

Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment (BAE)Trustee Brickwood Galuteria, At-Large, *Chair*Trustee Kaleihikina Akaka, O'ahu, *Vice Chair**Members*

Trustee Dan Ahuna, Kaua'i / Ni'ihau

Trustee Keli'i Akina, At-Large

Trustee Luana Alapa, Moloka'i / Lāna'i

Trustee Kaiali'i Kahele, Hawai'i Island

Trustee Carmen Hulu Lindsey, Maui

Trustee J. Keoni Souza, At-Large

Trustee John Waihe'e IV, At-Large



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

Committee on Budget and Finance (BF)Trustee John Waihe'e IV, At-Large, *Chair*Trustee Dan Ahuna, Kaua'i / Ni'ihau, *Vice Chair**Members*

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**JOINT MEETING OF THE
COMMITTEE ON BENEFICIARY ADVOCACY AND EMPOWERMENT (BAE) AND THE
COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FINANCE (BF)**

DATE: Wednesday September 16, 2026**TIME:** 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: Remote Meeting by Interactive Conference Technology
Viewable at www.oha.org/livestream OR
Listen by phone: (213) 338-8477,
Webinar ID: 952 2281 7780

This meeting can be viewed via livestream on OHA's website at www.oha.org/livestream or listened to by phone using the call-in information above. Additionally, this meeting can be viewed live on 'Ōlelo Community Media <https://olelo.org/>. A physical meeting location, open to members of the public who would like to provide oral testimony or view the meeting, will be available at 560 N. Nimitz Hwy., Suite 200, Honolulu, HI 96817.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Approval of Minutes**
 - A. JOINT BAE-RM Meeting Minutes of October 30, 2024
 - B. JOINT BAE-BF Meeting Minutes of September 9, 2026
- III. Unfinished Business - None**
- IV. New Business - None**
- V. Executive Session§**
 - A. Approval of Minutes
 1. JOINT BAE-BF Executive Session Meeting Minutes for September 9, 2026
 - B. Discussion and possible action regarding additional candidates that the JOINT BAE-BF Committees may invite for an initial interview for the permanent position of Office of Hawaiian Affairs Chief Executive Officer (CEO) / Ka Pouhana / Administrator. The JOINT BAE-BF Committees anticipate going into executive session pursuant to HRS § 92-5(a)(2) to consider the hiring and evaluation of an officer or employee, where consideration of matters affecting privacy will be involved related to the candidates under consideration.
- VI. Adjournment**

If you need an auxiliary aid/service or other accommodation due to a disability, please contact Keola Fong at 808-626-5484 or by email at keolaf@oha.org as soon as possible. Requests made as early as possible have a greater likelihood of being fulfilled. Upon request, this notice is available in alternate/accessible formats.

§Notice: This portion of the meeting will be closed pursuant to HRS § 92-5.

Public Testimony will be called for each agenda item and must be limited to matters listed on the meeting agenda. Hawai'i Revised Statutes, Chapter 92, Public Agency Meetings and Records, prohibits Board members from discussing or taking action on matters not listed on the meeting agenda.

The board packet will be available for the public to inspect at OHA's main office located at 560 N. Nimitz Hwy., Suite 200, Honolulu, HI 96817 no later than three full business days before the meeting.



**STATE OF HAWAII
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The board packet will also be made available on OHA's website <https://www.oha.org/bf> as soon as practicable thereafter.

In the event that the livestream public broadcast is interrupted and cannot be restored, the meeting may continue as audio-only through the phone number and Webinar ID provided at the beginning of this agenda.

Meeting recordings will be made available on OHA's website <https://www.oha.org/about/leadership/board-of-trustees/> as soon as practicable after the meeting.

Testimony can be provided to the Board of Trustees either as:

(1) written testimony; or

(2) *live, oral testimony online, by telephone, or at the physical meeting location* during the remote meeting.

- (1) Persons wishing to provide **written testimony** on items listed on the agenda should submit testimony via **email** to botmeetings@oha.org or via **postal mail** to Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Attn: Board of Trustees Meeting Testimony, 560 N. Nimitz Hwy., Suite 200, Honolulu, HI 96817. Testimony is requested to be received at least twenty-four hours prior to the scheduled meeting to allow board members with sufficient time to review the testimony before the meeting.

Please note that all written testimony will be posted on OHA's meeting website. Please omit or redact any personal information (e.g., name, email address, phone number, home address, or materials) that you do not want to be disclosed publicly online

- (2) Persons wishing to provide **oral testimony online** during the remote meeting, please use the link below:

Webinar ID: 952 2281 7780

<https://zoom.us/j/95222817780>

(*if you are unable to link directly, copy and paste in search)

To provide **oral testimony online**, you will need:

- (a) computer or mobile device to connect to the virtual meeting;
- (b) internet access; and
- (c) a microphone to provide oral testimony.

Persons wishing to provide **oral testimony by telephone** during the remote meeting may dial the phone number listed at the beginning of this agenda and enter the corresponding Webinar ID. Telephone participants will be able to provide oral testimony during the meeting.

Persons wishing to provide **oral testimony at the physical meeting** location can sign up the day of the meeting at the physical meeting location.

If you willfully disrupt the meeting, support staff will remove you from the Zoom meeting. You can continue to view the remainder of the meeting on the livestream or by telephone, as provided at the beginning of this agenda.

Oral testimony online, by telephone or at a physical meeting location will be limited to five (5) minutes.

9/10/2026

Trustee Brickwood Galuteria, *Chair*
Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy
and Empowerment (BAE)

Date

9/10/2026

Trustee John Waihe'e, IV, *Chair*
Committee on Budget and Finance
(BF)

Date

September 16, 2026 - Continued

Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment (BAE)Trustee Brickwood Galuteria, At-Large, *Chair*Trustee Kaleihikina Akaka, O'ahu, *Vice Chair***Members**

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AGENDA**I. Call to Order****II. Approval of Minutes**

A. JOINT BAE-RM Meeting Minutes of October 30, 2024

B. JOINT BAE-BF Meeting Minutes of September 9, 2026

III. Unfinished Business - None**IV. New Business - None****V. Executive Session§**

A. Approval of Minutes

1. JOINT BAE-BF Executive Session Meeting Minutes for September 9, 2026

B. Discussion and possible action regarding additional candidates that the JOINT BAE-BF Committees may invite for an initial interview for the permanent position of Office of Hawaiian Affairs Chief Executive Officer (CEO) / Ka Pouhana / Administrator. The JOINT BAE-BF Committees anticipate going into executive session pursuant to HRS § 92-5(a)(2) to consider the hiring and evaluation of an officer or employee, where consideration of matters affecting privacy will be involved related to the candidates under consideration.

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**STATE OF HAWAI'I
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
560 N. NIMITZ HIGHWAY, SUITE 200
(VIRTUAL MEETING - VIA ZOOM WEBINAR)**

**JOINT MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON BENEFICIARY ADVOCACY AND EMPOWERMENT AND THE
COMMITTEE ON RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
MINUTES**

October 30, 2024 10:00 a.m.

ATTENDANCE:

RM Chair John Waihe'e, IV
BAE Chair Kalei Akaka
Trustee Luana Alapa
Trustee Brickwood Galuteria
Trustee C. Hulu Lindsey
Trustee Keoni Souza
Trustee Mililani Trask

EXCUSED:

Trustee Dan Ahuna
Trustee Keli'i Akina

BAE STAFF:

Mark Watanabe
Nathan Takeuchi

ADMINISTRATION STAFF:

Ferreira, Stacy / CEO
Pu'u, Kēhaulani / COO
Hink, Ramona / CFO
Ryan Lee / Endowment Director
Grace Chen / Financial Analyst
Everett Ohta / Interim General Counsel
Nietzsche Ozawa / Interim Senior Legal Counsel
Elena Farden / Senior Director of Strategy & Implementation
Hailama Farden / Senior Director of Hawaiian Cultural Affairs
Ku'ikeOkalani Kamakea-Ohelo / Director of 'Ōiwi Well-Being & 'Aina Momona
Ku'uleianuheha Awo-Chun / Director of Education & Culture Based Learning,
Poni Askew / Director of Economics and Business Resilience
Kelcie Wade / IT
Arlene Aguinaldo / IT

I. CALL TO ORDER

BAE Chair Akaka calls the Joint Meeting of the Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment meeting and the Committee on Resource Management for Wednesday, October 30, 2024 to order at **10:04 a.m.**

BAE Chair Akaka notes for the record that **PRESENT** are:

MEMBERS			AT CALL TO ORDER (10:04 a.m.)	TIME ARRIVED
CHAIR	KALEIHIKINA	AKAKA	PRESENT	
Trustee	DAN	AHUNA	EXCUSED	
Trustee	KELI'I	AKINA	EXCUSED	
Trustee	LUANA	ALAPA	EXCUSED	10:48 A.M.
Trustee	BRICKWOOD	GALUTERIA	PRESENT	
Trustee	CARMEN HULU	LINDSEY	PRESENT	
Trustee	KEONI	SOUZA	PRESENT	
Trustee	MILILANI	TRASK	PRESENT	
Trustee	JOHN	WAIHE'E, IV	PRESENT	

At the Call to Order, **SIX (6) Trustees are PRESENT**, thereby constituting a quorum.

BAE Chair Akaka: For recording votes of each of the two standing committees. If there are no objections, I would like to call upon our Honorable RM Chair Waihe'e, if you would agree to move each BAE and RM motion to vote concurrently for both committees.

RM Chair Waihe'e: I would agree, Madam Chair.

II. Approval of Minutes

- A. August 30, 2023
- B. September 26, 2023
- C. September 27, 2023
- D. October 18, 2023

72-hour rule pursuant to OHA BOT Operations Manual, section 49, waived for distribution of new committee materials.

NO TESTIFIERS ON THIS ITEM

BAE Chair Akaka: Are there any corrections to the minutes?

Board Chair Hulu Lindsey: Madam Chair, I'd like to move that we approve the Minutes.

BAE Chair Akaka: Mahalo. Is there a second?

RM Chair Waihe'e: Second.

BAE Chair Akaka: It's been moved and seconded. I'll take a **roll call** for that.

