

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Pu'uwai Canoe Club
3-5971 Kuhio Highway
Kapa'a, HI. 96746

Due to the threat of COVID-19, Governor Ige issued the most recent Emergency Nineteenth Supplementary Proclamation dated April 9, 2021 that suspend parts of Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter 92, Public Agency Meetings and Records to, among other things, enable boards to conduct business without any board members or members of the public physically present at the same location.

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

Kaua'i Site Visit Report
of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs
Board of Trustees
MINUTES
May 5, 2021 – 11:00 AM

ATTENDANCE:

Chairperson Carmen Hulu Lindsey
Trustee Dan Ahuna
Trustee Kaleihikina Akaka
Trustee Luana Alapa

ADMINISTRATION STAFF:

Sylvia Hussey, Ka Pouhana / CEO
Jason Lees

BOT STAFF:

Colin Kippen
Amber Kalua
Lehua Itokazu
Claudine Calpito
Anuheia Diamond
Brandon Mitsuda
Noalani Nakasone

GUEST:

Dana Miyake
Keone Miyake
Micah Mokuahi
Woody Widrig
Brian Curll
Maylene Jackson
Dave Parmenter
Sueo Higa
Lei Wan
Suzette Smith
John Kelekoma
Kati Conant
Blake Conant

EXCUSE:

Trustee Lei Ahu Isa
Trustee Keli'i Akina
Trustee John Waihe'e
Trustee Brendon Kalei'āina Lee
Trustee Keola Lindsey

I. Call to Order

Trustee Ahuna calls everyone in to form a large circle

II. Introduction

Introductions of everyone is done.

III. Site Visit

Blake starts off by sharing that the canoe club was founded in 1992. They have men and women teams. The keiki program is on hold at the moment. During the heavy rains, the area flooded and ruined their Club and canoes. All the trees that were cut mauka came down in the floods and washed out their canoes. The river becomes a problem during the heavy rains. The club has temporarily moved and is seeking a more permanent place.

The club is working with the Smith family and the State to take stewardship on the building nearby. The hope is to eventually have a permanent building to call home; an education space to teach keiki about aquatics; and to incorporate cultural aspects in this concept.

They are hoping that OHA can advise the group on what appropriate grants they should seek out. Presently, they do not see any opposition from anyone in regards to the space they are looking to secure.

The group believes in honoring their space; get kids and families active outdoors; and if you build it, they will come. Get people to love their area and they will take care of it.

IV. Public Testimony

None

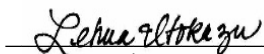
V. Announcements

None

VI. Adjournment

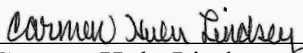
The site visit ended at 11:30 am

Respectfully submitted,



Lehua Itokazu
Board Secretary

Report distributed at the Board of Trustees Meeting on May 20, 2021.


Carmen Hulu Lindsey
Chairperson, Board of Trustees


Attachments:

1. Excused Memo – Trustee Akina
2. Excused Memo – Trustee Ahu Isa
3. Excused Memo – Trustee Waihe‘e
4. Excused Memo - Trustee K. Lindsey
5. Excused Memo – Trustee Lee
6. Letters from students



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS MEMORANDUM

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

To: Chairperson Carmen Hulu Lindsey
From: Trustee Leina'ala Ahu Isa, Ph.D. 
Date: May 2, 2021
Re: Excused Absence

Please be advised that I am unable to attend the following BOT site visits on the island of Kauai:

1. Alakoko Fish Pond on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 11:30 A.M.
2. Salt Pond Beach Park on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 2:00 P.M.
3. Ho'omana on Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at 10:00 A.M.; and
4. Pu'uwai Canoe Club on Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at 11:00 A.M.

If you have any questions, please contact my office.

Mahalo!



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Trustee Keli'i Akina, Ph.D.
Interoffice Memorandum

Date: May 3, 2021
To: Trustee C. Hulu Lindsey, Chairperson
From: Trustee Keli'i Akina, Ph.D.
Subject: Absence from May 4-5, 2021 Kauai site visits

Aloha e Madam Chair,

I will not be travelling to Kauai and will be absent from the May 4 and May 5 site visits. Please extend my regrets to the Board.

Respectfully,

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

Trustee Akina

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.

CC: Trustee Dan Ahuna, Member / Kaua'i Island

DATE: May 3, 2021

SUBJECT: ATTENDANCE FOR THE 05/04 KAUA'I BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT)
SITE VISITS AND THE 05/05 KAUA'I BOT SITE VISITS

I am unable to attend the 05/04 and 05/05 Board of Trustees Site Visits, physically scheduled on Kaua'i Island.

