like to provide an opportunity for Lāhainā to do that as well by creating micro summits. Having micro summits at the different hubs, facilitating and then creating an annual culminative community summit so that those micro summits, which are just the community, can be heard. Then the summary of all of those summits in one summit can then involve the State and Federal entities. In our opinion, those summits should be facilitated by someone outside of Lāhainā, so that the people of Lāhainā can be participatory in the summits versus trying to logistically support and do all of these things. Whoever is doing these summits should know that it's Lāhainā's voices and every voice matters. From those summits, we feel like in order to have your own table, the infrastructure needs to be in place for the financial structures. We've put it into the ear of the SBA to help them to create a Native CDFI. We are very aware that OHA has the oldest, the largest, and the biggest of the CDFIs. To have OHAs support for Maui to then go after new market tax credits after their certification, Wai'anae Economic Development Council would love to help support them in that effort. That's pretty much our plea, helping us with housing 80 families out of the 200 families in that project. Then funding support for planning efforts and to be honest, whether it's our organization or not, we would definitely love to support any organization you support in the micro summits. Mahalo.

Trustee Trask We have a beneficiary that has contacted us. He has 200 container homes on Maui now. He wanted to get the land; he thought OHA had land there to put these containers up. His name is Bernard Rosette and I'd like to put the two of you together. Those containers are there and what we don't have is land. I went to Trisha Watson, who's the Hawaiian interfacing with the Governor's team. I called the Governor's office, they never called back. I called the Mayor, the same thing. This man is small "n" Hawaiian, he's 50% blood, and we've been going around in circles. That's why I would like to put the two of you together because I feel like we have an opportunity. I found out that all the FEMA money that came in, they appropriated it to the hotels because their priority was they were worried about the impact on tourism. Even Hawaiian Airlines cut flights there. What they did for interim housing was they took big money up front from FEMA and others in the county and state, and they got 1,000 hotel rooms. They didn't take any step towards getting something like containerized housing. That's why I feel like we're kind of under the gun so we don't lose all that federal funding for months trying to bail out hotels. Instead of looking at a longer period for sheltering these folks, I would like to follow up with you; if I could get your card, maybe I can put you two guys together.

Nainoa Logan Absolutely. From what I hear, there are fifty acres in Lāhainā, another 100 acres in Maui. When I said there is 1,000 projects happening on Maui, I know at least 30 of them. Some have land and are looking for financial support. There are some lands that can probably place some of those container homes. I will definitely send my email and my contact.

Chair Hulu Lindsey We will move on to the next agenda item.

Trustee Akaka Madame Chair, the proposed action to accept and implement the report of permitted interaction group to investigate and assess the needs, programs and services necessary to

address and meet the needs of Native Hawaiians on Maui, as a result of the August wildfires as distributed.

Trustee Alapa Seconds the motion.

Chair Hulu Lindsey I would like to share with the Board that all of the PIG members went to Maui and had a discussion with the leaders in the community on two different trips. Dan and I went on one, and Brickwood and Kalei went on another. If you have any questions, we would be happy to answer them.

Trustee Akina Who from OHA is supervising the on the ground needs, collecting information, and the interface we will have?

Casey Brown, COO I will share a little bit and then I will turn it over to the members who of the PIG. It is the Trustees who we get some of the best sources of information. All members of the PIG are making their efforts with connections on the ground. They are having the conversations with the various leaders and government. I will turn it over to any one of them to share their pipeline of knowledge that's coming from the ground to OHA.

Trustee Ahuna The people of Lāhainā at the beginning felt like they were rushed to do a lot of things so they came together in the coalition and demanded things from the Government. One of the things they demanded was to allow them time to grieve. The second was not to move on anything without the coalition, and the last thing was to honor chapter 92. They want to be involved in every step of the development of Lāhainā. They are here representing, not just the Hawaiians, but they have Filipinos, Japanese and all races. They all suffered from this tragic wildfire. What they wanted us to know was they would be moving as a whole and so many things are going on. They explained that you have to watch what you accept because it may disqualify you from getting money from FEMA. We just need to do our due diligence and make sure we know how to move and execute. I am proud to be a part of the PIG and thank you for the report.

Trustee Galuteria I went up to Maui this past Sunday, and the first thing I did was visit family Upcountry because there's also those up there. It is interesting because a lot of attention has been given to Lāhainā but there is also loss Upcountry, no life loss but still loss. Their thought was don't forget about us please. There were 17 homes that were burned down to the ground up there. Many homes are also fragile right now, near the gulches, that could come down at any time with heavy rains. We did visit a hub and talk to some volunteers, selfless individuals. The next day we went Upcountry and spent some time with the Governor, who was there for a community meeting. Afterwards we went to the west side, we saw the devastation, visited another large hub at Nāpili park. We also got to witness the family of fire fighters that came down from San Clemente. They brought with them almost \$30k or \$50k and presented that to the fire fighters who lost their homes in Lāhainā, who were on watch that night. We proceeded to visit a few more places before we ended up at Archie Kalepa's house. I came out of that with short-term, mid-term, and long-term thoughts. We need to be very strategic, we are not here to invent the wheel, and we should partner with others. I anticipate doing more PIGs as we go so that everyone can participate as we go. I've never seen that kind of aloha, I was stunned. We are here for the long haul.

Trustee Akaka Yes, we started the day off in the Kula area. I, too, went to see 'ohana property that was burned down to a crisp, and I could smell it, see it. The family has to go to a friend's house every day to take a bath. It's simple things like that, and living in their restaurant on a cot or not having propane gas, not having clean water, relying on the resources around you. FEMA is not approving to fund you because not all your property burned down, but you still have to pay the property tax and paying it the week before was hard without having income coming in from the business that is not running because of people

not coming into Maui as they once were. After Kula, we had gone down to Lāhainā. I want to mahalo Kainoa Horcajo, he provided us the guidance and took us to the different distribution centers and entities. Most of them, if not all, were community lead. What we learned was that our Hawaiian community does not always feel comfortable in going to the different distribution centers. They prefer going to the parks being used, like Nāpili park. They feel welcomed and it is a place where their keiki and family can sit on the grass, be amongst each other, and feel that sense of community versus driving to a shopping center. It was also hard to learn about the mental health tragedies that go on in times like this, emotions are heighten and some feel that they have no one or nothing to turn to. It was shared with us that there have been some suicides since this tragedy. This is reality and this stuff is not being presented on the news. When I ask about where the resources are coming from, I was told that people just show up and bring water and food, whatever is needed. We got to talk story with Bobby Lee who is head of the Fire Fighters Association at the firehouse. We spoke to another person who served as a mayor but has also worked as a firefighter and they provided some of the funding, \$30,000 and growing, and handed the checks over to the firefighters that are still working. These firefighters have been encouraged to take the time off to heal but insist on working every day. After this visit, we went to Archie Kalepa's. I shared with him from day one, our 'ano was calling us to go there but at the same time we were being mindful to be a part of the solution and not getting in the way of the progress. I also told Uncle Archie that we are in it for the short-term, mid-term, and long-term. When the dust settles and the initial kōkua is drawn back, that is when we need to check in on our people. This is when we need to provide the services. It was also acknowledged that with the State and Federal kōkua coming, OHA can fill in the gaps where it is needed. He also spoke about the wa'a concept of the compass and rebuilding Lāhainā. I also shared some incubator work that we worked on with my grandfather some years ago of the 'ōhi'a lehua, the representative of that work is through destruction and fire come the upspringing of new life. It is a representation of the strength we have as a people that despite the challenges we have before us, we come up again. I told Uncle Archie that I was reminded of the prophecies our kūpuna had chanted generations ago that one day are people would bring solo to the earth, all we would have left is the dirt and rocks but one day we would rise up again, in great waves and it will be a brilliant time. These are times our poeple are brought together and our strength is shown. We have the world supporting us. Before we left the airport, there were a number of people that we ran into, staff from the Governor's office, the different news channels, Governor Green, and Meli from Mana Up, and seeing what their efforts are to help with the tourism aspect because it has been made clear to us by the community in Maui that Maui is not closed. West Maui, yes, there is destruction but not all of Maui is closed. We need to sustain Maui. These were some of the efforts. It was a good trip, it was productive, and it is clear that we need to continue to have boots on the ground. I mahalo our Board Chair for keeping us up-to-date. We look forward to continuing these efforts together.

Chair Hulu Lindsey I want to summarize some of the help that OHA has put out so far. Within a day after the fires, Global Empowerment Mission non-profit moved in from Ukraine to Maui. We opened our doors at the Maui office where they worked out of and started giving out short-term housing vouchers in partnership with Hawai'i Airbnb. Within five days, \$2million worth of vouchers were given out and over \$150,000 gift cards were given out to families. All of these families were displaced. I think because we allowed GEM to come into the OHA office, it was looked at like local people helping local people. They asked us to refer people to them. We had hundreds of people lining up outside our office for five days and it came to a point where I was afraid our neighbors would complain that there was no parking. I did ask them to relocate, and they did. They're still operating, still partnership with OHA, they communicate with me almost every day. So that's good for our people there because some of them don't know that this exists. We also assisted the Wiwo'ole fundraising concert by partnering with the Grand Wailea to allow them to use the ballroom space, which was approximately a \$30,000 value, and the Wiwo'ole Concert