							10:07 a.m.
Trustee		1	2	'AE (YES)	A'OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
DAN	AHUNA						X
KELI'I	AKINA						X
LUANA	ALAPA						X
BRICKWOOD	GALUTERIA			X			
CARMEN HULU	LINDSEY	1		X			
KEONI	SOUZA			X			
MILILANI	TRASK				X		
RM CHAIR JOHN	WAIHE'E, IV		2	X			
BAE CHAIR KALEIHIKINA	AKAKA			X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT				5	1	0	3

MOTION: [] UNANIMOUS [X] PASSED [] DEFERRED [] FAILED

III. Unfinished Business – None

IV. New Business

A. Joint Meeting of the Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment and the Committee on Resource Management (BAE-RM)

1. **Action Item BAE-RM #24-01:** Approval of OHA's Biennium Budget Bill for the Fiscal Biennium Periods FY 26 (2025-2026) and FY 27 (2026-2027)

NO TESTIFIERS ON THIS ITEM

BAE Chair Akaka yields the floor to Ka Pouhana Ferreira

Ka Pouhana Ferreira: If we could get the presentation up please. You should also have the handout in front of you. So, while we're waiting for the presentation to be displayed, I just want to make an overarching note that our budget bill is pretty straightforward. It's not a complex one. We're not asking for anything significantly different than in previous biennium budget asks. If we could go to the next slide, please, for the legislative schedule. So as many of you know, the legislative schedule does not come out this early. However, we are just projecting and forecasting these dates based off of previous years. So, October 30th, we are looking obviously today to be able to present out to you for free and open discussion regarding our budget bill that we will be presenting to the legislature October 31st. We will presenting, if approved by this body at the BOT. December 31st, we are looking to submit our final OHA legislative package and sometime between December, January 25th, we are anticipating e kala mai, yeah, January 2025, to be called in front of WAM and FIN for our informational briefing and then January 15th, we expect the opening of the 2025 legislative session.

So, I can turn our attention to some notes about our budget bill proposal. So fiscal year '26, we are requesting \$4.8 million, it's an increase of 1.8 from fiscal year '24 and fiscal year '27. We are looking at requesting 4.9 million, an increase of 1.9 from fiscal year '25. And the reason that there is an increase, a significant increase from previous years, is that our budgets have been adjusted to reflect the five year Hawaii Consumer Price index for the last five years. And why that's important for this for this body is that we cannot just keep going in for programmatic and service cost. Because there is a impact to us in terms of inflation and so we want to make sure that when we put in our budget requests that we're not just asking for straight program costs, but also taking into consideration the inflation that is reflected year over year so that we're not always behind. And so, we are asking, to go retro five years because for us to be able to close that gap, we cannot just ask for inflationary funding for this year because we are already, yeah, you know, behind the curve from the previous four years. And so, the consumer, Hawai'i Consumer Price Index it it's variable and it ranged, between 3 and 7 percent year over year. And so again we want to close that gap that we did not request for funds and then we also want to request funds for '26-'27 going forward. So, for fiscal year '27, we are going to be asking for 3 percent for that inflationary cost because obviously you know we can't forecast what fiscal year '27 is going to be. But we think that's a conservative and a reasonable inflationary number to put into the biennium and because we have a supplemental year, if we need to adjust it, we can do so. And also, in past practice OHA has put in budget requests that include payroll costs and I'd like to continue to do that and we are going to be asking the legislature to fund, through general funds, 13 members of our strategy and implementation team. I feel confident that we can defend that request because as we are looking to, (1) make up time in Mana i Maui Ola the four years that have already passed and we are trying to very aggressively achieve the aspirational outcomes that this Board put forth in Mana i Maui Ola and this 13 member strategy and implementation team was constructed to be very precision and focused on executing on that strategic plan and so, being able to talk to that at the legislature to say that this

13 Member strategy and implementation team being funded by the Senate and the House makes a lot of sense because it does, (1) allow us to meet our HRS mandates, Chapter 10 and Chapter 10(h), along with our mission and vision and our strategic outcomes in Mana i Maui Ola.

BAE Chair Akaka: I understand we have trustees that have questions, first Trustee Sousa.

Trustee Souza: Mahalo, Madam Chair, thank you, Ka Pouhana, I just wanna clarify. So, you guys are asking for 13 positions. The original org chart that we got states 11 positions. This is back in March. So, what changed on this org chart and where does that 2 new positions fall under?

Ka Pouhana Ferreira: Okay, so I just want to clarify. So in this legislative request, we're not asking for positions, we're asking for funds. So that's the first part and I'm not, I'm sorry, I don't have the org chart in front of me.

Trustee Souza: Yeah, sorry. That's the presentation that was done in March.

Ka Pouhana Ferreira: So, each of the directors under each of the strategic outcomes have two strategy consultants. So, in this or the previous org chart, only the director of 'Ōiwi Well-Being had two and that was because at this point in time we only had that one director onboard. And so, we have expanded our capacity. They were always slated to have two, but what was distributed at that time only demonstrates that one for that particular, excuse me, two for that particular director, but they all should have two, mahalo.

Trustee Souza: Okay, thank you and if we can get an updated org chart. Thank you very much.

Ka Pouhana Ferreira: Absolutely, Kēhau will make sure to get that to you.

Trustee Souza: Thank you.

BAE Chair Akaka: Mahalo yes, been waiting for a while for that.

BAE Chair Akaka recognizes Board Chair Hulu Lindsey

Board Chair Hulu Lindsey: Pouhana, I just want you to know how concerned the Trustees are with the addition of the 1.258 million per year. Because, you know, in the past we've been really, really criticized by some of the lead senators, particularly Senator Kim. She's always called us top heavy so, I wonder if you can be, more detailed in explaining why there's so many strategists.

Ka Pouhana Ferreira: Sure, absolutely. So, if we look at the past four years, the reason that OHA has not been able to make any movement on Mana i Maui Ola is because we were not structured to do so. So, the way that OHA had been structured, we have very discrete core functional areas. You have compliance, you have advocacy, you have communications, and I'll just use those three as an example. Those three discrete departments cannot effectuate what you folks have called out in the strategic plan, so advocacy doing bills and holding community meetings is not going to allow us to meet the strategic objectives of the plan. Communications with Ka Wai Ola and communication campaigns would not allow OHA to be able to achieve its strategic tactics. So, form follows function. You folks created a form for us through the strategic plan. Functionality wise, this agency was not set up to do that. We need folks that are structured in a way where we can have subject matter experts who also have networks, who understand the ecosystems of education housing, health outcomes and economic stability. Without that subject matter expertise, without the networks that they have and they bring to this agency, without a complete understanding of the ecosystem that needs to be transformed and working on that daily, we will not get the movement on our strategic plan. And so, I feel very confident and comfortable in going in front of the legislature because I think Ways and Means and Finance, what they want to see from OHA is, what is the plan. It's not about the

dollar amount, it's how do we justify the dollar amount and I feel very confident and comfortable that saying that with this new administration, there has been a very transformational shift to ensuring that we can functionally achieve our strategic plan, not just put out a plan that that sounds good, looks good, but one that is actually can be implemented. Functionally, prior to this administration, we were just not set up to do so and going forward and I think we're already seeing that we are making moves in our community and we are already and we've also provided in the packet, in attachment B, some very specific, precision like tactics, whereas prior to this administration there were none. And thus, I think the agency floundered for many years and not being able to see the kinds of outcomes that this Board wanted to see, mahalo.

Board Chair Hulu Lindsey: So, I just want to follow up. With all the good strategy that these strategists will create, do we have the people to implement them?

Ka Pouhana Ferreira: So that's part of the tactical planning, right? So, some of these things will be done in various forms. So, some will be done through advocacy, some will be done through communications, some will be done through contracts, some may be done as a cross-coordinated effort across the agency. It just really depends on the tactic, Chair, so I can't tell you exactly what every single implementation tactic will look like because they're going to vary.

Board Chair Hulu Lindsey: Okay, thank you.

BAE Chair Akaka recognizes Trustee Trask

Trustee Trask: When I look at the biennium budget, I do not see the allocations for the \$17 million carryover, number one, and in terms of Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment Committee, I'm not exactly sure what you're talking about in terms of a strategy that the Board had passed. I did go back and look, but for over a year and a half, we didn't have any publicly posted BAE minutes.

BAE Chair Akaka: We did have it online, within the required 40 days.

Trustee Trask: Excuse me, because OHA's rules don't allow Neighbor Island Trustees to receive it is part of the problem. But when we take a look at what we're talking about, we're preparing for the legislature is what we're doing here. Preparing for the legislature. Are we going to address the \$17 million carryover when we go to them for additional funding? And you know, I'd like to know where the 17,000,000 is myself, because it's not in the budget. It has not been ever presented to the Board. But I had moved two meetings ago to ask if we could use that for our grantees. So, you know what I'm saying? I mean, I'd like to see the budget bill when we vote on it, which we don't have now, but.

Ka Pouhana Ferreira: It's in your packet.

Trustee Trask: The package didn't come to Neighbor Island Trustees, all of it. Yeah, you guys have it.

Ka Pouhana Ferreira: So, it's attachment A in the A.I. Chair, if I may answer. So, the carryover is inconsequential to this budget bill. This is a budget request going to the legislature for general funds and that's it. The two are being confused.

Trustee Trask: I'm afraid that it's not. You know, when I talked with Senator Donna Kim, who already is working with me on the complaint filed against yourself and Hulu, which the Trustees were not informed of. But Donna Kim asked the question, you know, I know that we have a \$17 million budget, you know, overflow. I don't know where it's going, but I think that when you go in the legislature, asking for 13 more executive positions.

Ka Pouhana Ferreira: We're not asking for positions.

Trustee Trask: No, you are not. I can tell you that, but I think that you should, you know, where is the budget bill you're talking about?

Ka Pouhana Ferreira: The budget bill is in your attachment A.

Trustee Trask: No, I'm talking about the breakdown. Where's the 17,000,000? Is that in the budget or not? We just had discussion about it two weeks ago. Where's the 17 million?

BAE Chair Akaka: Yes, Trustee Trask we'll have the administration clarify exactly about that 17,000,000 regarding grants.

Trustee Trask: Yeah.

COO Pu'u: Thank you. So, Trustee Trask, there are a few sources of funds for OHA's operating budget. We have our Native Hawaiian Trust Fund and we have state general funds. So, they are separate. This covers just our ask to the legislature for general funds. Which has historically been \$3,000,000 for the last four years. We are asking for an increase. So that's one thing that I wanna clarify. Two, I want to clarify that 17,000,000 was not carry over. That was the fiscal year 2025's grant budget. So that was the entire budget, including what we fund charter schools, all the community grants that we awarded, DHHL. So, all of that was 5650 17.5 million. That was our entire fiscal year 2025 grant. We did bring up budget carry over. Our numbers were much more clarified now, so I'm going to let Ramona speak to the carryover, which is not included here. So, this is only our first coming to the Board with what we want to ask legislature for. We will come later on in the calendar year to bring the rest of the operating budget before the Board and that will come from our Native Hawaiian Trust Fund and other source of funds that we have. I can turn it over to Mona.

Trustee Trask: You know, thank you for that. I just wanted to know because when you look at your presentations on Native Hawaiian Trust Fund, etcetera, it does not include the funding in the endowment and that is also not reported on in any.

Ka Pouhana Ferreira: The trust funds that are reflected in the bill are our match funds.

Trustee Trask: I didn't ask the question. The question is where are the funds and where's the report on the endowment? We're not getting it from the legislature. We're not getting it from our existing budget and when I asked to have some of the 17,000,000 put into our current grant session, I couldn't get that done either.