Please EXCUSE my absences and extend my apologies to the rest of the Board of Trustees.

Virtually, I am planning to attend the Kaua'i Island Community Meeting the evening of May 5th and the Kaua'i Island Board of Trustees Meeting the morning of May 6th.

Mahalo.



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

560 N. NIMITZ HWY., SUITE 200
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

May 3, 2021

To: Trustee Carmen Hulu Lindsey
Chairperson
Board of Trustees

Members of the Board

From: Keola Lindsey
Trustee Hawaii Island

RE: Excuse Memo

Aloha Chair Lindsey,

Please excuse me from the Site Visit of the Board of Trustees on Wednesday,
May 5, 2021, at 10:00 am to the Hoomana. Please extend my excused absence and sincere
apologies to the other members of the committee.

Mahalo,
Keola Lindsey
Trustee, Hawaii Island

MEMO TO: Trustee Hulu Lindsey, Chair
FROM: Trustee Brendon Kaleiaina Lee
DATE: May 3, 2021
SUBJECT: Kaua'i Site Visits, May 5, 2021

Aloha Trustee Lindsey:

I will be returning to O'ahu after our Kauai'i Site Visits on May 4, 2021 and request to be excused from the May 5, 2021 Site Visits to Ho'omana Thrift Store and Pu'uwai Canoe Club.

Mahalo.

To Whom it may concern,

Aloha nui, my name is Danika Viluan. I have been a part of the paddling community since the age of eight. Out of those years, four of them were spent with the Kapa'a High School canoe paddling team at the Pu'uwai Canoe Club. The coaching and training I experienced there have played a big role in my life and did not stop with my time in the program.

I entered the program at the age of 14 and had a few years of paddling experience from another club under my belt. While many coaches elsewhere would have seen this as a hindrance to try and reteach me in their techniques, the coaches of Kapa'a High School only wanted to nurture and improve the skills I already had. Their constant encouragement and belief in me allowed me to push myself further than I could have ever imagined. Through their coaching I learned my true strength, both physically and mentally, and surpassed many personal goals along with team goals. The support I received from the coaching staff extended beyond the paddling seasons. I have turned to them as mentors for school projects and still keep contact with them to this day, as have many of my former teammates. On my Winter breaks from college, I would return to the Kapa'a High School Paddling practices as a volunteer to assist my coaches because I believe so strongly in what they are trying to accomplish through their program. The passion they have for the sport, the culture, and their team members shows through their effort and commitment, despite having lives and families outside of paddling.

In summary, the Kapa'a High School paddling and Pu'uwai Canoe Club programs have a special place in my heart. They are well deserving of funding in order to touch lives in even a fraction of the way they impacted mine. The coaches are supportive, caring, and truly passionate about the role they play as a coach and in the community.

Me ke aloha,
Danika D. Hi'ilani Viluan
hiilani18@gmail.com
(808)-635-9830

Aloha,

My name is Rachel Pleas, and I was apart of the Kapa'a High School paddling team for 3 years. Paddling in high school has had the greatest impact on my life compared to any other sport I played, and I only owe it to the coaches and paddlers that I trained with. The coaches for Kapa'a High School paddling team have a love for this sport like no other. They are well respected and talked of highly all around the paddling community. The coaches taught us how to properly paddle, put us on the side to work on our form, but always encouraged us and pushed us to our limits. I paddled with an amazing crew that blended and the coaches and our crew would just have fun pushing each other and see what we could accomplish.

The coaches would not only focus on pushing us physically but also mentally. It felt like the coaches had this skill that they knew exactly what to say when you had a hard practice or knew exactly how to help you. Many times, I would feel myself breaking down physically or mentally and the coaches would always be so supportive and give you time but also push you to get back in it. I think something I genuinely loved about paddling was many mo'olelos of Wailua and of paddling. Our coaches would share that paddling is not only a sport, but a part of the Hawaiian culture and taught us to be proud and grateful that we get to paddle. The love and passion these coaches have poured over, and everyone could see it. Our coaches sacrificed so much of their time to teach us as even though they had so many other responsibilities. Our coaches had full time jobs, families, and their own lives but they made paddling such a priority and invested their time into the program. I have never seen coaches more passionate and respectable than the coaches at Kapa'a High School.