grossed \$100,000. The money went to ‘Āina Momona as well as the Hawai‘i Community Foundation. Then we had Hakuone open up and kōkua CNHA on O‘ahu. We were able to assist by sorting donations that were given. And just for your information, I went to Hakuone this morning to look at the operation and they’re doing well. They have a manager that knows what she’s doing, and they had 20 volunteers. The manager said this was the most that she ever got in one day and she was really happy. They shipped out 14 pallets of baby food yesterday because it was so needed. It was good to hear that kind of report. Then, we approved \$5,000,000; we will need to determine where it's going to go, and then finally, I got a report that 200 pounds of salmon was delivered to Maui today from Alaska, from the Kodiak community.

Trustee Akina Madam Chair, and thanks to you for that report and to our other Trustees for going over to Maui and for what they’ve reported. Those are good things indeed. I want to return to my question for Casey regarding the PIG report. I understand from reading the report that what we’re going to do is conduct an assessment of the needs. Do you have a time frame for when the assessment will be done? Can you address the scope of that assessment, will it be a comprehensive assessment as well as who in OHA will be managing that assessment work?

Casey Brown, COO I can safely say that we’re absolutely in a dynamic environment here. If we’re going to honor the requests of the Maui community that they lead, it’s going to be tricky to put a deadline or a timeline on that assessment. Really, what I think the PIG report is trying to convey is that there should be continuous assessment that is adaptable and can change with the needs of the community. In terms of that type of action, it’s about setting up the framework to be informed on island visitation, on island Intel gathering, you can be off island and on island to gather information, but mechanisms should be used. How we do that can be something we talk about so that it’s an organized way with Trustees as individuals, with Trustees as a body, and with Administration, but all being led and informed by the community themselves where we go, who we talk to and the type of assessment and information that we want to communicate.

Trustee Akina I understand that Administration has the authority to act in emergencies before the Board has actually taken formal action. One of the items that came to us was to engage Hawai‘i Community Lending. It was an action that had been vetted by the Administration. The Administration asked the Board to approve that. What action by the Administration is being pursued under your authority to respond immediately to an emergency?

Casey Brown, COO With regards to the deployment of funds, we are under the full direction of the Board. The deployment of funds relies heavily on that continued assessment. There were direct and clear asks by the community, by the local government to complement their efforts, to complement their funding. They’re still trying to organize. In terms of funding, we are going to be prepared to deploy it whenever the Trustees give us the directive. If it’s for something other than the deployment of funding, maybe if you can ask other questions about if it’s something other than the funding.

Trustee Akina With regard to the funding request, are you saying that there are requests that have already come in from people or organizations?

Casey Brown, COO No Trustee, that funding is a commitment by the Board, by OHA. That funding is going to be deployed in a manner that is informed by the Maui community.

Trustee Trask I wanted to give you an update on something and also make some recommendations now to the Board. I’m so proud that we gave the \$5 million because I’ve received many calls and some of them pretty angry, saying, where the hell are you folks? They didn’t know about the \$5 million. Many of them saw the TV coverage about what happened on O‘ahu with CNHA. CNHA never told them that was

our land. Our staff went and our group of Trustees were there. I'm sick and tired of it. We give big money to them; never do they recognize us. I'm sick and tired of it. Three areas when we started out, I had talked with some of you, there wasn't any guidance. Si, I am just going on, you know what, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and shelter the homeless. That's the easiest way for me. The feeding of the hungry proceeds, and I want to see some recognition of what we have done because it is our people's money. When the \$5 million goes, it should be explained as our Hawaiian contribution, it's not for our re-election. For me, housing needs our attention. I also want you to think about food. I would like to see some help going to our wahi pana, like Waiola Church. Waiola was there when the capitol of our independent kingdom was there. Our sacred wāhine are buried there, Nāhi'ena'ena and Keōpūolani. These are part of our culture. We cannot let go of the wahi pana. If you look at the history of Waiola Church from the time that we were independent, it was their church. It was their church that healed the people and now the people are there, and they need some help. I talked with Kahu Anela Rosa, they know that OHA is looking for help, and I told her when you fall short, call me.