COO Pu'u: Trustee, so, you left last week's meeting early, so the second-half of the Resources Management Committee and the Board of Trustees meeting last week, and I hoped you would stay on, was to bring back the last tranche of recommendations to the Board, so we brought back three recommendations. Two of them were to restore funding to those organizations that had applied, and we had reduced their funding, which I know that was something that you were very passionate about. The awarding had been reduced to a year of funding and that was, you know, in line with guidance to try and award more, right? And so, the recommendation had come back to reduce so, I want to share that because this Board did approve the three recommendations that were made, two of them were to go back and restore what the original asks of those community organizations were. So, these are the organizations that you spoke about and advocated back in September. So, they are receiving full funding. Some of the communication has gone out, they're very happy about that. And then the third recommendation was to award six additional organizations who had scored a 90% or higher in the evaluation process and to fund them fully. So that is where the rest of the grants budget for fiscal year 2025 went. So, it went back to all these organizations who had applied and only got partial funding. And then one last thing I want to clarify is that in this budget bill, we are not asking for new positions, these are existing positions we just would like to get funding from the state

to help us fund that, which is a past practice, which is something that we learned has been done historically here at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Mona will speak to the carryover.

Trustee Trask: I don't need to hear from Mona. It doesn't have anything to do with my question.

BAE Chair Akaka: Thank you.

BAE Chair Akaka recognizes Trustee Galuteria

Trustee Galuteria: Mahalo Chair. Mahalo for your work appreciate it. This is more of a general overview in the event that the Board approves your request. Are you forecasting that the agency will be at full throttle by FY27, by FY2027? You're not asking for, it's not, the actual positions are not clear, but in your opinion, are you forecasting a vibrant agency by the time we get to FY2027?

Ka Pouhana Ferreira: That's a great question and again, I'm just going to repeat form follows function and for us to effectuate what we hope to do in Mana i Maui Ola. You know, we're learning a lot as we, one, fill vacancies we recognize that some of the vacancies are vacant because the agency doesn't really need some of those positions. So, we've been able to carry on operations. So, we're really being critical about what vacancies we need to fill because they may not be as essential anymore into in terms of where we are going with Mana i Maui Ola and so you know we do want to have very strategic conversations around what other positions might we need. You know, the Hawaiian cultural affairs conversation that we had at the last Board meeting, I mean, for us to be a Hawaiian organization, that's a very strategic move when we think about implementing Mana i Maui Ola as the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and we don't have a Native Hawaiian cultural affairs team. That had to be created to effectuate, you know, the strategies and the tactics to plan, to design and to implement, execute. That required a strategic and implementation team that didn't exist before. You know as we think about where we're trying to go with ea and 'āina back, our teams, and we're hearing it from the real estate strategy consultants. Our land paia is under resourced and we need different types of skill sets and acumen and so what does that look like for us? And so, I don't want to make a false promise and say that we're going to be fully, you know, fully stacked in terms of our bench here at OHA. I think we need to remain flexible and strategic about the positions that we currently have, the vacancies that we currently have and how those should be repurposed and then what new positions do we have that's going to take us to 2030.

Trustee Galuteria: So, in your opinion, this adjustment will attract top talent. We want top talent here at OHA.

Ka Pouhana Ferreira: You know the 13 strategy implementation positions I think have already attracted top talent and that's why we're seeing movement already in a very short amount of time. And so, again, I just want to be clear, that what we're asking for, these FTE these full-time equivalents, already exist within OHA. All we're asking is, I believe that I can make a strategic argument for the legislature to help fund these positions, because these positions will get us to our mandate, to help us achieve the mandate of Chapter 10h. It's going to help us to achieve Mana i Maui Ola. And that's what the legislature wants to see. What is the plan for any monies that we come forward and ask? What are we hoping to get for that money? I feel very confident that I can tell them what this strategic and implementation team is going to deliver for OHA and why these general funds are critical for us to be able to use that towards their personnel costs, mahalo.

BAE Chair Akaka recognizes Trustee Souza

Trustee Souza: Madam Chair, Stacy, thank you so much for clarifying earlier. So, I mean question, maybe it got misinterpreted, but I know those positions are already positions that we already have and it's a different approach as far as budget and how to fund it. And now that you're saying that we have gone to the leg. in the past to ask them for money that makes me feel better that this is not a first time practice and has been done. By asking my question earlier, I wasn't in opposition. I do support this and like Trustee Galuteria

said earlier, I do feel that we need the tools, number one to gain new talent, retain new talent and execute our strategic plan, which I feel that we are behind in executing at this point and we're already four years in so thank you guys for you do, mahalo. Thank you, Madam Chair.

BAE Chair Akaka recognizes Board Chair Lindsey.

Board Chair Hulu Lindsey: One more question, Stacy. I agree that you've hired some stellar positions within our staff and I'm happy for that. But my question is what if this portion of our operating budget is not received by the legislature. How we're gonna get that extra money to pay them?

Ka Pouhana Ferreira: It's not extra, this is already in our budget, Chair. So, what we're asking for is we're asking for general funds versus our trust funds because I feel like I can make a compelling argument that the legislature should support us in our efforts to meet the mandates of Chapter 10(h). And I believe this team helps us to do that very specifically.

Board Chair Hulu Lindsey: Thank you.

Ka Pouhana Ferreira: Mahalo.

BAE Chair Akaka: Members, any other questions? Okay, if you can carry on.

Ka Pouhana Ferreira: Mahalo, can we go forward to the budget bill slide because I think that will help to articulate what we just talked about? So, this is the budget table and it reflects our requested ceiling amounts in OHA 150, 160, and 175 in both general and trust fund. And so, I'm just going to take you through the bill and how to read it really quickly. So OHA 150 is the Office of the Trustees and so you'll note there that under fiscal year 25-26, there is a strike through from 0.47 FTE. So, this is a great example of in past years, past budgets, that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs has asked for and received FTE funding. However, as time has gone on, the FTE has remained but no funding, right? So, what we're doing and what's being reflected in this budget bill is I'm doing cleanup, housekeeping. I'm asking for the legislature to reduce the .47 in A funds and the 4.53 in trust funds. It's a very interesting thing that at some point in time, OHA had asked the legislature for funding for Trustee positions and that's no longer the case, right? So there you can see that there's no monies but the FTE count is still there. So as a cleanup from the previous Act 71 of 2023, we're going to ask the legislature to reduce that in OHA 150 and then in OHA 160 if you go down to line 11, that's administration, again we're going to ask them to strike out, and they had paid for administrative positions before, at 5.03. We're going to ask them to strike that out and we're going to ask for an increase of 13 of general funds and so 1.2 in A funds, A funds are general funds in fiscal year '26 and in FY27 we're asking them for 1.29 in general funds. Again, the difference between '26 and '27 is the cost of living increase, OK. And then if you go down to line 20 OHA 175 beneficiary advocacy again, we're gonna do housekeeping. We're gonna ask them to reduce the 1.47 FTE that they used to provide funding for, but no longer does. And then we're asking for the 3.6 in general funds in '26 and 3.7 in fiscal year '27. So, these are our program service requests and these are the things that S and I are requesting and that's in your attachment B. Again it's program service cost. In addition, we've included the cost of living increases. Also cleaning up the 18.53 that used to be a trust fund match. And at the bottom you can see our trust fund match is 3.6 in fiscal year '26 and 3.7 in '27. So, this is a really good bill and again I think that the legislature is gonna appreciate that OHA is coming in and cleaning up their budget that we're not just continuing to add on every year and not cleaning up things that are kind of just hanging out there that really don't make sense budgetarily anymore. So, we internally will do the form A's that are required to clean up this housekeeping items. Any questions?

BAE Chair Akaka recognizes RM Chair Waihe'e.

RM Chair Waihe'e: Stacy, I do like what we're asking for cause it's a nice amount. But it's kind of a high

increase and the legislature, usually the way a lot of them will view it, they won't scrutinize it that thoroughly. They'll just say, oh, you guys increased, but you increased your amount by like 60% over the last one. Why did you do that? That's pretty high.

Ka Pouhana Ferreira: Yes, Chair. So actually, we're gonna have a budget info briefing in which I will sit before WAM and FIN and I will answer those questions. I will share with you as my time as budget chief, and I'm acutely aware of the questions that they ask, what the answers that they are expecting and also, the cost-of-living increases is actually on par for other executive branch agencies that are coming in for increases because, just like with our compensation, if we don't account for cost of living, we will always be in a deficit. So, this increase that we're asking for is on par with what all the other executive branch agencies and departments will be coming in with their budget requests. So, we're not going to be an anomaly. In fact, I think it shows that we're actually being very prudent and forecasting what our costs are going to be, mahalo.

BAE Chair Akaka recognizes Trustee Galuteria.

Trustee Galuteria: Mahalo, Chair. This is more of a request than it is a question. When you start addressing the cost-of-living increases and I don't want to sound self-absorbed here, but I'm hoping that you're gonna also take a look at the at the talent in the C-Suite staffs.

Ka Pouhana Ferreira: Yep.

Trustee Galuteria: And that some of this increase will make its way to the staffers in the C-Suite.

Ka Pouhana Ferreira: So, Trustee, absolutely. So, when we look at our compensation increases that is applied across the board to all administrative staff. So that's BOT staff as well as administrative staff. And I would implore this Board to support me when that time comes when we do our compensation review because that is absolutely something that is imperative for us to retain the talent that we have and to attract new talent to this agency. We are, across the board, not competitive and it is my commitment to all of our staff on the BOT and the administrative side to pay competitive wages. So that is not in this particular bill, but certainly compensation will be coming in front of this Board once administration has been able to do our market study and we will put a proposal in front of you, mahalo.

BAE Chair Akaka recognizes Trustee Trask.

Trustee Trask: Wanted to make some comments here and that is that the term cost-of-living, we use all the time, but what we don't say is that it's the cost-of-living for O'ahu. And if you look at our grants, you can see what happens. We're judging things based on a cost-of-living standard for O'ahu. And we never add in the additional cost that Moloka'i would have to face or Lāna'i. And we don't do that for the grants either and this is a point I have made before. Secondly, I wanted to point out that I very much disagree with what is being said. Example, the Board did not ever address or vote for the creation of an endowment account. The Board was never informed of what funds went in there. In the middle of a meeting, a graphic was dropped by Stacy on the endowment account. I cannot find legislative source for those funds. Neither can I find any other action of the Board. She's right, we're not gonna be hiring 13 new people. We're gonna do what we did with the endowment account. We look at our existing staff, we change their title. We post an RFP for endowment director. We hire the existing staffer, with a huge salary. This was done months ago. I still haven't received the report to this Board on the endowment management of either the funding nor any kind of a report from the alleged endowment director that I never voted for. The record is made on this.

Ka Pouhana Ferreira: Chair, if I may respond not to that, not to the second part, but it's to the first part. I just want to call your attention for a clarification on the PowerPoint. If you can look at it says that we are using the applied.