I started paddling when I was around 8 or 9, and out of all the years I paddled, I saw the biggest improvements when training under the coaches of Kapa'a High School. Not only did I see myself improve in paddling physically, but my mentality was stronger, and I was more confident in myself. High school was a particularly challenging time for me, and I do not know how I would have made it through without paddling in my life. I have learned many valuable lessons such as being humble, always being respectful no matter where you are, and to always show love to everyone. I cannot express how grateful I am for the experiences and knowledge I gained throughout paddling. I find it crazy that I graduated 3 years ago, but the impact the program had on my life has followed me all this way. I can only hope to see this program grow and to see so many other kids be impacted in a significant way.

Mahalo,

Rachel Pleas

Aloha,

My name is Lenele Rodrigues-Cabinatan, and I paddled for Kapa`a High School from the years 2007-2011. Paddling canoe during high school has had a lasting positive influence on my life.

During these four years I paddled as a steersman, and during this time I learned to be humble, disciplined, respectful, and a team player. After crossing the finish line each race, we wouldn't boast if we won, we wouldn't raise our paddles in the air in celebration. Instead we would cross the flags, and sit there quietly until the other teams would cross the finish line, then we would paddle in together.

I believe that because we stayed humble it showed that we had respect for our opponents and respected them enough not to rub our win in their face. This lesson still sits with me today, and I live each day showing respect towards others and never being boastful.

Paddling canoe has taught me strength, not just physically but also emotionally. It taught me that even though there are times where you don't come in first, you still need to give your all in everything that you do. I believe that kids who paddle, especially with Kapa`a High School or Pu`uwai, feel a sense of belonging.

I know that personally I still keep in touch with the many people i've paddled with, and we've become somewhat of a family and are still in each others lives. It was very important to me to feel like I belonged somewhere and to feel accepted, and paddling with Kapa`a has given me that.

Mahalo,

Lenele

My name is Chiara Fumagalli, I was a part of the Kapa'a High School paddling team my sophomore-senior year of High school. Joining the paddling team was one of the best decisions I made in high school, I wish I knew of the sport when I was a freshman! Joining that team not only taught me how to paddle but helped me gain new friendships and other amazing traits like confidence, strength, endurance, and just an overall love for the sport! In my first years of high school, I struggled a lot with confidence and never was one to be outgoing and loud, but after joining paddling that completely changed for me! All the coaches push you to be the best that you can be, one of the first things they taught us was that communication with our team was key to a successful crew. It was true, you can't move forward in the canoe if no one is moving together and we learned that quickly as a team none of us could stay quiet and be to ourselves because it just made the work harder because we were giving so much energy for nothing because we were all off timing. Not only did I gain a lot of confidence, but I met some of my best friends through this sport, there was something about having to move as one that just made the bond with my crew so much stronger, and I've played many sports like volleyball and soccer which are also team sports but nothing like paddling! Paddling is a sport that I highly recommend in high school, especially here in Hawaii where the history of paddling goes so deep into the culture. I come from a family who immigrated here to Hawaii so my knowledge about the history of Hawaii was very basic, that all changed in paddling. I became very knowledgeable about the history behind everything that the culture had to offer! Overall, paddling changed my way of life it gave me confidence, friendships, the ability to push through even if something was difficult, and a deeper love for the culture and place that I grew up. I still stand to my word even if I graduated a while back in 2017, I would do it all again if I could I miss paddling very much! I highly recommend this sport!

Aloha,

My name is Kristen Watanabe. I paddled with Kapa'a High School's paddling team for four years from 2008-2011. I also paddled with Pu'uwai Canoe Club for two of those years. Paddling was the only sport I participated in during high school but has impacted my life far past that. I have learned life lessons that have become instrumental in my everyday life today. I can honestly say that I learned much more than just how to paddle. I learned to really push myself to achieve the things that I want, because like the saying goes nothing in life comes easy. Doing grotto runs mentally taught me to push myself even past exhaustion. Paddling was also a great outlet for me to express my emotions in a positive way. High school is rough and being able to just put everything into paddling really helped my mental health. Another thing I learned was culture. The coaches really implemented Hawaiian culture and how to respect and take care of the equipment. They taught us chants to cheer in our teammates, how to rig canoes, how to properly bring the canoes up and down, etc.

Our coaches were also a big part of why I continued to paddle. They were some of the best influences in my youth that I can say have positively made me a better person all around. They went far beyond just being our coaches, but also took us in as their own and treated us just as that. They lead us to many KIF championships. I will forever appreciate all that they have taught me.

I'm so grateful for paddling all those years because it has shaped me into the person I am today. This program is so much more than what it seems.