The other thing is the archive of Lāhainā was lost in the fire; it was never copied. When I called them twice, they couldn't talk with me. All they could say was that they lost it, they should have xeroxed it. Then they broke down crying and hung up. I went to do research myself. The archiving for Lāhainā is not lost. There's a huge collection and it's on the Big Island with the Kumu Pono Associates. Unfortunately, no photographs were ever copied, but I also have been told that on the Big Island we have these documents, and we can try to see what we could do to put it together. I may be coming back to you so that we can get Kumu Pono to research all their records and compile something to get to the Waiola church and to the archives. The Waiola Church and the archive of Lāhainā is another but they're both Hawaiian and they're going to work together. That's one thing I'm working on. You know we do good on the food, but I'm concerned about the housing. I've talked with Trustees here, the preservation of the wahi pana and the iwi ali'i and something with regards to preserving the history of the place. I'm happy to help and just want to thank our Trustees. With all the work on our plate, I think our subcommittee is doing really good. Thank you.

Trustee Akaka I just want to wrap up in terms of our Maui wildfires response regarding our OHA Mālama loan deferrals for our borrowers that were affected by the Maui wildfires, OHA is offering deferment of their current loan payments up to 12 months. Also, the OHA Mālama Disaster Relief loan, where our Native Hawaiians who are affected by this natural disaster are eligible to apply for the OHA Disaster Relief Loan of 4% and up to a 7-year loan, up to \$20,000. I did see in some news reports too, that there are some archives on the US continent that include palapala in 'ōlelo mākuahine as well as portraits of Lāhainā.

Trustee Souza I just want to touch on a couple of things mentioned earlier. I know we were able to visit a lot of the same sites and with the same people. One thing that I want to shine light and put emphasis on are the goods and the goods distribution, there's a lot and there's still containers down here. That is why we have a partnership with one of our warehouses. They are sending it to Maui as they need it, but they're kind of overwhelmed in the sense of goods right now. This is why we went up there to see where we can fill those gaps. We are going to continue to assess. I think the biggest issue right now is distributing the funds in a timely manner. I think that's the work of the PIG right now. It's important to figure out how we're going to distribute our funds, whether it's ourselves or identifying that nonprofit to get it out right away. They're asking for help right now to rebuild right away, they want to rebuild. They do not want to wait for FEMA monies or applications. They want to be able to start their own rebuilding, individual families. I look forward to future reports from the PIG and thank you guys for working on that and the continuous efforts. Mahalo nui.

Chair Hulu Lindsey I think I did hear that they would not be letting anyone in the burned area because of the toxicity of the grounds. I believe the federal people are going to clean the lands, and they're going to send all that toxicity off to the mainland. It's not going to remain in Hawai'i and until they clean the land and deem it safe, nobody's going to be able to rebuild.

Trustee Souza Yes, rebuild in a sense if they are staying at Aunty's house, they may want to carry on. This can be their kids going to school, buying a new cell phone or computer. Not the actual physical structure of building.

Chair Hulu Lindsey I think that's why our Lieutenant Governor was in Maui Monday and Tuesday to assess the teachers and the Department of Education because in talking with Senator Kidani, she said that all the people that have relocated to family or friends' houses, their kids will go to that neighborhood school. Not everybody's happy about that. This is what they came up with to take care of all the kids so that they get back in school. I'm sure that's going to be assessed to see if it's working or is it the best way? Everybody's learning as the days go by.

Trustee Akaka I think part of the key is keeping in touch with our Native Hawaiian community leaders such as Archie Kalepa, to keep on the pulse of what our Native Hawaiian community needs are. It's the basic things, the sustenance, the housing and so forth, the mental health. My family and I had taken poi from our 'ohana lo'i in Waipi'o and also baby formula, and directly handing it to Uncle so that we know it is going to the right people and those of our Hawaiian community. It is important that we stay on the pulse and know what the needs are; short-term and long-term.

Trustee Galuteria The PIG is only one week old and I know we will continue going. I recall your conversation with Mayor Bissen. Basically saying, *we're glad you're there, stand by with us*. There are all kinds of connectivity, from the bureaucracy all the way down to the ground game. It is important for us to play; we don't want to be maha'oi.

Chair Hulu Lindsey Correct, we don't want to maha'oi, but we want to be there when they need us.

Trustee Galuteria Yes, it may take a while to determine where the \$5 million is going to go but it's going to happen soon.

Chair Hulu Lindsey I will call on the Board Secretary to call for the vote.

