Phone: (808) 594-1888

COMMITTEE ON
BENEFICIARY ADVOCACY AND EMPOWERMENT (BAE)
Brickwood Galuteria - *Chairperson*
Kaleihikina Akaka - *Vice Chair*

MEMBERS
Dan Ahuna
Keli'i Akina, Ph.D.
Luana Alapa
Kaiali'i Kahele
Carmen "Hulu" Lindsey
Keoni Souza
John D. Waihe'e IV

OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
KE'ENA KULEANA HAWAI'I
560 N. Nimitz Hwy., Suite 200
Honolulu, HI 96817

Fax: (808) 594-1868

COMMITTEE ON
BUDGET AND FINANCE (BF)
John D. Waihe'e IV - *Chairperson*
Dan Ahuna - *Vice Chair*

MEMBERS
Kaleihikina Akaka
Keli'i Akina, Ph.D.
Luana Alapa
Brickwood Galuteria
Kaiali'i Kahele
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JOINT MEETING OF THE
COMMITTEE ON BENEFICIARY ADVOCACY AND EMPOWERMENT (BAE)
AND THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FINANCE (BF)

DATE: Monday October 26, 2026
TIME: 9:30 a.m. or immediately following the conclusion of the OHA Committee on Budget and Finance (BF) Meeting
PLACE: Remote Meeting by Interactive Conference Technology Viewable at www.oha.org/livestream OR Listen by phone: (213) 338-8477, Webinar ID: 971 0800 5133

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. October 19, 2026

III. Unfinished Business - None

IV. New Business
A. **Action Item BAE-BF #26-01**: Approve the Malu Project framework and funding approach for the management, allocation, and use of the $55 million transferred to OHA pursuant to Act 032, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2026, to address critical, short-term funding needs affecting Native Hawaiian beneficiaries and organizations and programs serving them, including, but not limited to, those affected by cuts to or loss of funding previously available for Native Hawaiians specifically.

V. Executive Session§
A. Approval of Minutes
1. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of September 9, 2026
2. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of September 16, 2026
3. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of September 21, 2026
4. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of September 22, 2026
5. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of September 30, 2026

VI. Adjournment

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§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.
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: 971 0800 5133

https://zoom.us/j/97108005133

*(*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.

10/20/2026		10/20/2026	
Trustee Brickwood Galuteria, *Chair* Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment (BAE)	Date	Trustee John Waihe`e, IV, *Chair* Committee on Budget and Finance (BF)	Date

Phone: (808) 594-1888

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JOINT MEETING OF THE
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AGENDA

I. **Call to Order**
II. **Approval of Minutes**
   A. October 19, 2026
III. **Unfinished Business** - None
IV. **New Business**
   A. **Action Item BAE-BF #26-01**: Approve the Malu Project framework and funding approach for the management, allocation, and use of the $55 million transferred to OHA pursuant to Act 032, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2026, to address critical, short-term funding needs affecting Native Hawaiian beneficiaries and organizations and programs serving them, including, but not limited to, those affected by cuts to or loss of funding previously available for Native Hawaiians specifically.
V. **Executive Session§**
   A. Approval of Minutes
      1. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of September 9, 2026
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      5. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of September 30, 2026
VI. **Adjournment**

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

JOINT COMMITTEES ON BENEFICIARY, ADVOCACY & EMPOWEREMENT AND BUDGET & FINANCE
MINUTES
October 19, 2026 9:30 a.m.

FULL MEETING CAN BE VIEWED AT 10/19/26 Budget and Finance (BF) Meeting

ATTENDANCE:
BAE Chairperson Brickwood Galuteria
BF Chairperson John Waiheʻe, IV
BAE Vice Chairperson Kaleihikina Akaka
BF Vice-Chairperson Dan Ahuna
Trustee Keliʻi Akina
Trustee Luana Alapa
Trustee Kaialiʻi Kahele
Trustee J. Keoni Souza

EXCUSED:
Trustee C. Hulu Lindsey

BOARD COUNSEL:
Kapono Kiakona

BOT STAFF:
Crayn Akina
Kingston Seguancia
Lei Ann Durant
Mark Watanabe
Melissa Wennihan
Momi Kaaihue
Morgan Kaui Robello
Nathan Takeuchi
Yvonne Mahelona

ADMINISTRATION STAFF:
K. Sean Kekina, *Ka Pou Nui / COO*
Bill Brennan, *Director of Communications*
Everett Ohta, *General Counsel*
Kevin Chak, *IT Systems Engineer & Administrator*

GUESTS:
Kimberly Miayshiro, *Kumabe HR*
Marie Kumabe, *Kumabe HR*

I. CALL TO ORDER

BF Chair Waiheʻe calls the Joint Committees on Beneficiary, Advocacy and Empowerment and Budget and Finance for Monday, October 19, 2026 to order at **9:31 a.m. (8:05 / 21:36)**

BF Chair Waiheʻe notes for the record that **PRESENT** are**:**

MEMBERS			**AT CALL TO ORDER (9:31 a.m.)**	TIME ARRIVED
BF CHAIR	JOHN	**WAIHEʻE, IV**	**PRESENT**	
BAE CHAIR	BRICKWOOD	**GALUTERIA**	**PRESENT**	
BAE VICE-CHAIR	KALEIHIKINA	**AKAKA**	**PRESENT**	
BF VICE-CHAIR	DAN	**AHUNA**	**PRESENT**	
TRUSTEE	KELIʻI	**AKINA**	**PRESENT**	
TRUSTEE	LUANA	**ALAPA**	**PRESENT**	
TRUSTEE	KAIALIʻI	**KAHELE**	**PRESENT**	
TRUSTEE	J. KEONI	**SOUZA**	**PRESENT**	

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

EXCUSED from the JOINT BAE-BF Meeting are**:**

MEMBERS			**COMMENT**
TRUSTEE	HULU	**LINDSEY**	MEMO – REQUESTING TO BE EXCUSED

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. September 30, 2026

BF Chair Waihe‘e moves to approve the JOINT BAE-RM Committee Minutes for September 30, 2026

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

There is none.

BF Chair Staff Akina states that no one has signed up to testify on the minutes.

BF Chair Waihe‘e calls for a **ROLL CALL VOTE**.

9:35 a.m.							11:30 / 21:36
TRUSTEE		1	2	ʻAE (YES)	AʻOLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
BF VICE-CHAIR DAN	**AHUNA**			X			
BAE VC KALEIHIKINA	**AKAKA**			X			
KELI‘I	**AKINA**			X			
LUANA	**ALAPA**			X			
BAE CHAIR BRICKWOOD	**GALUTERIA**			X			
KAIALI‘I	**KAHELE**			X			
CARMEN HULU	**LINDSEY**						**EXCUSED**
J. KEONI	**SOUZA**			X			
BF CHAIR JOHN	**WAIHE‘E**	1		X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT				8	0	0	1

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

BF Chair Waihe‘e notes for the record that EIGHT (8) members present vote ʻAE (YES), and the **MOTION PASSES.**

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion of additional information regarding each finalist for the permanent Office of Hawaiian Affairs Administrator / CEO, including professional reference information, writing samples, leadership assessments, and beneficiary, community, and stake holder feedback.

BF Chair Waihe‘e recognizes Marie Kumabe (**12:20 / 21:36**)

BF Chair Staff Akina states that no one has signed up to testify on the minutes.

Marie Kumabe: Aloha Chair, thank you for having us. Aloha Trustees, Happy Monday. First of all, I really wanted to start with a very heartfelt thanks to the amazing team here at OHA, we've had a lot of information to put together in a tight timeframe, and I know there were a lot of emails flying all over, all hours of the day and all weekend. So, thank you - thank you, from the bottom of our heart for all of your help and support during this. I will say it has resulted in what I think the trustees wanted in the beginning, which is to have a very transparent process as they search for the new CEO of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. Today we're presenting the final pieces of the puzzle for each trustee to be able to make an informed decision as they move forward in the committee meeting on Wednesday and ultimately to the Trustee meeting on Thursday in deciding who will make the most sense in three very well qualified, phenomenal candidates that the trustees have been able to experience during this process.

The rest of the materials that we're presenting today, include an overview of the three candidates and how they stack compared to the specific, very objective data, which is the job description and the leadership profile. So, each of the three candidates, and this is based on objective information reported in like the resumés and the cover letter, etc. Following that we also conducted a very extensive public feedback process, there was three components to that, there were written letters of testimony for various Candidates, there were written comments in two various surveys and those are separated for you. One survey was based on the website and anyone could participate having looked at the individual candidates bio and their Resume, and then the second component was the community talk story, and that was observing the candidates during that process. So, those are the two feedback components.

So, overall letters in the initial 10-day feedback process; Todd Apo had zero letters, Kaulana Park had 28 letters submitted, and Summer Sylva had 25 letters submitted. Written comments within that same period for the overall public feedback, Todd had nine comments, Kaulana had 10 comments, and Summer had 43 comments. In addition to that, the talk story event and this is provided as a summary for you as the first couple of pages, we saw candidates that had a strongly agree or agree in the various four specific evaluation statements, for instance in leadership in advancing OHA's mission we saw Todd Aapo with 12 out of 19, Kaulana had 14 out of 17, and Summer had 14 out of 17 and so etc. the additional four components are laid out for you. And then there were some additional summaries on the comments to make it easy. And then there was the actual comments included.

So, as you're going forward and looking through all the information that's been provided at this point in preparation for Wednesday; Kim and myself remain available, if there's any questions or anything you folks would like to clarify or discuss. I do believe if you're looking for kind of a good guide as you're reviewing all this, utilizing this comparative assessment it takes you through all the very specific qualifications that are being asked or looked at and the evaluation of those.

So yeah, I think I'm back to teaching, I feel like I'm giving you guys homework. It's a lot, but I know how important it is for you to make the right decision. So, we've tried to provide as much information and vet everything. We've done the social media checks, all of those things. Everything has come back with no red flags in any way, shape, or form.

Can I answer any questions?

BF Chair Waiheʻe Are there any questions, members?

BF Chair Waihe‘e recognizes Trustee Akaka **(17:45 / 21:36)**

Trustee Akaka: Mahalo, I may have more questions after reviewing all of this material. Mahalo.

Marie Kumabe: And just to clarify, I think that was the purpose of today's meeting was to be able to give you folks all of this information with enough time to still be able to digest it before before Wednesday.

BF Chair Waihe‘e: Did we need to go to executive session for anything?

Marie Kumabe: I think it just for approval of previous minutes, but for our things, I think we're okay.

BF Chair Waihe‘e: *So I guess that's it Marie, that's all we have?*

Marie Kumabe: Yes, formally there's one little interesting point that I'll bring out, on the community talk story; it says there were six letters included and it only shows three and two. so what happened was one letter came in, the cut off was noon and it came in at like 11:58. So we still counted it and we just missed it in there, it's included in the packet though in case you count letters. that would be the only anomaly.

BF Chair Waihe‘e: Okay, if there's no further discussion, I guess we'll see you guys all Wednesday.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

NONE

VI. ADJOURNMENT

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

BF Chair Waihe‘e If there’s any discussion?

There is none.

BF Chair Waihe‘e calls for a **ROLL CALL VOTE on**

9:43 a.m.							**19:55 / 21:36**
TRUSTEE		**1**	**2**	**'AE (YES)**	**A'OLE (NO)**	**KANALUA (ABSTAIN)**	**EXCUSED**
BF VICE-CHAIR DAN	**AHUNA**			**X**			
BAE VC KALEIHIKINA	**AKAKA**			**X**			
KELI‘I	**AKINA**						Departed mtg. at 9:41 a.m.
LUANA	**ALAPA**			**X**			
BAE CHAIR BRICKWOOD	**GALUTERIA**			**X**			
KAIALI‘I	**KAHELE**			**X**			
CARMEN HULU	**LINDSEY**						**EXCUSED**
J. KEONI	**SOUZA**			**X**			
BF CHAIR JOHN	**WAIHE‘E**	**1**		**X**			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT				**7**	**0**	**0**	**2**

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

BF Chair Waihe‘e adjourns the JOINT BAE-BF meeting on October 19, 2026 at 9:43 a.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 October 26, 2026

_____
Trustee Brickwood Galuteria
Chair
Committee on Beneficiary, Advocacy and Empowerment

_____
Trustee John Waihe‘e IV
Chair
Committee on Budget and Finance

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AGENDA

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A. October 19, 2026

III. Unfinished Business - None

IV. New Business
A. **Action Item BAE-BF #26-01**: Approve the Malu Project framework and funding approach for the management, allocation, and use of the $55 million transferred to OHA pursuant to Act 032, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2026, to address critical, short-term funding needs affecting Native Hawaiian beneficiaries and organizations and programs serving them, including, but not limited to, those affected by cuts to or loss of funding previously available for Native Hawaiians specifically.

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ACTION ITEM

JOINT MEETING OF THE
COMMITTEE ON BENEFICIARY ADVOCACY AND EMPOWERMENT (BAE)
AND THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FINANCE (BF)
October 26, 2026

BAE-BF #26-01

Action Item: Approve the Malu Project framework and funding approach for the management, allocation, and use of the $55 million transferred to OHA pursuant to Act 032, Session Laws of Hawai‘i 2026, to address critical, short-term funding needs affecting Native Hawaiian beneficiaries and organizations and programs serving them, including, but not limited to, those affected by cuts to or loss of funding previously available for Native Hawaiians specifically.

Co-Prepared by: 10/21/2026
Poni Askew — Date
Interim Senior Director, Strategy & Implementation
Director, Economic & Business Resilience

Co-Prepared by: 10/21/2026
Summer Sylva — Date
Interim Administrator/CEO

Reviewed by: Keola Fong 10/21/2026
Keola Fong — Date
Legal Counsel

Reviewed by: 10/21/2026
Everett Ohta — Date
General Counsel

Reviewed by:  10/21/2026

Trustee John Waihe‘e IV Date
Vice Chairperson, Malu Project Ad Hoc Committee
Chairperson, Committee on Budget and Finance

Reviewed by: .  10/21/2026

Trustee Brickwood Galuteria Date
Chairperson, Malu Project Ad Hoc Committee
Chairperson, Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment

[REMAINDER OF PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK]

Action Item BAE-BF #26-01: Approve the Malu Project framework and funding approach for the management, allocation, and use of the $55 million transferred to OHA pursuant to Act 032, Session Laws of Hawai‘i 2026, to address critical, short-term funding needs affecting Native Hawaiian beneficiaries and organizations and programs serving them, including, but not limited to, those affected by cuts to or loss of funding previously available for Native Hawaiians specifically.

I. ACTION ITEM SUMMARY

On August 13, 2026, the Board of Trustees approved Action Item BOT #26-11, establishing the Malu Project Ad Hoc Committee to develop recommendations regarding the framework and funding approach for the $55 million transferred to OHA pursuant to Act 032. The Committee has since completed its review and developed the proposed framework and funding approach presented in this Action Item for the Board's consideration. The framework is intended to address critical, short-term funding needs affecting Native Hawaiian organizations, programs, and communities, including, but not limited to, those affected by cuts to or loss of funding previously available for Native Hawaiians specifically, while also considering the responsible long-term management and sustainability of these trust resources.

In developing the framework, the Committee gathered information regarding existing and emerging funding gaps and sought input and perspective from Non-Voting Participants, including representatives from Kamehameha Schools, The Queen's Health Systems, