

**STATE OF HAWAI‘I**  
**OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**  
**Big Island Substance Abuse Council (BISAC)**  
**16-179 Melekahiwa Street**  
**Kea‘au, HI 96749**

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](http://www.oha.org/livestream) or listen by phone: (213) 338-8477

**Hawai‘i Island Site Visit - 1 Summary**  
**Office of Hawaiian Affairs**  
**Board of Trustees**  
**Summary Report**  
**September 14, 2022 – 10:00 A.M.**

ATTENDANCE:

Chairperson Carmen Hulu Lindsey  
Trustee Kaleihikina Akaka  
Trustee Mililani Trask  
Trustee Luana Alapa

BOT STAFF:

Lehua Itokazu, Board Secretary  
Kanani Iaea, Trustee Aide  
Kauikeaolani Wailehua, Trustee Aide  
Brandon Mitsuda, Trustee Aide  
Crayn Akina, Trustee Aide

ADMINISTRATION:

Capsun Poe, Community Engagement Director  
Alice Silbanuz, Director of Communications  
Ilima Kela, BSA

GUEST:

Dr. Hannah Preston-Pits  
Mariama Lauulu  
Tracy Tampos  
Dr. Kauionalani Fukuda  
Raymond Dangaran  
Darleen Sevaio  
Sasha Payao  
Saundra Ramos  
Tevan Devera  
Kun Wong

**I. Call to Order**

Site visit starts at 10:15 a.m.

**II. Introduction**

Oli and pule are offered.

**III. Site Visit**

**A. BISAC**

**Dr. Hannah, CEO** Aloha kākou, we are so happy you are all here. I am Dr. Hannah, current CEO at Big Island Substance Abuse Council. She shares that the space we are in is place that allows everyone to be vulnerable, allows healing, and how you learn a lot about yourself while working in the dirt. She shares how OHA is helping BISAC to further their work, their mission, and how BISAC initially started out as a faith-based agency to assist people with alcoholism; fast forward 58 years and we are providing that same service. They have expanded their care to residential treatment as well as outpatient components. In the eleven years that Dr. Hannah has been on board, they looked closely at the needs of the Native Hawaiian community; they service close to 63%.

I want to say with the continued support of OHA, we have been able to provide various things such as, men re-entering society from prison and providing them with toiletries and bedding. BISAC is not the traditional drug treatment facility; they have considered many things that affect the people they serve.

BISAC serves about 1,000-1,400 unduplicated cases a year. Native Hawaiians are about 63% and see numerous health disparities including substance abuse and mental health. 98% of the people they treat have a traumatic history and it is usually the underlying reason for driving the addiction. This traumatic history can be sexual abuse, physical abuse and much more.

One of the things they are looking at is how can they offer more and expand the continued care. They are looking at the old Hilo Hospital. They need to expand the bed space; currently, they can only provide 32 beds with the space they have. The waitlist for them is extended into March and April. They are looking to adapt and try new things. They are looking at the micro-units that were used in Pahoia during the lava flow. They want to find property and put these units up so that they can use them for transitional housing.

**Miriama Laulu** Shares that substance abuse is not selective and it can affect anyone. Majority of their clients are Native Hawaiian and understand the importance of incorporating cultural aspects into treatment. They have various programs that allow them to learn ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i, work the land, and work with Men of PA‘A. These programs help instill the Native Hawaiian values, makes them feel valued, and instead of taking from the community, they are now giving back. Majority of their clients that enter their program are referred by the judicial system. They need to be diagnosed with a substance abuse disorder and placed at a level of care. The highest level of care is the inpatient home. They have two homes that can care for up to 8 male clients, a total of 16. There is also a Moms and Baby program. This program is unique because it allows the mothers to go through treatment and still keep their babies with them. There is a clean and sober home for women transitioning back into the community. There is a lack of housing and support so this clean and sober house is very important; there needs to be more of these for men too as there are more men being referred to this program than women. Other services they offer are outpatient treatment, counseling and therapy, therapeutic living program, ola kino, and mahi‘ai ola.

They have three offices and they serve West and East Hawai'i. Since Covid, there was an increased need for services. They have offered services through social media platforms, and kept their doors open. Their ongoing challenge is the demand for services. They do not have enough space to house clients. Every week they get an average of 6-7 jail packets asking for a chance and for bed space. The common response is yes, but not until next year. Due to the space, they cannot extend their services to more than six months.

She shares that seeing people enter broken with no hope and then leave the program feeling healed, hopeful and knowing that they have the opportunity to holomua, to forgive and love themselves, then she knows they are making difference. She mahalos OHA for their support.

**Chair Hulu Lindsey** Asks if they have looked at vacant buildings and properties by the State that may be available for extra space.

**Dr. Hannah, CEO** Shares that they have been in talks with their Mayor. It has been a 3-year process and one of the obstacles is the hospital is over 100 years old, lots of renovations would need to be done costing millions of dollars. They are looking at other properties and going on home visits to see if there are places that can be used for immediate care. For ex: a detox home – there is no detox place on the island, they have looked for the last three to four years. They are close to working on an interim plan.

**Trustee Trask** Asks if they are looking specifically for State or County properties and if they are limiting themselves too just that.