Trustee Akaka Moves						
Accept and Implement the Report of Permitted Interaction Group (“PIG”) to investigate and assess the needs, programs, and services necessary to address and meet the needs of Native Hawaiians on Maui as a result of the August wildfires, as distributed.						
Trustee Alapa Seconds the motion.						
	1	2	'AE (YES)	'A'OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
TRUSTEE DAN AHUNA						Left mtg at 11:06 am
TRUSTEE KALEI AKAKA	X		X			
TRUSTEE KELI'I AKINA			X			
TRUSTEE LUANA ALAPA		X	X			

TRUSTEE BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA			X			
TRUSTEE J. KEONI SOUZA			X			
TRUSTEE MILILANI TRASK						Left mtg at 11:35 am
TRUSTEE JOHN WAIHE'E			X			
CHAIRPERSON HULU LINDSEY			X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT			7			
MOTION: [] UNANIMOUS [X] PASSED [] DEFERRED [] FAILED						
Motion passes with Seven (7) Yes votes, Zero (0) No votes, and Zero (0) Abstentions.						

Announcements

Chair Hulu Lindsey Our next meeting will be on Hawai'i Island, September 14th and 15th at Kanu O Ka 'Āina in Waimea. A final detailed email will be sent to all of you as we get closer to the meeting date.

Adjournment

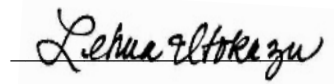
Trustee Souza Moves to Adjourn meeting.

Trustee Alapa Seconds the motion.

Adjournment							
TRUSTEE		1	2	'AE (YES)	A'OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
DAN	AHUNA						Left at 11:06 am
KALEI	AKAKA			X			
KELI'I	AKINA			X			
LUANA	ALAPA		X	X			
BRICKWOOD	GALUTERIA			X			
J. KEONI	SOUZA	X		X			
MILILANI	TRASK						Left at 11:35 am
JOHN	WAIHE'E			X			
CHAIR CARMEN HULU	LINDSEY			X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT				7			

Chairperson Carmen Hulu Lindsey Adjourns the Board of Trustees meeting at 11:43 am

Respectfully submitted,



Lehua Itokazu

Board Secretary

As approved by the Board of Trustees on April 25, 2024.



Carmen Hulu Lindsey

Chairperson, Board of Trustees

Attachments:

1. Action Item BOT #23-09: Accept and Implement the Report of Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) to investigate and assess the needs, programs, and services necessary to address and meet the needs of Native Hawaiians on Maui as a result of the August wildfires.



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Action Item

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

August 31, 2023

BOT #23-09


Action Item Issue: Accept and Implement the Report of Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) to investigate and assess the needs, programs, and services necessary to address and meet the needs of Native Hawaiians on Maui as a result of the August wildfires.

Prepared by: 

Casey K. Brown
Ka Pou Nui, Chief Operating Officer

Aug 28, 2023

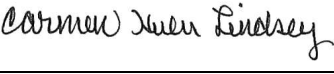
Date

Reviewed by: 

Colin Kippen
Ka Pouhana Kūikawā, Interim Chief Executive Officer

Aug 28, 2023

Date

Reviewed by: 

Carmen Hulu Lindsey
Ke Kauhuhu o ke Kaupoku
Chair, Board of Trustees

Aug 28, 2023

Date

I. Proposed Action

Accept and Implement the Report of Permitted Interaction Group (“PIG”) to investigate and assess the needs, programs, and services necessary to address and meet the needs of Native Hawaiians on Maui as a result of the August wildfires, as distributed.

II. Issue

Whether or not the Board of Trustees (“BOT”) will accept and implement the distributed report of the PIG to Accept and Implement the Report of the PIG to investigate and assess the needs, programs, and services necessary to address and meet the needs of Native Hawaiians on Maui as a result of the August wildfires. The PIG was authorized and formed on August 17, 2023, via Action Item BOT #23-08, consistent with Hawai‘i Revised Statutes §92-2.5(b)(1).

III. Background and Discussion

A. Applicable Law in Hawaii Revised Statutes, Permitted Interaction Groups

In accordance with HRS, CHAPTER 92, PUBLIC AGENCY MEETINGS AND

RECORDS §92-2.5 Permitted interactions of members: (b) Two or more members of a board, but less than the number of members which would constitute a quorum for the board, may be assigned to: (1) Investigate a matter relating to the official business of their board; provided that: (A) The scope of the investigation and the scope of each member’s authority are defined at a meeting of the board; (B) All resulting findings and recommendations are presented to the board at a meeting of the board; and (C) Deliberation and decision making on the matter investigated, if any, occurs only at a duly noticed meeting of the board held subsequent to the meeting at which the findings and recommendations of the investigation were presented to the board.