Sincerely,

Kristen Watanabe

I paddled for four years at Kapa'a High School and still paddle recreationally when I am home from college. Canoe paddling has been very influential in my life and has connected me to my Hawaiian culture, my family, and myself. Canoe paddling has been a great outlet for me and has taught me the value of discipline, dedication, and team work. Through this sport I have formed relationships with my coaches, my teammates, and my family that have stuck with me and have shaped who I am. Paddling will always be apart of my life, and I am grateful for that.

-Sariah Mokuahi

Na Pua No'eau Center for Gifted and Talented Native Hawaiian Children

Summer Institute Kauai 2012

Na Mea Paniolo - a summer program funded through OHA and Kamehameha Schools

Overview: A week long immersion experience into the daily life of a Paniolo utilizing oli, song, working as a Paniolo, excursions, reflections and journaling. Instructors insure parents at the preliminary meeting that their keiki will be transformed by the end of this experience. A daily schedule of activities starts upon awakening at 530 am and ends with lights out at 10pm.

Day 2 assignment: Kukona

Long before Kamehameha nui united the islands under one rule, Kukona had an opportunity to do the same. Faced with this decision, he forfeited his chance to become the supreme ruler of Hawai'i and instead chose peace for his people. Because of this decision, Kaua'i experienced over 500 years of peace. Write about the qualities you admire in a person that has made a difference in your life. What are those qualities and how have they helped you grow as a person.

My Uncle Keone who is also my paddling coach has changed my life for the better. He relates to my problems and helps me overcome them. He steers me on the right path for a better life. I consider him my second father. He sets expectations and goals for me to work on. I feel like I can go to him any time for guidance. He is always willing to listen to me without judging me. He has lived through many good as well as bad experiences and uses them to direct me. He really cares about me. He treats me like family and isn't afraid to yell at me when I do something stupid. He tells me that he is always there for me.

Hello my name is Chase Carveiro. I was a part of the Puuwai / Kapaa high canoe club from 2001-2008. I played many sports when I was growing up on the island of Kauai football, soccer basketball, baseball, and golf to name a few. I enjoyed playing all sports but it wasn't until I found paddling that I truly felt passionate and love for a sport. I still remember my first practice on the Wailua river getting in the canoe with my friends and just having a blast. I was lucky because I had an amazing group of friends the same age as me that loved this sport just as much as I did. As I continued to paddle through out my high school years i became extremely competitive. I was lucky enough to have an amazing coach who showed a taught me lots of life lessons. He showed me how to set goals. He also showed me that to reach those goals you need to put in hard work and stay focused. My goal was to be the state champ by my senior year in high school. My coach and my crew worked really hard throughout high school to make this dream a reality. Finally it was our senior year we were ready. Unfortunately for us life had other plans we got 2nd in the states race. But that's ok because another life lesson was learned. Sometimes you don't succeed even when you do everything thing you can to succeed. It's all about picking your self back up and getting back to work. I also learned many other skillsets that would help me later on in my life like teamwork, leader ship, accountability, responsibility, and integrity. After high school my friends and I went all our separate ways. I moved to Oahu and went to College to become a fire fighter and just like in paddling I set a goal for myself, to become a firefighter by the time I am 30. I am 30 now and I have been a firefighter for the past 6 years. I am currently stationed at Kaimuki station 5 on 2nd watch in the Honolulu Fire Department. There is no doubt in my mind that paddling for Puuwai and Kapaa high played a huge role in shaping me in to the man I am today. My best friends in life are still the guys that I grew up paddling with till this day.

My name is Megan and I participated in the paddling program at Kapa'a High school from 2005-2009. Before joining the paddling program I was not competitive, athletic or even a very motivated person in general. I moved through life passively and allowed outside influences to dictate my path. Paddling changed me. I believe being a part of any sports team will inherently teach the values of team work, respect for coaches and equipment. I believe that any high school level athlete will learn about what it means to work towards goals, how to stay motivated, what it takes to win and how to deal with loss; but paddling gave me more. It gave me and others like me a learning opportunity that, I believe, is unique to the sport. I also believe that were it not for the accessibility of the high school team, I never would have been exposed to the life lessons taught to me all those years ago. We used to have our practices at Wailua River and the adjoining beaches. Our coaches taught us to respect our island and the areas where we live and play. They taught us about the natural movement of water and importance of it. They taught us how to recognize opportunities and how to use them to our advantage. I learned to be aware of my surroundings and to be a good steward of the 'Aina. My experiences in the Wa'a allowed me to see beyond the development of my physical ability to compete, and stoked the fire of continuous learning and self improvement. I learned how to win graciously, how to lose respectfully and how to encourage those around me; even if they were my competition. I learned the importance of not only bouncing back from disappointments but continuing to be diligent when you feel you are ahead. There have been multiple times in my life where I have been faced with a challenge that was solved with lessons learned while I was part of the paddling program. It has been a treasured experience of my life and could be a blessing in the lives of anyone else who accepts the challenge of Hoe Wa'a like I did. The experiences, the memories, the values and characteristics that I mentioned can belong to many more young men and women struggling to hold their own against the surge of life. I know who I am and what I stand for, thanks in part to the paddling program at Kapa'a High School. I hope to continue to see people have the same opportunities at success that I was given.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my experience.