**Dr. Hannah, CEO** No, she shares that they have been looking at sites in Hilo, large parcels of land with houses on it.

**Tracy Tampos** Shares about their community engagement programs. She is born and raised in the town of Honoka'a. Her passion is working with the keiki. She shares her experience of growing up with one parent having an active addiction while working and how everything seemed normal. She thought this way of life was normal and had no idea there were services to help; this led her and her siblings all being active addicts. 22 years ago is when she changed her life and learned that she was not alone. The community engagement program offers two functions implementing change within the community:

1. Coordination Services – they provide goal-oriented and individual support to improve self-sufficiency. They collaborate with other programs and participate in numerous community events to share the services offered and create opportunities and lessen barriers to those who otherwise would not have the opportunity to access.
2. School-Based Motivational Enhancement Services – offers counseling to help individuals engaging in treatment and stop their drug use, this will help with work from the inside out. They partner with various schools to collaborate and offer a healthier environment. One of the recent campaigns they have launched is towards vaping.

She reminds everyone that when working alone, you are weaker than if you're working together.

**Dr. Kauionalani Fukuda** She shares that she started at BISAC as an intern. She explains mental health and substance abuse goes hand-in-hand. The organization has the Hawaii Island Health and Wellness Department that provides mental health services: individual mental health services, group therapy, smoking sensation, and crisis management. They work with their patients very closely while they attend substance classes; all residential clients will receive group therapy. They are a no smoking facility and offer smoking sensation

sessions. They also offer training on how to use Narcan. This training is a harm reduction approach and helps their clients feel empowered to understand the harmful effects and how to be that person to help save a life. They also offer the training to the community. Narcan can be used for any opioid such as heroin, fentanyl, or pain medication.

*Past clients share their experience and talk story.*



**IV. Public Testimony**

None

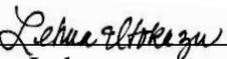
**V. Announcements**

None

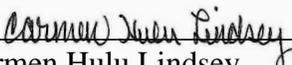
**VI. Adjournment**

The site visit ended at: 11:50 am

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Lehua Itokazu  
Board Secretary

Site Visit Summary Approved at Board of Trustees Meeting on February 2, 2023.

  
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Carmen Hulu Lindsey  
Chairperson, Board of Trustees

Attachments:

1. Excuse Memo – Trustee Ahu Isa
2. Excuse Memo – Trustee Akina
3. Excuse Memo – Trustee Ahuna
4. Excuse Memo – Trustee Lee
5. Excuse Memo – Trustee Waihe‘e



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**OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS MEMORANDUM**

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

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To: Chairperson Carmen Hulu Lindsey  
From: Trustee Leina'ala Ahu Isa, Ph.D.   
Date: September 8, 2022  
Re: Excused Absence – Two Site Visits

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

- (1) Big Island Substance Abuse Council (BISAC) on Wednesday, September 14, 2022, at 10:00 A.M.; and
- (2) Men of Pa'a on Wednesday, September 14, 2022, at 12:00 P.M.

If you have any questions, please contact my office.

Mahalo!



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

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Date: 5 August 2022  
To: Chair Hulu Lindsey  
CC: Lehua Itokazu, Kanani Iaea, Amber Kalua  
From: Trustee Keli'i Akina  
Subject: OHA Hawaii Island Site Visit and Community & BOT Meetings  
September 14-15, 2022

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Aloha e Chair Hulu Lindsey,

Referencing the OHA Hawaii Island Site Visit and Community & BOT Meetings on Wednesday and Thursday, September 14 – 15, 2022, I will be on travel and, regretfully, will not be able to attend. Please extend my apology to the Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Keli'i Akina', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Trustee Keli'i Akina



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OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
**Office of Trustee Dan Ahuna**  
Interoffice Memorandum

Date: September 14, 2022

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

Trustee Lei Ahu Isa, Vice-Chair  
Board of Trustees (BOT)

From: Trustee Dan Ahuna *Dan Ahuna*

Subject: **BOT Meeting Absence -Sept. 14, 2022**

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I am unable to attend the BOT site visit/meeting scheduled for September 14, 2022. Please extend my excused absence and my sincere apologies to the members of the board.

Mahalo.



**STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Memorandum**

DATE: September 12, 2022

TO: Trustee Carmen Hulu Lindsey  
Chairperson, OHA Board of Trustees

FROM: Trustee Brendon Kalei'aina Lee

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

RE: Board of Trustees Site Visits and Hawai'i Island Community  
Meeting September 14, 2022

Due to a prior engagement I am unable to attend the scheduled Hawai'i Island Site Visits as well as the Community meeting on September 14, 2022.

Please extend my excused absence and sincere apologies to the members of the Board.

Mahalo.

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: September 12, 2022

SUBJECT: ATTENDANCE FOR 9/14 BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT) SITE VISITS

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I am unable to attend both 9/14 BOT site visits on Hawai'i Island which includes visits to: Big Island Substance Abuse Council (BISAC) and Men of PA'A.

This memo serves as a request to be EXCUSED from these site visits with more than 24-hours-notice to BOT leadership, per internal OHA policy guideline.

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

Mahalo.