B. Permitted Interaction Group

- 1. Overview.** On August 17, 2023 the Board of Trustees (“BOT” or “Board”) held and emergency meeting to approve, via Action Item BOT #23-08, the formation of a PIG¹ to assess the needs, programs, and services necessary to address and meet the needs of Native Hawaiians on Maui as a result of the August wildfires, with the noted purview, members and term/duration.
- 2. Purview.** The purview of the PIG is for the Board of Trustees (BOT or Board), BOT staff and OHA Administration staff to work together to investigate and assess the needs, programs, and services necessary to address and meet the needs of Native Hawaiians on Maui as a result of the recent devastating fires occurring in Maui.
- 3. Members.** The members of the Permitted Interaction Group is as follows: (a) Trustee Carmen Hulu Lindsey; (b) Trustee Kalei Akaka; (c) Trustee Dan Ahuna; and (d) Trustee Brickwood Galuteria. Trustee Carmen Hulu Lindsey will serve as the Chair of the Permitted Interaction Group and Trustee Dan Ahuna will serve as its Vice Chair. Casey K. Brown, Ka Pou Nui, will function as the Project Manager.

¹ Consistent with Hawai‘i Revised Statutes §92-2.5(b)(1)(A).

Action Item BOT #23-09: Accept and Implement the Report of Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) to investigate and assess the needs, programs, and services necessary to address and meet the needs of Native Hawaiians on Maui as a result of the August wildfires

4. **Term/Duration.** The term of the Permitted Interaction Group expires at the completion of the assigned tasks or at the discretion of the Chair of the Board of Trustees, subject to later adjustment, but in no event later than August 25, 2023.
5. **PIG Investigation Activities and Related Recommendations.** The PIG convened for three meetings on August 20, August 22, and August 24, 2023 to perform its investigation and assessment the needs, programs, and services necessary to address and meet the needs of Native Hawaiians on Maui as a result of the August wildfires. The primary goal of this investigation was to gain a deeper understanding of the impact of the August wildfires on the Native Hawaiian Maui community; to identify OHA role in addressing these impacts; and to report back to the full Board. The PIG members collected information from on-the-ground community leaders and government officials which informed discussions about keeping OHA's focus on continued assessment, strengthening communications, and creating meaningful public messaging; and supporting the requests by community to allow the relief efforts and needs to be community driven. PIG members also discussed that long-term relief efforts are needed to increase stability and responsible re-building. **The action recommended is to Accept and Implement the Report of the Permitted Interaction Group to investigate Native Hawaiian Community Needs Resulting from Maui Island Wildfires.**
6. **Report Distribution.** The report distribution occurred at the August 25, 2023 Board meeting and consistent with past practice, no discussion was held. Full and free discussion and related Board action(s) are agendaized for the Board meeting on August 31, 2023.

C. Context for the Formation of the Permitted Interaction Group

The firestorm that tore through the western shores of Maui on Tuesday, August 8, and Wednesday, August 9, 2023, forced the evacuation of more than 2,000 people, according to authorities. Lāhainā, a town of roughly 12,000 people, is virtually destroyed, with many confirmed deaths, and many more missing. Over 1,700 structures have been destroyed, including entire neighborhoods. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that approximately 2,090 Native Hawaiians, across approximately 360 Native Hawaiian families, reside in this area. The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands homestead of Leiali'i was also impacted by these fires.

In response, OHA BOT scheduled an Emergency Meeting on August 17, 2023, pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) §92-8(a), the BOT found that the August 2023 wildfires affecting Maui and Hawai'i counties caused a significant loss of life and property and created an imminent peril to public health, safety, and welfare. The unprecedented impacts from the wildfires necessitate a coordinated response from OHA, which was determined to be best facilitated by the formation of a PIG, pursuant to HRS §92-2.5(b)(1), that would immediately begin gathering emerging information about the needs of the community in order to guide an expeditious response from OHA that meets the needs of its beneficiaries directly impacted by the wildfires.

This PIG convened for three meetings on August 20, August 22, and August 24, 2023 to perform its investigation and assessment the needs, programs, and services necessary to address and meet the needs of Native Hawaiians on Maui as a result of the August wildfires.

Action Item BOT #23-09: Accept and Implement the Report of Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) to investigate and assess the needs, programs, and services necessary to address and meet the needs of Native Hawaiians on Maui as a result of the August wildfires

D. Permitted Interaction Group Work

The PIG members collected emerging information from on-the-ground community leaders and government officials on the needs of the community and current resources available. The PIG members then held discussions about the information gathered. As a result of the discussions, the PIG members made recommendations in the PIG Report for both immediate and long-term actions OHA should take. Refer to the PIG Report for details of the information gathered as well as the immediate and long-term actions recommended.

IV. Funding Source

Not applicable, no dedicated funding needed to accept and implement the report of the PIG to investigate Native Hawaiian Community Needs Resulting from Maui Island Wildfires, as distributed.