Megan Liufau

To whom It may concern,

I am writing you as a former canoe paddler for both Pu'uwai Canoe club and Kapa'a High school, hoping to explain a little bit of what paddling has done for me in my life and to give you an idea of how even the smallest amounts of financial help is worth it to give kids the greatest opportunity to learn about the sport of canoe paddling. The impacts that canoe paddling has had for me are tremendous to say the least; I could write an entire book about how positive it was for me and how much it has impacted my life but I will try to keep it as short and to the point as possible. One of the things that canoe paddling has done for me is to have a deeper connection with my culture being a Kanaka Maoli born and raised in Hawai'i. Being an athlete in high school playing multiple sports such as football, track and field and a little bit of basketball, nothing gave me a cultural satisfaction remotely close to what I felt while paddling. Knowing that paddling was something that my ancestors did, allowed me to have a really deep appreciation, pride and respect for the sport.

Another tremendous impact that canoe paddling had on me was the camaraderie that I was able to build with my fellow classmates and teammates. Being in football it was a natural thing for a brotherhood to build, but it is also a natural thing to stick to that brotherhood and not necessarily build relationships with peers that are outside of that group. One thing I truly enjoyed about paddling was that it allowed students and peers to have that same brotherhood bond that didn't have the opportunity to play any different sport. Being that paddling was so welcoming to all individuals; whether you are the most athletic or not, it allowed everyone a chance to get to know each other, understand each other and build relationships. This was something that really carried me throughout college and a lot of the same outlooks I learned on building friendships and relationships, I took to college. Some of the closest friends that I have today were not only from playing football but also from our paddling crew.

Finally, one more tremendous impact that canoe paddling had on my life was the emphasis on having a healthy lifestyle truly comes with paddling. Being that paddling is such a cardiovascular dense sport, a healthy lifestyle is absolutely crucial to not only being successful but also having longevity. We really had the opportunity to listen to our bodies and get coached about certain aspects of training, nutrition and recovery that all play critical roles in becoming not only a successful paddler but also a healthy and active human being. Learning about the training, the nutrition and the recovery are things that truly helped me excel my own physical health and push me to become a collegiate football player in college. I truly believe that paddling allowed me to express and grow my athletic capabilities in a way that was not damaging to my body in anyway. This aspect of health and wellness is something I believe is extremely important especially the longevity aspect of it.

Mahalo,

From Maka Ah Loo, Kapa;a High School graduate C/O 2015

May 2021

To whom it may concern,

Aloha, my name is Sophia Rodriguez, a student at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. Since the age of eight, I have been a participant of the Puuwai CC and became a member of the Kapa'a High School Paddling when I was 14 years old.

I began paddling with Puuwai CC to follow my older sibling; however, it soon became one of the most important aspects of my life. The program helped create positive connections between team members and teach us many life lessons amidst the fundamentals of the sport. There was a short period of time where I broke away from the sport but reentered the realm of paddling when I entered high school. The Kapa'a High School Paddling shaped me into the person I am today. I was allowed to immerse myself in a sport that I truly enjoyed, where the coaches gave equal opportunities to all participants, not just the ones who showed an inclination of talent. This created a space for me to grow in my athletic abilities as well as in key character traits that I saw in my coaches, including having integrity, being compassionate, and having the ability to take the initiative. If it wasn't for the community I found through Puuwai CC and Kapa'a High School Paddling, I wouldn't be where I am today. This is where I found my motivation and inspiration to become a better version of myself, including making the decision to pursue higher education. They truly pushed me to become a better athlete and an overall better person, allowing me to hold onto the belief that no dream is impossible.

Overall, Puuwai CC and Kapa'a High School Paddling played a key role in shaping me and my future. By allowing them to receive funding, you will be giving them the opportunity to continue supporting kids to become better athletes and people in a safe environment. I offer my highest, and most appreciative recommendation to fund these groups.

Mahalo,

Sincerely,

Sophia Rodriguez

(808)631-1962

sophialr@hawaii.edu