

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, Webinar ID: 88622917336 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
October 7, 2022**

ATTENDANCE:

Chairperson Carmen Hulu Lindsey
Trustee Leina‘ala Ahu Isa
Trustee Kaleihikina Akaka
Trustee Keli‘i Akina
Trustee Luana Alapa
Trustee Brendon Kalei‘āina Lee
Trustee Mililani Trask
Trustee John Waihe‘e, IV

ADMINISTRATION:

Sylvia Hussey, CEO
Casey Brown, COO
Ramona Hinck, CFO
Everett Ohta, Interim General Counsel
Nietzsche Ozawa, Interim Senior Legal Counsel
Kurt Klein, Board Counsel
Erin Nakama, IT Support
Arlene Aguinaldo, IT Support

BOT STAFF:

Amber Kalua, Trustee Aide
Lehua Itokazu, Board Secretary
Kanani Iaea, Trustee Aide
Kauai Wailehua, Trustee Aide
Brandon Mitsuda, Trustee Aide
Mark Watanabe, Trustee Aide
Ruben Sierra, Trustee Aide
Evalani Canto, Trustee Aide
Pohai Ryan, Trustee Aide
Crayn Akina, Trustee Aide
Nathan Takeuchi, Trustee Aide

GUEST:

Michelle McHale, Plante Moran
Michelle McDermott, Plante Moran
Kyle Sutton, Plante Moran

Call to Order

Chair Hulu Lindsey Calls the Board of Trustees Meeting to order for Thursday, October 7, 2022, at 10:04 a.m. Board Secretary, please do a roll call.

MEMBERS			Present	TIME ARRIVED
TRUSTEE	LEINA‘ALA	AHU ISA	X	
TRUSTEE	DAN	AHUNA		excused
TRUSTEE	KALEI	AKAKA	X	
TRUSTEE	KELI‘I	AKINA	X	
TRUSTEE	LUANA	ALAPA	X	
TRUSTEE	BRENDON KALEI‘ĀINA	LEE	X	
TRUSTEE	MILILANI	TRASK	X	
TRUSTEE	JOHN	WAIHE‘E	X	
CHAIRPERSON	CARMEN HULU	LINDSEY	X	
			8	

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

Chair Hulu Lindsey This meeting can be observed via livestream on OHA’s website at www.oha.org/livestream . Let me go over some quick announcements. Please mute your mics when you are not speaking, we are recording today’s meeting for the sole purpose of producing written minutes, which will become the official record of this meeting.

Joining the Trustees today is my staff, my Aides-Kanani Iaea and Amber Kalua, and Board Secretary-Lehua Itokazu. Also with us today is Robert Klein, Board Counsel, and Sylvia Hussey, our CEO. I will ask Sylvia to introduce staff participating.

Sylvia Hussey, CEO Thank you Chair, today we have Casey Brown-COO, Ramona Hinck-CFO, Interim General Counsel-Everett Ohta, Interim Sr. Legal Counsel-Nietzsche Ozawa, and supporting from IT, we have Arlene and Erin.

Chair Hulu Lindsey I am going to take the agenda out of order and allow community concerns to go now instead of after executive session.

Public Testimony

Germaine Meyers I am going to speak on today’s agenda item first. Aloha my name is Germaine Meyers. I am an OHA beneficiary for advocacy and empowerment, I am also a Nānākuli Hawaiian Homestead lessee. Today my testimony is regarding executive session related to a report produced by Plante Moran.

Many of you know, I have been coming to OHA since 2017 and bringing numerous concerns in person and in written testimony. In regard to this testimony today, I want to point out that I have given numerous public testimonies to the previous Board Chair, the previous BAE Chair and Vice-Chair, as well as the RM Chair and Vice Chair regarding Akamai Foundation, Na’i Aupuni, contract #3026 for \$2,598,000.00, ‘Aha Kāne for \$200,000 contract #2785, Striker Weiner Yokota contract #3022 for \$293,000.

She offers a list of the items she provided testimony and paperwork. The list she provides is connected to the Makaweli Poi Factory adding up to \$103,000 transferred to this poi factory. Her concerns are that all the money that went to the LLCs for this poi factory, another owner of this entity was an employee (Kaua'i Trustee Aide of OHA). She switched back to the Akamai Foundation and the \$2,598,000 dollars; she provided the budget, the agreement, and all of these documentations that were never fulfilled. She states that 341,000 Native Hawaiians were noted on the 2010 census over 18 years old. In Hawaii alone, there are 186,000 Native Hawaiians. If you took \$2.5 million and split it up and gave it to each Native Hawaiian, a check for \$7,600 dollars. Could this have gone towards education or use for assistance with her sister's retro fit due to her foot being amputated? Her concerns for fraud, waste, and abuse cannot continue to happen. Her request is that if there is fraud, waste, and abuse, that their Act 29 tax dollars would go to waste, and to continue to pursue that justice shall prevail. There should be a lesson from this so that no one shall ever do this again.