V. Recommended Action

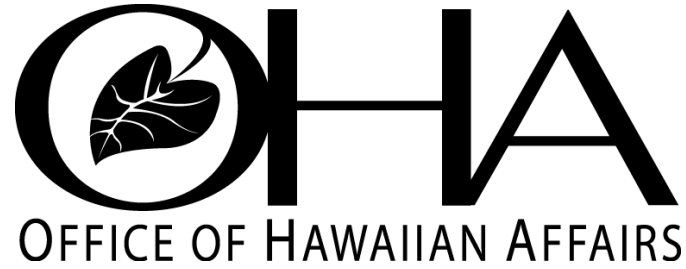
Accept and Implement the Report of the Permitted Interaction Group to investigate Native Hawaiian Community Needs Resulting from Maui Island Wildfires, as distributed.

VI. References

The following action item references are provided for context:

- A. **Action Item BOT#23-08:** Approve the formation of a Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) to investigate and assess the needs, programs, and services necessary to address and meet the needs of Native Hawaiians on Maui as a result of the August wildfires, August 17, 2023.

VII. Attachment - None



Office of Hawaiian Affairs
Report of the Permitted Interaction Group to
Investigate Native Hawaiian Community Needs Resulting
from Maui Island Wildfires

August 25 2023

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IV.	CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS	6
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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- A. **Overview.** On August 17, 2023, via Action Item BOT #23-08, the Board of Trustees (“BOT” or “Board”) approved the formation of a Permitted Interaction Group (“PIG”)¹ to investigate and assess the needs, programs, and services necessary to address and meet the needs of Native Hawaiians on Maui as a result of the August wildfires.
- B. **Permitted Interaction Group - Purview.** The purview of the PIG is for the Board of Trustees (BOT or Board), BOT staff and OHA Administration staff to work together to investigate and assess the needs, programs, and services necessary to address and meet the needs of Native Hawaiians on Maui as a result of the recent devastating fires occurring in Maui.
- C. **Permitted Interaction Group – Members.** The membership of the Permitted Interaction Group is proposed as follows: (a) Trustee Carmen Hulu Lindsey; (b) Trustee Kalei Akaka; (c) Trustee Dan Ahuna; and (d) Trustee Brickwood Galuteria. Trustee Carmen Hulu Lindsey will serve as the Chair of the Permitted Interaction Group and Trustee Dan Ahuna will serve as its Vice Chair. Casey K. Brown, Ka Pou Nui, functions as the Project Manager.
- D. **Permitted Interaction Group - Term/Duration.** The term of the Permitted Interaction Group expires at the completion of the assigned tasks or at the discretion of the Chair of the Board of Trustees, subject to later adjustment, but in no event later than August 25, 2023.
- E. **PIG Investigation Activities and Related Recommendations.** The PIG convened for three meetings on August 20, August 22, and August 24, 2023 to perform its investigation and assessment the needs, programs, and services necessary to address and meet the needs of Native Hawaiians on Maui as a result of the August wildfires. The primary goal of this investigation was to gain a deeper understanding of the impact of the August wildfires on the Native Hawaiian Maui community; to identify OHA role in addressing these impacts; and to report back to the full Board. The PIG members collected information from on-the-ground community leaders and government officials which informed discussions about keeping OHA’s focus on continued assessment, strengthening communications, and creating meaningful public messaging; and supporting the requests by community to allow the relief efforts and needs to be community driven. PIG members also discussed that long-term relief efforts are needed to increase stability and responsible re-building. **The action recommended is to Accept and Implement the Report of the Permitted Interaction Group to investigate Native Hawaiian Community Needs Resulting from Maui Island Wildfires.**
- F. **Report Distribution.** The report distribution is agendized for the August 25, 2023 Board meeting and consistent with past practice, no discussion will be held. Full and free discussion and related Board action(s) are scheduled to be agendized for the Board meeting on August 31, 2023.

II. PERMITTED INTERACTION GROUP WORK

- A. **Purview.** The purview of the PIG is for the Board of Trustees (BOT or Board), BOT staff and OHA Administration staff to work together to investigate and assess the needs, programs, and services necessary to address and meet the needs of Native Hawaiians on Maui as a result of the recent devastating fires occurring in Maui.

¹ Consistent with Hawai‘i Revised Statutes §92-2.5(b)(1)A.

B. Context. The firestorm that tore through the western shores of Maui on Tuesday, August 8, and Wednesday, August 9, 2023, forced the evacuation of more than 2,000 people, according to authorities. Lāhainā, a town of roughly 12,000 people, is virtually destroyed, with many confirmed deaths, and many more missing. Over 1,700 structures have been destroyed, including entire neighborhoods. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that approximately 2,090 Native Hawaiians, across approximately 360 Native Hawaiian families, reside in this area. The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands homestead of Leiali‘i was also impacted by these fires.

In response, OHA BOT scheduled an Emergency Meeting on August 17, 2023, pursuant to Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (HRS) §92-8(a), the BOT found that the August 2023 wildfires affecting Maui and Hawai‘i counties caused a significant loss of life and property and created an imminent peril to public health, safety, and welfare. The unprecedented impacts from the wildfires necessitate a coordinated response from OHA, which was determined to be best facilitated by the formation of a PIG, pursuant to HRS §92-2.5(b)(1), that would immediately begin gathering emerging information about the needs of the community in order to guide an expeditious response from OHA that meets the needs of its beneficiaries directly impacted by the wildfires.

This PIG convened for three meetings on August 20, August 22, and August 24, 2023 to perform its investigation and assessment the needs, programs, and services necessary to address and meet the needs of Native Hawaiians on Maui as a result of the August wildfires.

C. Information Gathering. The PIG members collected emerging information from on-the-ground community leaders and government officials on the needs of the community, current resources available, and recommended actions, including:

1. Time and space are requested by community to allow for grieving and healing processes;
2. Lāhainā and the island of Maui have many strong, trusted, and united Native Hawaiian leaders and organizations on the ground. OHA is requested to support these community led and community-controlled disaster relief efforts;
3. An intentional and phased response from OHA is requested to ensure that funding from all donors and contributors is optimized to achieve maximum effectiveness; a well-informed assessment of needs is conducted by community; and OHA funds are deployed to complement existing resources in addressing the continuing and longer-term needs of community;
4. Many resources are currently available and more will need to be deployed in a deliberate and organized fashion to ensure all community needs are met, after comprehensive assessment and resource gap analysis are completed;
5. Leaders and organizations acknowledge OHA’s presence and support and are ready and willing to work with OHA BOT and Administration staff to conduct due diligence and assessment of need and resources on the ground.

D. Immediate OHA Actions. The PIG members identified the needs for immediate OHA actions to focus on:

1. Continued assessment of the on-the-ground needs of and requests from the Maui community and continued assessment of the resources that are available, including Administration staff assessments, individual trustee, and BOT visits to conduct due diligence and ensure OHA actions are targeted to fulfill any remaining gaps in resources.
2. Strengthening communications that are culturally grounded and ensure that OHA's intentions and approach to supporting the long-term and community-driven relief efforts are well known and understood by beneficiaries in Maui and statewide.
3. Sharing meaningful public messages on the historical and cultural strength and resiliency of our Native Hawaiian people in the face of devastating tragedy; as well as our unity, undying hope, and vision of a revitalized Maui community.

E. Long-Term OHA Actions. The PIG members also identified the need for long-term OHA actions to focus our own resources on:

1. Supporting relief efforts that are community led and community controlled. OHA resources have an important role to play in recovery and rebuilding, but the role is supportive of and responsive to community vision and desires, not directive or prescriptive.
2. Long-term relief efforts, so that immediate needs can be met by government agencies that are well experienced in disaster first response. OHA will support Maui communities for the years-long duration of recovery, including advocating for Native Hawaiian rights and culturally driven re-building efforts.
3. Increasing community stability and responsible re-building. In alignment with OHA's Strategic Plan, Mana i Maui Ola, OHA resources will focus on relief efforts that build upon ancestral and existing strengths in the Native Hawaiian Maui communities, including 'ohana, mo'omeheu, and 'āina. These efforts will support the re-building health outcomes, quality housing, economic development, and educational pathways for our Native Hawaiian Maui communities.

F. Recommendation. The PIG makes the following recommendation: **The action recommended is to Accept and Implement the Report of the Permitted Interaction Group to Investigate Native Hawaiian Community Needs Resulting from Maui Island Wildfires.**

III. REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The following documents are listed as reference documents for report development purposes:

Action Item BOT#23-08: Approve the formation of a Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) to investigate and assess the needs, programs, and services necessary to address and meet the needs of Native Hawaiians on Maui as a result of the August wildfires, August 17, 2023.

IV. CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

Consistent with Hawai'i Revised Statutes §92-2.5(b)(1), on August 17, 2023, via Action Item BOT #23-08, the Board of Trustees approved the formation of a Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) to to investigate and assess the needs, programs, and services necessary to address and meet the needs of Native Hawaiians on Maui as a result of the August wildfires. The report distribution is agendized for the August 25, 2023 Board meeting and consistent with past practice, no discussion will be held. Full and free discussion and related Board actions are scheduled to be agendized for a Board meeting on August 31, 2023.

V. ATTACHMENTS

NONE