Trustee Trask: I'm not asking for a response. I'm not asking for a response, Stacy. All you do is give excuses. Where is the work product of the endowment director. Could I have the work product of the endowment director? Why was he given a huge salary? Yes, you're right, you're not going to be bringing in any more new people. What you're doing is trying to fly this by. We never voted as a Board for an endowment. We never voted to give any of these folks a raise, and that's what you're doing now. And you just told the Board that you're not hiring new people. So, all it's going to be is what happened with our Director of Endowment, and he is currently on the payroll as an old employee, with a hell of a big salary and I still cannot get a copy of this person's job description and after months, I haven't even seen an endowment report. When I asked the Chair, she wouldn't put it on the agenda.

BAE Chair Akaka: Trustee Trask, our Board Chair, will address some of your.

Trustee Trask: I don't need a response from the Board Chair, Kalei. This is not the Board Chair, this is BAE. Can somebody tell me why we posted a job for endowment, hired a guy with a huge salary, paid all these months and never got a single report. That's what I'm talking about.

Board Chair Hulu Lindsey: Trustee Trask, Sylvia did that, not Stacy.

Trustee Trask: Stacy has maintained that and now is proposing to this Board that we do the same thing over, is what happened. You're very well aware of this.

Ka Pouhana Ferreira: Can I ask the Trustees to look at slide three. I just want to clarify what was just said by Trustee Trask. We are looking at the five-year Hawaii Consumer Price index.

Trustee Trask: I don't care what you're looking at. I'm talking about the Director of Endowment and your proposal right now that you're going to not hire new individuals, 13, is that the number of the pay raises we're giving to the admin staff? We already have one consultant for all assets, his name is Vijoy.

BAE Chair Akaka: Trustee Trask, I will now call upon and Trustee Souza.

Trustee Souza: Mahalo, Madam Chair. I just wanna reiterate what Stacy said earlier. Slide 3, the background for the biennium budget bill proposal is not based on an O'ahu cost-of-living. It's based on five-year Hawai'i Consumer Price Index for the last five years. That's what it says here. Is that true, Stacy?

Ka Pouhana Ferreira: Yes, Trustee.

Trustee Souza: Okay, thank you very much. I just want that on record, how we came to this amount being proposed. Mahalo, thank you.

BAE Chair Akaka: Members any other mana'o to be shared?

Board Chair Lindsey: Madam Chair.

BAE Chair Akaka: Yes

Board Chair Hulu Lindsey: I'd like to make a motion to **approve OHA's proposed bill relating to the budget of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs for the biennium period of fiscal year 2026, which includes 2025 and 2026, and fiscal year 2027, including 2026 through 2027, to be included as part of OHA's 2025 legislative package as drafted in attachment A.**

RM Chair Waihe'e: Second.

BAE Chair Akaka: It's been moved and seconded, and before we continue, I just also want to share that there was somebody that signed up for testimony, but we don't see them online from the beginning of this part of that item or after. Nathan, can I please have a **roll call vote**.

							10:47 a.m.
Trustee		1	2	'AE (YES)	A'OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
DAN	AHUNA						X
KELI'I	AKINA						X
LUANA	ALAPA						X
BRICKWOOD	GALUTERIA			X			
CARMEN HULU	LINDSEY	1		X			
KEONI	SOUZA			X			
MILILANI	TRASK						X
RM CHAIR JOHN	WAIHE'E, IV		2	X			
BAE CHAIR KALEIHIKINA	AKAKA			X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT				5	0	0	4

MOTION: [] UNANIMOUS [X] PASSED [] DEFERRED [] FAILED

Trustee Alapa: Trustee Alapa is here.

BAE Chair Akaka: Okay, we have motion 2. There is a motion to **approve amending OHA's proposed bill relating to the budget of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs as needed to make appropriate technical ministerial, non-substantive edits for style, clarity, consistency and accuracy for final submission to the 2025 legislative session. This includes preamble language for framing and editorial purposes as needed, titles of measures for strategic and clarifying reasons and labeling of the measure for tracking.** Is there a motion? Does this need to be explained?

COO Pu'u: This is just a motion for us to do any clean-up on the final bill before it gets submitted and the draft that you see, so we have to submit it through for official LRB, sorry, so that's what this is. This just gives us the authority to clean up as needed before final, final submission. We wouldn't change any of the substance.

BAE Chair Akaka: It's been moved by your Board Chair Lindsey and seconded by Trustee Souza. Any more comments or questions?

BAE Chair Akaka recognizes Trustee Galuteria.

Trustee Galuteria: Is this really necessary? I'm just curious because, you know, you guys have the leeway to, but, if it's, I mean.

Interim Corporation Counsel Ohta: Good morning, Chair Akaka, Chair Waihe'e, and Trustees. To answer or respond to Trustee Galuteria's question, this is something that's been kind of historically included with these bill approvals. It's also going to be part of the approvals sought for the rest of the OHA package. Just

to be clear that again, these clean up type revisions are able to be done without coming back before the Board, right? The Board is ultimately the body that's approving the bill form and we just want to be clear that we're not making substantive changes. It's just, you know, there might be, again these things that are necessary for proper introduction to the legislature, working with the LRB, you know, some of the stylistic changes necessary to introduce the bill formatting and potentially you know typos. There's just things that kind of come up during that final review process that might need to be addressed, and I just want to be clear that we're able to do so without bringing the full measure back before the Board, especially given the tight introduction to timelines for introduction and then of course kind of the period following next week's elections where it will not be possible for the Board to continually meet.

Trustee Galuteria: So basically, this is kind of like a tweaking bill, instead of a substantive type of, okay, got it, thank you.

BAE Chair Akaka: Mahalo, any other questions, comments? All right, can we please have a **roll call vote**.

Trustee Trask: Excuse me, I want to make a statement on the record. I'm not voting for this. Not only is it not necessary, but when you come before us with a proposal to amend draft legislation for the very reason of not having to return to the Board, I'm objecting to it. If we're going to have legislation going in and we're going to amend it, I think the Board should at least look at it, read what we're voting on. A proposed amendment to a bill that's not yet introduced and we're saying at the same time that the admin can make any changes to that proposed legislation. Let me just remind you, Trustees we had two legal advocates that we have hired to facilitate things like the legislature, Na'u quit, and following that Ke'ōpū Reelitz also quit because of measures in the legislature that the Chair and Stacy testified on that never came before this Board. The record is made if you want to look at the legislation. Go look at their two testimonies, one from our Board, the other from Stacy, for Alapaki Nahale-a. And that was only the first bill. There was a second bill, and that's why Ke'ōpū Reelitz left. Your two legal advocates. Yeah, everybody's looking like we don't know anything about it. You didn't know that Na'u and Ke'ōpū, your legal advocate in the legislature left the office?

							10:52 A.M.
Trustee		1	2	'AE (YES)	A'OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
DAN	AHUNA						X
KELI'I	AKINA						X
LUANA	ALAPA			X			
BRICKWOOD	GALUTERIA			X			
CARMEN HULU	LINDSEY	1		X			
KEONI	SOUZA		2	X			
MILILANI	TRASK					X	
RM CHAIR JOHN	WAIHE'E, IV			X			
BAE CHAIR KALEIHIKINA	AKAKA			X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT				6	0	1	2

MOTION: [] UNANIMOUS [X] PASSED [] DEFERRED [] FAILED

B. Committee on Resource Management (RM)

1. **Action Item RM #24-49:** Approval of OHA funding for an Event Sponsorship for the 2025 18th Annual Waimānalo Kanikapila aka Gabby Pahinui Waimānalo Kanikapila Event

NO TESTIFIERS ON THIS ITEM

Board Chair Hulu Lindsey: Chair, I'd like to make the motion.

BAE Chair Akaka: Yes, Board Chair.

Board Chair Lindsey: I'd like to move that we **approve the OHA funding for an event sponsorship. Under the 'Ahahui Grant for the 2025 18th Annual Waimānalo Kanikapila, also known as Gabby Pahinui Waimānalo Kanikapila Event.**

BAE Chair Akaka: Is there a second?

Trustee Trask: I'll second it.

BAE Chair Akaka: Okay, mahalo. It's been moved and seconded. Any other comments or concerns?

BAE Chair Akaka recognizes Trustee Souza

Trustee Souza: Mahalo, Madam Chair. 'Ahahui Grant? Is this a sponsorship or is this a grant?

COO Pu'u: So, it's being submitted as sponsorship and it's currently budgeted under the sponsorships. So it's a budget line item within sponsorships. 'Ahahui grants are not open right now. I spoke to that last week, right. So along with 'Ahahui and sponsorships this is the redesign I talked about wanting to do, because they are in nature very similar, but have two very different processes. I also shared last week that Keala Neumann and former COO Casey Brown came before this Board on March 6, 2024, at the Resources Management Committee and made a presentation about a potential new process called Ho'ākoakoa Lāhui, which would combine the two and but it never came back for action. And then my own my mana'o that I'm going to share is that we have two processes for what looks like very similar things, however, and one is a very simple process that doesn't involve detailed, you know, grabbing detailed information, any kind of reporting and that's sponsorships. The other process, as I got to look at 'Ahahui grants, was run like a grant where I called it cumbersome. I think it was characterized as a burdensome process. So again, you had two very different things for similar, I took two different processes, I'm going to say inequitable, for similar types of things. So, anyways, maybe I shared a little bit too much, but this specific sponsorship is already included in as a sponsorship budget line item. 'Ahahui needs to be revisited and that was the plan. While you folks are on pause because of election, we would go back, revisit what Keala folks had put together, and come back in the new year with a process for both. Hopefully ho'okahi, one process.

BAE Chair Akaka: Mahalo, any other mana'o board members. Seeing none, can we please have a **roll call vote.**

							10:58 A.M.
Trustee		1	2	'AE (YES)	A'OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
DAN	AHUNA						X
KELI'I	AKINA						X
LUANA	ALAPA			X			
BRICKWOOD	GALUTERIA			X			
CARMEN HULU	LINDSEY	1		X			
KEONI	SOUZA			X			
MILILANI	TRASK		2	X			
RM CHAIR JOHN	WAIHE'E, IV			X			
BAE CHAIR KALEIHIKINA	AKAKA			X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT				7	0	0	2

MOTION: [] UNANIMOUS [X] PASSED [] DEFERRED [] FAILED

COO Pu'u: So, the 'Ahahui, as I shared, maybe because I overshared you guys didn't, one of my points was. 'Ahahui has a different process. It's a grant. So, and it's not open. We didn't do a solicitation for it. So, I believe if we want to fund this sponsorship as a grant, despite the fact that it is a budget item within the budget, I believe we would have to make a motion to, I don't know. We need a motion to kind of move it from. I'm going to ask Mona to come in and speak to it.

Board Chair Lindsey: So, Kēhau, let me ask you something. Is this a legacy grant? Because we've been giving it out every year.

COO Pu'u: Yes, so that that was my point. It's a legacy.

Board Chair Hulu Lindsey: So why are we putting it under sponsorship then, if it's a legacy grant?

COO Pu'u: It's a legacy sponsorship, it's budgeted under sponsorships.

Board Chair Hulu Lindsey: We don't have such things. We don't have legacy sponsorships. We have grants.

COO Pu'u: Well, technically the sponsorships which you folks have been awarding, which are, everything's a grant. But sponsorships have been noncompetitive grants and they do exist, right Keiki Hula, Prince Lot, all of those are considered sponsorships. They've been characterized as legacy sponsorships. They do exist, they're in budget. So, my point was for this one, it's already included as a budget line item. If we want to call it 'Ahahui, my point was we don't have something open for 'Ahahui. That's what I'm hoping we can do come the new calendar year. So I think there has to be some movement or some kind of motion in order to call this an awarded under 'Ahahui. It makes it more complex.

Board Chair Hulu Lindsey: So, since this is for 2025, we can leave it as is because we got plenty time to do an 'Ahahui grant for these people.

CFO Hink: On our grants last week and the three grants that we approved, specifically RM 24-52, we repurposed all the Community grants to award to the ones that were the 2-3 year and the 90%, so there's no 'Ahahui grants left. The budgets all used up, all the community grant budgets are used up and on top of that we use some of the carry forward. So that was in RM 24-52. So we don't have budget in the 'Ahahui grant category for fiscal 25. But we do have budget line item in the legacy sponsorships for this sponsorship.

BAE Chair Akaka recognizes Trustee Souza.

Trustee Souza: Mahalo, Madam Chair. I know we just voted, a little delayed response because kind of confused on what I voted on. I know what I want to say yes to and that's to support Kanikapila Waimānalo, right. However, it's always about the process. If we don't have the 'Ahahui grant process open how are we supposed to give this grant through the 'Ahahui grant process if they didn't go through the application? So would they have to reapply and then that comes back to us? Technically, what we've voted on is null and void as far as I'm concerned because.

COO Pu'u: Yeah, it's not dissolved. So, as I shared last week, right, so there is a 'Ahahui grant, we'll talk about the funding, but we haven't opened it. We have not opened the 'Ahahui grant yet. One, we're operating at a limited capacity, so that's the other thing I shared that last week. I don't want to open-up another grant because I have 3 people managing over 80 grants. But when 'Ahahui has not been dissolved. It's still there and we got to come back to community because apparently when the grants team went out pae 'āina wide, back in January, February, I can't remember when it was, they told community 'Ahahui's going to open back up. So, one, we made a commitment, we're going to have to come back. But two, as I shared last week, we have 'Ahahui and we have sponsorships. Similar in nature, but two different processes. One is burdensome, right. It functions like our Community grants. So, you're looking at, I'm trying to apply for \$10,000 for my community event, but I have to go through this very rigorous process to get that. Then you have on the other hand, sponsorships. I got my, you know, \$15,000 come to my table. I mean, I'll buy a table and all of that, but. But really, it's what Trustee Souza shared last week. It's a very simple application. It's not detailed, it just asks for alignment to vision, mission, how many people are you serving? There is no reporting requirement versus 'Ahahui. So, our goal is to blend and bring the two together. Make it a fair and equitable process across the board. Whether you are like nonprofit, like the Kalani Kalima's and the Hans Martinsons who came last week looking for \$5,000 for their event versus like 'Ahahui or Hawaiian Civic Clubs, right. So, different organizations, but we want to make it more fair and equitable across the board. So, the goal is to come back here in January and bring that process to you folks. And the other thing is, we don't need to do hard work because Casey Brown and Keala Neumann, you know, the team that preceded us, they did a lot of ground work on it already. They're blending the two. They have proposed we want to go back and assess it. But you know, they've proposed year round, but only awarding like four times in the year and they have, to me, it is a nice middle ground from the quick and easy and the hard, it's a nice little middle ground. There's more rigor, but it's not as burdensome, and it's not as, you know, as easy. I'm just going to say easy. So that's the goal is to come back come January, bring it to the Board. These guys came in March. I did pull those meeting minutes. I pulled that presentation that they provided to you folks. Ho'ākoakoa Lāhui, that's what they named it. But it is to come back in January, and come back with this, you know combined blended process that you folks would have to vote on. I will address, we did, we zeroed out the 2025 grant funds in order to do the funding for those grants last year. However, there is a carryover, and so in my mind, when we come back and we bring 'Ahahui back to the community, but we're gonna call it something else, right. It's looking like it's going to be called Ho'ākoakoa Lāhui or whatever it is. We will request those funds to be used to be used for those community events because we have to go back. I had a community member come up to me at an event I was at and asked me, hey, Keala said you guys going bring 'Ahahui back. So, when is that going to happen? And so, there's commitment to bring it back. We just need that little bit of time, November, December will be great, lawa kela and then we can come back in January.

BAE Chair Akaka recognizes Trustee Trask

Trustee Trask: I just want to have a comment on the record and that is this is the fifth time over the last 13 months, in looking at issues on our agenda that the problem between what is sponsorship and what is grants have come up. The fourth time in 13 months and the record today shows that two of the Trustees that spoke were not really sure whether this was a grant or sponsorship. I had made recommendations prior to this that we needed to have BAE and RM try to look at and sort this out as Trustees because we've delayed now for three years and we don't have an answer. But the obligation is with us and I don't know what the problem is. That we should be funding Hawaiian Homestead, our Civic Club meetings, clearly sponsorship. As opposed to grant. But I want the record to show that for over three years this problem has come up and we haven't had a single meeting to look at it. And it's not going to resolve itself by coming to the Board. We need to have some committee work with BAE and RM to look at what we funded so that we can sort it out and have the committees say this is what sponsorship is. We already know. We already know our Civic Club annual gatherings, our DHHL meetings. All we have to do is address it in the subcommittees. It's not going to get on the Board agenda colleagues, tried for 3-1/2 years. And when you don't get on the Board agenda, somebody is showing you what their preference is. I don't want to maintain the confusion between what is a grant and what is a sponsorship, and I think it's fair that our beneficiaries are asking us to do this. We know we're going to support our Civic Clubs, their community guys. We know these things, our homesteaders, they're the beneficiaries. We gotta get the work done instead of just dragging it on for another year. That'll make four going into five years. Come on we're not gonna get it done by admin and the Chair. So, I'm hoping in the future BAE and RM can just set a meeting to look at the criteria to distinguish grant from, you know the grants from the sponsorships.

BAE Chair Akaka: Mahalo Trustee Trask, noted.

BAE Chair Akaka recognizes Trustee Souza.

Trustee Souza: Mahalo, Madam Chair, thank you, Trustee Trask. I'm clear that it is a sponsorship. I'm clear on that. What I'm unclear about is the process again, and if we are gonna take it back to 'Ahahui grants, where's the budget? Because I, based on previous meetings, when we approved more grant monies, right. So maybe Ramona can confirm where does this money come from? Because the grant's not open right now, but we're going to give this through 'Ahahui. How does that happen? To me, there's no process for it right now, so how would we be able to give out the money under 'Ahahui?

CFO Hink: We can give out the money, Trustees. We can give out the money right now through the legacy line item that was approved in the biennial budget. It called out specifically this grant, but we do not have any grant monies left in 'Ahahui because that was repurposed in 24-52.

Trustee Souza: Right, so that's a separate conversation and a separate action item in order to bring that to be available, right. My question is now this grantee, in particular, because the process is to give them the grant through 'Ahahui, they would need to come back and apply through the 'Ahahui process, correct?

CFO Hink: As it is now, we would have to establish the budget.

Trustee Souza: Establish budget first, bring back 'Ahahui.

CFO Hink: Yes

Trustee Souza: Right, the process and they would have to reapply and then we give them the money, correct. If we do it through 'Ahahui.

CFO Hink: Yes, with that current process.

Board Chair Hulu Lindsey: So, you cannot just take the money from the line item and pay them?

Trustee Souza: No, there's a process.

CFO Hink: No budget for 'Ahahui grants. There is a line item for the legacy sponsorship.

Trustee Souza: Yeah, no, and it's about the process though and we're not going to take money and give it to them because you know, but anyway, Kēhau, thank you.

COO Pu'u: It's not just a matter of moving from one category to the other because that 'Ahahui is right now considered a grand category and current practice is that it's a solicitation, right? So, this is the burdensome process that I've talked about, but it hasn't been opened yet. So there really is no 'Ahahui solicitation open for these guys to apply to. So, my recommendation is keep it where it's at, it's in sponsorship, it's been in sponsorship. You folks have approved in the past, it's already there. We're going to create more burden for our applicant and ourselves to pass it through as an 'Ahahui grant.

BAE Chair Akaka: Mahalo, I'm going to call up Everett to make sure that we're going in the direction we need to.

Interim Corporation Counsel Ohta: I'm sorry, Chair Akaka, is there a specific question or I guess, counsel you're looking for at this time?

BAE Chair Akaka: Yes, I understand that we might have some questions to provide clarification.

Board Chair Hulu Lindsey: No, we're just confused that we passed the last action item using 'Ahahui grant when they said 'Ahahui grant is not open and there's no money in 'Ahahui grant. So how do we correct the fact that this grant is a line item and we want to approve it?

Interim Corporation Counsel Ohta: I would suggest at this time a motion to reconsider the prior just approved action and motion that was just taken at, you know, this same meeting. So it is based on the additional information clarification regarding the availability of funding and that this Board can take a motion to reconsider their approval of the prior motion again related to the funding via the 'Ahahui grant and then, if that approval is, the reconsideration of that approval is adopted by this Board, then we can take another motion to approve but under a different funding line.

BAE Chair Akaka: If the Board is interested in that, I would like that drafted up and put on the screen for all to view. Yes, Trustee Souza.

Trustee Souza: Mahalo, Madam Chair. I would particularly be interested. My question is, if I look at the motion that was in the packet it doesn't say 'Ahahui. So what I voted on was correct to approve the grant. It did not say 'Ahahui. Right, so I'm correct as to what I voted on. But it's interesting that it's on 'Ahahui. It doesn't say, 'Ahahui here, can we put up the motion. Madam Chair, can I request to pull up the motion please.

Interim Corporation Counsel Ohta: Chair Akaka, if I may clarify the reference to the 'Ahahui funding was via the motion made by Chair Lindsey to bring this action before this joint committee. So, although it wasn't in the recommended action or the proposed action in the action item that was the motion made to the Committee with that specifying language as to 'Ahahui funding.

Trustee Souza: But we need an amended motion at that point, correct?

Interim Corporation Counsel Ohta: No, it wasn't an amended motion to Trustee Souza's question, because that was the original motion, kind of put before this body, so although it didn't reflect what was on the action item, the actual motion made during this meeting was specifically referencing 'Ahahui.

Board Chair Hulu Lindsey: Yes, so do we withdraw that motion? And the reason I made that motion is because Board Counsel is coming tomorrow at our BOT meeting and he's going to share with the Trustees that we are still in moratorium with sponsorships. And that's why I don't want to use sponsorships. So I want this approved and I need to take event sponsorship out and that's why I included the 'Ahahui grant because that is another avenue, not knowing that it's not open and no more money. I didn't know that, but that is the only avenue that we can go through right now to get even the ones that's going to be ratified tomorrow.

Trustee Souza: Madam Chair, the actual motion that was voted upon. Sorry, Madam Chair, because I'm still looking at the proposed action that we had prior to this meeting and that's what I voted on. That's what I did my homework on. So I'm a little confused because the motion is not up there. Sorry, Madam Chair, thank you.

BAE Chair Akaka: I agree, mahalo. Can that please be put up, the motion.

Board Chair Hulu Lindsey: Approval of OHA funding for a sponsorship from the 'Ahahui grant for the 2025 18th annual Waimānalo Kanikapila, also known as Gabby Pahinui Waimānalo Kanikapila event. I just added in 'Ahahui grant.

BAE Chair Akaka: So, what I understand is that what's being drawn up right now is the motion that was made by our Board Chair Lindsey. But if there is any other clarification that can be provided, so things are crystal clear and how to move forward.

COO Pu'u: So yeah, we're trying to figure out problem solving here. Like clearly this is being proposed because of the opposing opinion of Counsel, which will come tomorrow, that there is still a moratorium on sponsorships. I think Everett opined on that last week. I've done a little bit of research and this Board has approved sponsorships since that moratorium. Just saying, I found some minutes. Anyway, at this point I would like to propose, I'm looking at Everett, because at the end of the day we want to be able to support this organization who is putting on this event for the Community to honor Gabby Pahinui, Waimānalo, where several of us grew up, so I'm asking for this, if we can include in the motion to move the funds, like include in it moving funds from that sponsorship budget line item where it's already placed to 'Ahahui so that it can be funded for this and with the same requirements as sponsorships. Does that make sense? Because we don't have a 'Ahahui solicitation open, we don't want to make this organization go through that process. So, I'm saying if the intent is to avoid using, bringing this in under the guise of sponsorships, Okay, move it to 'Ahahui, but with that, say we also want to move the funds from sponsorships to 'Ahahui and we want to utilize the sponsorship requirements as well so that this group does not have to engage in the current burdensome process of 'Ahahui, not to mention it's not open at this time. I hope that makes sense and this is me in problem solving mode. Everett, you let me know if that, like she go or not.

BAE Chair Akaka: Do you need more time to brainstorm how we can proceed properly on this? If so, I'll call the recess. Yes? I'm going to call a recess for at least five to ten minutes.

RECESS STARTS: 11:24 A.M.

RECESS ENDS: 11:53 A.M.

BAE Chair Akaka: Aloha everyone, calling this meeting back. I will now call upon Everett to go over some of the options that have now been drafted to see how we can go forward in a crystal clear process, mahalo.

Interim Corporation Counsel Ohta: Thank you, Chair Akaka. So, I think what I was asked to provide were options for this committee to take action relating to the prior approved action. I'm proposing a motion to reconsider the approval of that action to fund the Gabby Pahinui Waimānalo event from the 'Ahahui budget

given the information received about the unavailability of funds for who the 'Ahahui grant at this time, so that's provided for as the first motion on display for the Trustee's consideration.

BAE Chair Akaka: Before we move forward, with that option though, this would clean the slate?

Interim Corporation Counsel Ohta: Yes, that's correct. So that is the, you know, just the reconsideration of the approval. So, we're effectively removing that approval of that action. We're doing so at the same meeting in which that original approval took place and no action has been taken in furtherance of the Committee's recommended action. If approval is granted, the motion is reconsidered and the approval is effectively removed, then the Trustees can take action either to defer consideration for the event funding for some time in calendar year 2025, or it can approve funding under the biennium budget line provided for the Gabby Pahinui Waimānalo event, which again is a line item contained in the FY25 budget. So that's the proposed alternatives and kind of, but also the sequencing which action is provided.

Board Chair Hulu Lindsey: Madam Chair.

BAE Chair Akaka: Yes, Board Chair.

Board Chair Hulu Lindsey: I'd like to move that **we reconsider the approval of the RM Committee for OHA funding for an event sponsorship from the 'Ahahui grant for the 2025 18th annual Waimānalo Kanikapila, also known as Gabby Pahinui Waimānalo Kanikapila event.**

BAE Chair Akaka: Is there a second? And yes, take your time to read it to make sure that everything is.

Trustee Trask: I'll second it.

BAE Chair Akaka: It's been moved and seconded. Any other, mana'o and just to be clear again, in doing this it would clear the slate from the previous motion and vote. So again, it's been moved and seconded. If there's no other questions or concerns, I will call for a **roll call vote**.

							11:56 A.M.
Trustee		1	2	'AE (YES)	A'OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
DAN	AHUNA						X
KELI'I	AKINA						X
LUANA	ALAPA						X
BRICKWOOD	GALUTERIA			X			
CARMEN HULU	LINDSEY	1		X			
KEONI	SOUZA			X			
MILILANI	TRASK		2	X			
RM CHAIR JOHN	WAIHE'E, IV			X			
BAE CHAIR KALEIHIKINA	AKAKA			X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT				6	0	0	3

MOTION: [] UNANIMOUS [X] PASSED [] DEFERRED [] FAILED

Board Chair Hulu Lindsey: Madam Chair.

BAE Chair Akaka: Yes, Board Chair Lindsey.

Board Chair Hulu Lindsey: I'd like to move to approve OHA funding for the 2025 18th annual Waimānalo Kanikapila, also known as Gabby Pahinui Waimānalo Kanikapila event from the fiscal year 25 biennium budget line item of \$5,000 for the Gabby Pahinui Waimānalo Kanikapila event.

Trustee Trask: Second.

BAE Chair Akaka: It's been moved and seconded and just to be clear, you read Option 2, yes. Okay, any mana'o?

BAE Chair Akaka recognizes Trustee Galuteria.

Trustee Galuteria: Yes, Mahalo Chair. So just to be clear, this effectively takes care of this one and then going forward, you guys are going to recalibrate the system tomorrow? Okay, short term we get through this today. Okay, thank you.

BAE Chair Akaka: Mahalo, and just to note that line item was added in as that was verbalized by our Board Chair, Everett?

Interim Corporation Counsel Ohta: Yes, and I think under that motion read by Chair Lindsey, so biennium budget line item of \$5,000 so that second budget line. I'm revising the language on display to reflect what Chair Lindsey said. They effectively do the same thing.

BAE Chair Akaka: Before we vote, I just want everybody to read that over and make sure you know what you're voting on. If you feel pa'a on this. And just to reconfirm, we can go forward with the process on this, admin is prepared to go forward on this?

Interim Corporation Counsel Ohta: Yes, pending Board approval.

BAE Chair Akaka: Funding is good and clear, ready to go. Mahalo, can we please have a **roll call vote**.

							11:59 A.M.
Trustee		1	2	'AE (YES)	A'OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
DAN	AHUNA						X
KELI'I	AKINA						X
LUANA	ALAPA						X
BRICKWOOD	GALUTERIA			X			
CARMEN HULU	LINDSEY	1		X			
KEONI	SOUZA			X			
MILILANI	TRASK		2	X			
RM CHAIR JOHN	WAIHE'E, IV			X			
BAE CHAIR KALEIHIKINA	AKAKA			X			

TOTAL VOTE COUNT			6	0	0	3
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MOTION: [] **UNANIMOUS** [**X**] **PASSED** [] **DEFERRED** [] **FAILED**

V. Executive Session

A. Approval of BAE-RM Executive Session Minutes

1. August 30, 2023
2. September 26, 2023
3. September 27, 2023
4. October 18, 2023

NO TESTIFIERS ON THIS ITEM

Board Chair Lindsey: I move that we go into Executive Session.

BAE Chair Akaka: Is there a second?

Trustee Souza: Second.

BAE Chair Akaka: It's been seconded by Trustee Souza. May I please have a **roll call vote**.

Trustee Trask: I wanted to note for the record, that the Board goes into Executive Session, all Neighbor Island Trustees are cut out of connectivity.

BAE Chair Akaka: You will be able to stay on, however, and we can have Everett come on to further explain it if it is necessary. However, the minutes are in person to be reviewed. Everett, can you please come to the table, I just want to provide clarity, in terms of for the Executive Session minutes, the understanding is that you have to be in person to view them and however, if there is the desire for a Trustee to do so, they just would need to request for that and then be in person to review the minutes.

Interim Corporation Counsel Ohta: Yes, Chair Akaka, that's been the process for our Executive Session minutes approval. There's also a process for viewing of those Executive Session minutes by Trustees in coordination with Board Counsel.

BAE Chair Akaka: Yes, after this, mahalo.

							12:00 P.M.
Trustee		1	2	'AE (YES)	A'OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
DAN	AHUNA						X
KELI'I	AKINA						X
LUANA	ALAPA						X
BRICKWOOD	GALUTERIA			X			
CARMEN HULU	LINDSEY	1		X			
KEONI	SOUZA		2	X			
MILILANI	TRASK						X

RM CHAIR JOHN	WAIHE`E, IV			X			
BAE CHAIR KALEIHIKINA	AKAKA			X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT				5	0	0	4

MOTION: [] UNANIMOUS [X] PASSED [] DEFERRED [] FAILED

THE JOINT BAE-RM COMMITTEE RESOLVES INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 12:02 P.M.

THE JOINT BAE-RM COMMITTEE RETURNED TO OPEN SESSION AT 12:34 P.M.

BAE Chair Akaka: Mahalo, Nathan. We are now back in open session and just to share we reviewed minutes and approved them and without any other further discussion.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

BAE Chair Akaka: I will now entertain a motion to adjourn.

Board Chair Hulu Lindsey: So moved

Trustee Souza: Second

BAE Chair Akaka: It's been moved and seconded. Any other comments or concerns members? Seeing none, Nathan, may I please have a roll call vote to adjourn?

							12:35 P.M.
Trustee		1	2	'AE (YES)	A'OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
DAN	AHUNA						X
KELI'I	AKINA						X
LUANA	ALAPA						X
BRICKWOOD	GALUTERIA			X			
CARMEN HULU	LINDSEY	1		X			
KEONI	SOUZA		2	X			
MILILANI	TRASK						X
RM CHAIR JOHN	WAIHE`E, IV			X			
BAE CHAIR KALEIHIKINA	AKAKA			X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT				5	0	0	4

MOTION: [] UNANIMOUS [X] PASSED [] DEFERRED [] FAILED

Chair Akaka: Mahalo, Nathan, the meeting is now adjourned. Mahalo members, all in attendance, and to all live streaming. See you on the next one. Thank you.

Chair Akaka adjourns the Joint BAE and RM meeting at **12:35 p.m.**

DRAFT

For Approval on

DRAFT

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Watanabe Trustee Aide
Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment

As approved by the Joint Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment (BAE)
and the Committee on Resource Management on September 16, 2026.

Trustee Kaleihikina Akaka
Chair
Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment

Trustee John Waihe'e, IV
Chair
Committee on Resource Management

Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment (BAE)Trustee Brickwood Galuteria, At-Large, *Chair*Trustee Kaleihikina Akaka, O'ahu, *Vice Chair***Members**

Trustee Dan Ahuna, Kaua'i / Ni'ihau

Trustee Keli'i Akina, At-Large

Trustee Luana Alapa, Moloka'i / Lāna'i

Trustee Kaiali'i Kahele, Hawai'i Island

Trustee Carmen Hulu Lindsey, Maui

Trustee J. Keoni Souza, At-Large

Trustee John Waihe'e IV, At-Large



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

Committee on Budget and Finance (BF)Trustee John Waihe'e IV, At-Large, *Chair*Trustee Dan Ahuna, Kaua'i / Ni'ihau, *Vice Chair***Members**

Trustee Kaleihikina Akaka, O'ahu

Trustee Keli'i Akina, At-Large

Trustee Luana Alapa, Moloka'i / Lāna'i

Trustee Brickwood Galuteria, At-Large

Trustee Carmen Hulu Lindsey, Maui

Trustee Kaiali'i Kahele, Hawai'i Island

Trustee J. Keoni Souza, At-Large

**JOINT MEETING OF THE
COMMITTEE ON BENEFICIARY ADVOCACY AND EMPOWERMENT (BAE) AND THE
COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FINANCE (BF)**

DATE: Wednesday September 16, 2026**TIME:** 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: Remote Meeting by Interactive Conference Technology
Viewable at www.oha.org/livestream OR
Listen by phone: (213) 338-8477,
Webinar ID: 952 2281 7780

This meeting can be viewed via livestream on OHA's website at www.oha.org/livestream or listened to by phone using the call-in information above. Additionally, this meeting can be viewed live on 'Ōlelo Community Media <https://olelo.org/>. A physical meeting location, open to members of the public who would like to provide oral testimony or view the meeting, will be available at 560 N. Nimitz Hwy., Suite 200, Honolulu, HI 96817.

AGENDA**I. Call to Order****II. Approval of Minutes**

A. JOINT BAE-RM Meeting Minutes of October 30, 2024

B. JOINT BAE-BF Meeting Minutes of September 9, 2026

III. Unfinished Business - None**IV. New Business - None****V. Executive Session§**

A. Approval of Minutes

1. JOINT BAE-BF Executive Session Meeting Minutes for September 9, 2026

B. Discussion and possible action regarding additional candidates that the JOINT BAE-BF Committees may invite for an initial interview for the permanent position of Office of Hawaiian Affairs Chief Executive Officer (CEO) / Ka Pouhana / Administrator. The JOINT BAE-BF Committees anticipate going into executive session pursuant to HRS § 92-5(a)(2) to consider the hiring and evaluation of an officer or employee, where consideration of matters affecting privacy will be involved related to the candidates under consideration.

VI. Adjournment

If you need an auxiliary aid/service or other accommodation due to a disability, please contact Keola Fong at 808-626-5484 or by email at keolaf@oha.org as soon as possible. Requests made as early as possible have a greater likelihood of being fulfilled. Upon request, this notice is available in alternate/accessible formats.

§Notice: This portion of the meeting will be closed pursuant to HRS § 92-5.

Public Testimony will be called for each agenda item and must be limited to matters listed on the meeting agenda. Hawai'i Revised Statutes, Chapter 92, Public Agency Meetings and Records, prohibits Board members from discussing or taking action on matters not listed on the meeting agenda.

The board packet will be available for the public to inspect at OHA's main office located at 560 N. Nimitz Hwy., Suite 200, Honolulu, HI 96817 no later than three full business days before the meeting.

**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
560 N. NIMITZ HIGHWAY, SUITE 200
(VIRTUAL MEETING - VIA ZOOM WEBINAR)**

**JOINT COMMITTEES ON BENEFICIARY, ADVOCACY & EMPOWERMENT AND BUDGET & FINANCE
MINUTES**

September 9, 2026 2:00 p.m.

(or immediately following the conclusion of the OHA Investment and Land Management ILM Committee Meeting)

FULL MEETING CAN BE VIEWED AT [09/09/26 Budget and Finance \(BF\) Meeting](#)

ATTENDANCE:

BAE Chairperson Brickwood Galuteria
BF Chairperson John Waihe'e, IV
BAE Vice Chairperson Kaleihikina Akaka
Trustee Luana Alapa
Trustee Kaiali'i Kahele
Trustee J. Keoni Souza

Lei Ann Durant
Mark Watanabe
Melissa Wennihan
Momi Kaaihue
Morgan Kau Robello
Nathan Takeuchi
Pohai Ryan

EXCUSED:

BF Vice-Chairperson Dan Ahuna
Trustee Keli'i Akina
Trustee C. Hulu Lindsey

ADMINISTRATION STAFF:

K. Sean Kekina, COO / Ka Pou Nui
Dhiren Patel, CFO
Everett Ohta, General Counsel
Kevin Chak, IT Systems Engineer & Administrator

BOARD COUNSEL:

Kapono Kiakona

GUESTS:

Kimberly Miayshiro, Kumabe HR
Marie Kumabe, Kumabe HR

BOT STAFF:

Alena Auyoung
Kingston Seguancia

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Waihe'e calls the Committee on Budget and Finance meeting for Wednesday, September 9, 2026 to order at **3:05 p.m. (5:25 / 1:21:00)**

Chair Waihe'e notes for the record that **PRESENT** are:

MEMBERS			AT CALL TO ORDER (3:05 p.m.)	TIME ARRIVED
BF CHAIR	JOHN	WAIHE'E, IV	PRESENT	
BAE CHAIR	BRICKWOOD	GALUTERIA	PRESENT	
BAE VICE-CHAIR	KALEIHIKINA	AKAKA	PRESENT	
TRUSTEE	LUANA	ALAPA	PRESENT	
TRUSTEE	KAIALI'I	KAHELE	PRESENT	
TRUSTEE	J. KEONI	SOUZA		ARRIVED AT 3:12PM

At the Call to Order, **FIVE (5) Trustees are PRESENT**, thereby constituting a quorum.

EXCUSED from the JOINT BAE-BF Meeting are:

MEMBERS			COMMENT
VICE-CHAIR	DAN	AHUNA	MEMO – REQUESTING TO BE EXCUSED
TRUSTEE	KELI'I	AKINA	MEMO – REQUESTING TO BE EXCUSED
TRUSTEE	C. HULU	LINDSEY	MEMO – REQUESTING TO BE EXCUSED

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Waihe'e moves to approve the JOINT BAE-RM Committee Minutes for October 30, 2024

Chair Waihe'e asks if there are any changes or discussion?

There is none.

Chair Waihe'e calls for a **ROLL CALL VOTE**.

3:07 p.m.							8:20 / 1:21:00
TRUSTEE		1	2	'AE (YES)	A'OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
VICE-CHAIR DAN	AHUNA						EXCUSED
KALEIHIKINA	AKAKA			X			
KELI'I	AKINA						EXCUSED
LUANA	ALAPA			X			
BRICKWOOD	GALUTERIA			X			
KAIALI'I	KAHELE					RECUSED	
CARMEN HULU	LINDSEY						EXCUSED
J. KEONI	SOUZA						Not Preset at Time of Vote
CHAIR JOHN	WAIHE'E	1		X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT				4	0	1	4

VOTE: [] UNANIMOUS [] PASSED [X] DEFERRED [] FAILED

Chair Waihe'e notes for the record that all FOUR (4) members present vote 'AE (YES), ONE member present (RECUSES) and the **MOTION DOES NOT PASS**.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discussion on the salary, compensation, terms, rights, and remedies for the permanent position of Office of Hawaiian Affairs Chief Executive Officer (CEO) / Ka Pouhana / Administrator (9:25 / 1:21:00)

Chair Waihe'e recognizes Ka Pou Nui K. Sean Kekina

Ka Pou Nui Kekina: I'd like to welcome to the table Marie Kumabe and her assistant Kim to speak on this action item. As a former student of Miss Kumabe, I just want to say mahalo for your time today.

Marie Kumabe: Aloha Chair and Trustees. Thank you for having us again, we always look forward to our time with you and once again thank you for all your hard work and for making time for us today. I know it's been a lot going on, so much appreciated. So, we have had the task of identifying candidates for you folks to consider as you look towards who would be the best fit for the next Administrator and CEO for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to really carry on and execute the work that you folks do. We consider it really one of the most important positions that we've been able to work on, so thank you again for giving us the opportunity.

Marie Kumabe: Having said that, just want to confirm that our candidate names are confidential. Just a reminder, and I know that this is obvious because you folks have so much confidential information that lands in front of you, but again, most of these folks are currently working, and as we move through the process, they will probably alert their bosses, but at this stage, we are hoping to keep the six names confidential. So just to give kind of a high-level overview of the recruitment process and we'll make it succinct and to share what we hope to accomplish today and since it's been a bit of a long day, instead of ending with this I'll start with it. We kind of are going to come up with two options. We're going to present six candidates and if you're comfortable with moving to the next level, which would mean an in-person / virtual interview, that's currently per the timeline scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, September 21st and 22nd. Then we can vote on moving those six candidates forward to that time, and after the in-person virtual interview, then you as a Board will have the opportunity to decide who would go on to the next step in the process. The other option, if you would like more time and obviously we recognize that you just got the packets and there's a significant; the good news is there's a lot of information, the bad news there's a lot of information. So, if you would care to think through this a little bit, and then reconvene, and I believe your aides gave us the best date would be next week, Wednesday, which would be a normal meeting date in the calendar. That would be kind of those two options. Without further ado, I'm going to bounce to Kimberly and let her talk about the search. [\(11:05 / 1:21:00\)](#)

Kimberly Miyashiro: Aloha, I have to tell you it's been a really awesome search to do. We've been networking in the community, and there is not one person that we've reached out to and tried to talk to that hasn't given us their time to either recommend candidates for the position and or to share what they thought would be some of the core competencies required to be able to do the job. So, with that we had a total of 137 applicants, and what I mean by that is they officially applied for the position, of which 34 of those were local. I must also note that we probably had an additional 20 something conversations with potentials that for whatever reason timing or whatever they decided not to put in for the position. We were able to, as Marie had shared wean that down to six high potential candidates for you, some of the recruitment efforts and conversations we've talked to people, head of KS, Jack Wong, we've talked with Jacob Aki we had conversations with the President and CEO of Liliuokalani Trust and on and on and on. So really, honestly it's been a kakou thing. Everybody's been open to trying to help us find somebody great for this job.