Community Concerns and Celebration

Germaine Meyers I want to discuss the Community Foundation. I sent each of you a copy and there are ten pages of photos of COVID community outreaches that was done by this non-profit. You have a listing of the Waianae Coast Community Foundation outreaches that happen in 2020, 2021, and 2022. This is consistent every year; you can see with no support from OHA. Under the leadership of Patty Kahanumoku Teruya, it never fails, she goes out into the community and gets things done. I bring this up because when I look at the top of the year, I see the Board had approved grants solicitations 2022-08, this was for the 'Ahahui grants; four cycles over two years, each cycle \$100,000. At the time, we decided to wait and see what would happen with the Governor. The mask mandate was still in place and we were still under many restrictions. As restrictions were lifted, Patty and I wondered how we can celebrate and give thanks to ke akua and bring our community together; this is how we came up with Christmas in the villages. We were going to apply for that grant and cycle two was supposed to happen in August with disbursement happening in November. Unfortunately, I called grants to try and get on the grant portal and finally, I was told that Administration decided to do something different. I thought to myself, I didn't see a realignment for that \$100,000. I was disappointed that that opportunity slipped from us and without following policy. We were told about a wonderful opportunity of a \$1,000 kōkua grant. Patty submitted for it and then we were asked how we were going to spend \$125? We said \$125 would be spent towards leis as makana, they wanted to know how many leis and the cost of each leis. OHA just awarded \$500,000 to serve 20 Hawaiians earlier this year and each Hawaiian was going to receive a \$2,500 stipend. I was so disappointed, here we go again, not following the rules and making up our own. Thank you, Trustees, for your time and have a nice day.

Executive Session

Chair Hulu Lindsey I will entertain a motion to move us in executive session.

Trustee Akina moves to recuse into executive session.

Trustee Akaka Seconds the motion.

The Board recuses into Executive Session at 10:22 a.m.

Motion to recuse into executive session pursuant to HRS Section §92-5						
	1	2	'AE (YES)	'A'OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
TRUSTEE LEI AHU ISA			X			
TRUSTEE DAN AHUNA						X
TRUSTEE KALEI AKAKA		X	X			
TRUSTEE KELI'I AKINA	X		X			
TRUSTEE LUANA ALAPA			X			
TRUSTEE BRENDON LEE			X			
TRUSTEE MILILANI TRASK			X			
TRUSTEE JOHN WAIHE'E			X			
CHAIRPERSON HULU LINDSEY			X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT			8			
MOTION: [] UNANIMOUS [X] PASSED [] DEFERRED [] FAILED						
Motion passes with a Eight (8) YES votes, Zero (0) NO votes and One (1) EXCUSED vote.						

Board returns to open session at 2:02 p.m.

Announcement

Chair Hulu Lindsey Our next Board meeting will be on Thursday, October 13, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment

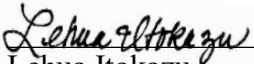
Trustee Waihee Moves to adjourn the meeting.

Trustee Akaka Seconds the motion.

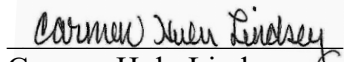
Adjournment							
TRUSTEE		1	2	'AE (YES)	A'OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
LEINA'ALA	AHU ISA			X			
DAN	AHUNA						X
KALEIHIKINA	AKAKA		X	X			
KELI'I	AKINA			X			
LUANA	ALAPA			X			
BRENDON KALEI'ĀINA	LEE			X			
MILILANI	TRASK			X			
JOHN	WAIHE'E	X		X			
CHAIR CARMEN HULU	LINDSEY			X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT				8			1

Chairperson Carmen Hulu Lindsey Adjourns the Board of Trustees meeting at 2:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


 Lehua Itokazu
 Board Secretary

As approved by the Board of Trustees on February 23, 2023.


 Carmen Hulu Lindsey
 Chairperson, Board of Trustees

Attachments:

1. Excused Memo – Trustee Ahuna



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Office of Trustee Dan Ahuna
Interoffice Memorandum

Date: October 6, 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 – Oct. 7, 2022**

I am unable to attend the BOT meeting scheduled for October 7, 2022.
Please extend my excused absence and my sincere apologies to the members
of the
board.

Mahalo.