Now, with that said, we do have a full binder here that we will leave with Alena, and the binder has all the candidates, their resumes for anybody that was local that applied for the position if you choose to look at that. We also have an additional five candidates that are not being presented in our top highlighted candidates, but have some great background that you guys might choose to look at as well.

Chair Waihe'e: Sorry guys, according to where we're at the agenda right now, it's supposed to be discussion on salary compensation terms, rights and remedies for the permanent position of the CEO, so we're on that part and but the next part is the open session version of the executive search, number of applicants, an overview of behavioral based interviewing for the permanent position of the OHA CEO.

Marie Kumabe: Got it, so to the behavioral based interview questions and again for those of you that have been through this process before it would be a similar format. What we did do this time was you'll notice in your candidate packets when you have a chance to review them, we did a lot more extensive initial question and answers so that when we get to the first virtual interviews, there's a lot more meaty questions that we're able to ask since the kind of the basic information is covered in the

question and answers that each candidate provided in addition to their resume, their cover sheet, and their profile.

Marie Kumabe: So, I think we can go ahead and start with that and then in executive session we can go ahead and get the approval on the specific questions that will be asked, and then to Kimberly's point about the overall recruitment process to give you an idea of the extensive nature of the folks that we were able to talk about, we feel very comfortable about the finalist candidates that we're presenting. ([16:40 / 1:21:00](#))

Marie Kumabe: So there is a pretty generous salary range that incorporates with some feedback, both previous ranges for the position all the way up to market rate. So, with each candidate, we've included their requested salary, usually based on what it would take for them to make the move, and those are in each of the individual candidates. And then we will help the Board when they come to their finalists figure out what would be a good final number, as far as job offer.

Chair Waihe'e: Okay. Is that the end of your open session presentation?

Marie Kumabe: Yes.

Chair Waihe'e: Okay. Members, were there any questions that you wanted that you wanted to ask?

Chair Waihe'e recognizes BAE Chair Galuteria

BAE Chair Galuteria: If we take a look at this, the six, not going to talk about who they are, but then you've also given us more names to consider. Is that what I heard?

Marie Kumabe: We recognize that the Trustees really like to understand the broad base. So, we've actually included in the binder that will be left with Alena that it has everyone that was local that applied. There was probably I think Trustee Galuteria, you mentioned was there anyone that had say Indian or indigenous backgrounds, there was probably the most qualified although not local experience, we included that one person in as well for reference. Then we'll also talk about a few other folks that are also in the binder for you folks to take a look at if you would like, again, we feel that we did a very good vetting of coming up with the six.

BAE Chair Galuteria: So, just to finish up, so it would be inappropriate or appropriate to add to the six if we see somebody that we would want to consider?

Marie Kumabe The objective of this process is to get the absolute best person for this role. So absolutely and honestly if a fabulous candidate came in a day before the end of the process, we wouldn't hesitate bringing them to the Trustees. So, to answer your question absolutely.

BAE Chair Galuteria: Okay, Mahalo.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

B. Update on executive search, number of applicants, and overview of behavioral based interviewing for the permanent position of Office of Hawaiian Affairs Chief Executive Officer (CEO) / Ka Pouhana / Administrator

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Waihe'e moves to recuse into Executive Session pursuant to HRS §92-5. (19:45 / 1:21:00)

Chair Waihe'e asks if there is anyone signed up to testify on this item.

BF Chair Staff Wennihan states that we have one person raising their hand online.

Shelby Pikachu Billionaire: I'm catching the bus back home. We were talking a lot of stuff with the CEO stuff. You already seen my written testimony and with the candidates. There's something you have to understand from the street style. Yes, I understand the CEO, tenured, executive. I don't personally qualify for that, but I can guarantee you I'll be the best candidate work with Kai Kahele, all the people. I understand Olelo, I understand the DC, Donald Trump and everything, all the high maka maka stuff that's going on. There's the connotation and denotation, what you guys are seeing the best of the best blah blah blah blah on paper, that doesn't describe how you can understand the culture, the infrastructure, hurricanes, disasters. Yeah, it may look good on paper. How you going to handle, we got Kanaka from Waianae, Hawaii complaining to the CEO ready to file lawsuits. We already got internal discussions and arguments between OHA themselves. So, if you hire someone non Kanaka maoli, who doesn't understand Hawaiian, bro, you guys are going to screw yourselves over. I'm just letting you know in advance. I will apply. I will send a resume. I probably won't qualify, and this this this breaks my heart. We got great people out there, but they're afraid to apply. They're afraid they're going to get shut down, turned down. And I'm just sad, crying my heart to you guys after everything we gone through. I know you guys need a new CEO, I love Summer, I love Kai, I love all your Trustees, but I hate to see you guys fighting. But, I'm going to make this very firm and stand, do not hire a malihini to tell OHA what to do, and I'll leave it at that. Mahalo nui loa.

Chair Waihe'e: Thank you, Shelby.

Chair Waihe'e If there's no further discussion?

There is none.

Chair Waihe'e calls for a **ROLL CALL VOTE**.

3:19 p.m.							21:50 / 1:21:00
TRUSTEE		1	2	'AE (YES)	A'OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
VICE-CHAIR DAN	AHUNA						EXCUSED
KALEIHIKINA	AKAKA			X			
KELI'I	AKINA						EXCUSED
LUANA	ALAPA			X			
BRICKWOOD	GALUTERIA			X			
KAIALI'I	KAHELE			X			
CARMEN HULU	LINDSEY						EXCUSED
J. KEONI	SOUZA			X			
CHAIR JOHN	WAIHE'E	1		X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT				6	0	0	3

VOTE: [] UNANIMOUS [X] PASSED [] DEFERRED [] FAILED

Chair Waihe'e notes for the record that SIX (7) members present vote 'AE (YES), and the **MOTION PASSES**.

JOINT BAE-BF Committee moves into Executive Session – (22:20 – 1:19:42 / 1:21:00)

BF Chair Waihe'e: Aloha and welcome back into open session. (1:19:42 / 1:21:00)

We just had discussion in executive session presentation by Kumabe HR, and invited six candidates for an initial interview, approved in JOINT Executive Session. We also approved Executive Session Minutes for October 30, 2024.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Waihe'e moves to adjourn the JOINT BAE-BF meeting.

Chair Waihe'e If there's any discussion?

There is none.

Chair Waihe'e calls for a **ROLL CALL VOTE** on .

4:19 p.m.							1:20:04 / 1:21:00
TRUSTEE		1	2	'AE (YES)	A'OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
VICE-CHAIR DAN	AHUNA						EXCUSED
KALEIHIKINA	AKAKA			X			
KELI'I	AKINA						EXCUSED
LUANA	ALAPA			X			
BRICKWOOD	GALUTERIA			X			
KAIALI'I	KAHELE			X			
CARMEN HULU	LINDSEY						EXCUSED
J. KEONI	SOUZA						Departed at 4:17p.m.
CHAIR JOHN	WAIHE'E	1		X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT				5	0	0	4

VOTE: [X] UNANIMOUS [] PASSED [] DEFERRED [] FAILED

Chair Waihe'e adjourns the JOINT BAE-BF meeting at 4:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Wennihan
Trustee Aide
Committee on Budget and Finance

As approved by the JOINT Committees on Beneficiary, Advocacy, and Empowerment and Budget and Finance (BF) on September 16, 2026

Trustee Brickwood Galuteria
Chair
Committee on Beneficiary, Advocacy and
Empowerment

Trustee John Waihe'e IV
Chair
Committee on Budget and Finance

Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment (BAE)Trustee Brickwood Galuteria, At-Large, *Chair*Trustee Kaleihikina Akaka, O'ahu, *Vice Chair***Members**

Trustee Dan Ahuna, Kaua'i / Ni'ihau

Trustee Keli'i Akina, At-Large

Trustee Luana Alapa, Moloka'i / Lāna'i

Trustee Kaiali'i Kahele, Hawai'i Island

Trustee Carmen Hulu Lindsey, Maui

Trustee J. Keoni Souza, At-Large

Trustee John Waihe'e IV, At-Large



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

Committee on Budget and Finance (BF)Trustee John Waihe'e IV, At-Large, *Chair*Trustee Dan Ahuna, Kaua'i / Ni'ihau, *Vice Chair***Members**

Trustee Kaleihikina Akaka, O'ahu

Trustee Keli'i Akina, At-Large

Trustee Luana Alapa, Moloka'i / Lāna'i

Trustee Brickwood Galuteria, At-Large

Trustee Carmen Hulu Lindsey, Maui

Trustee Kaiali'i Kahele, Hawai'i Island

Trustee J. Keoni Souza, At-Large

**JOINT MEETING OF THE
COMMITTEE ON BENEFICIARY ADVOCACY AND EMPOWERMENT (BAE) AND THE
COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FINANCE (BF)**

DATE: Wednesday September 16, 2026**TIME:** 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: Remote Meeting by Interactive Conference Technology
Viewable at www.oha.org/livestream OR
Listen by phone: (213) 338-8477,
Webinar ID: 952 2281 7780

This meeting can be viewed via livestream on OHA's website at www.oha.org/livestream or listened to by phone using the call-in information above. Additionally, this meeting can be viewed live on 'Ōlelo Community Media <https://olelo.org/>. A physical meeting location, open to members of the public who would like to provide oral testimony or view the meeting, will be available at 560 N. Nimitz Hwy., Suite 200, Honolulu, HI 96817.

AGENDA**I. Call to Order****II. Approval of Minutes**

A. JOINT BAE-RM Meeting Minutes of October 30, 2024

B. JOINT BAE-BF Meeting Minutes of September 9, 2026

III. Unfinished Business - None**IV. New Business - None****V. Executive Session§**

A. Approval of Minutes

1. JOINT BAE-BF Executive Session Meeting Minutes for September 9, 2026

B. Discussion and possible action regarding additional candidates that the JOINT BAE-BF Committees may invite for an initial interview for the permanent position of Office of Hawaiian Affairs Chief Executive Officer (CEO) / Ka Pouhana / Administrator. The JOINT BAE-BF Committees anticipate going into executive session pursuant to HRS § 92-5(a)(2) to consider the hiring and evaluation of an officer or employee, where consideration of matters affecting privacy will be involved related to the candidates under consideration.

VI. Adjournment

If you need an auxiliary aid/service or other accommodation due to a disability, please contact Keola Fong at 808-626-5484 or by email at keolaf@oha.org as soon as possible. Requests made as early as possible have a greater likelihood of being fulfilled. Upon request, this notice is available in alternate/accessible formats.

§Notice: This portion of the meeting will be closed pursuant to HRS § 92-5.

Public Testimony will be called for each agenda item and must be limited to matters listed on the meeting agenda. Hawai'i Revised Statutes, Chapter 92, Public Agency Meetings and Records, prohibits Board members from discussing or taking action on matters not listed on the meeting agenda.

The board packet will be available for the public to inspect at OHA's main office located at 560 N. Nimitz Hwy., Suite 200, Honolulu, HI 96817 no later than three full business days before the meeting.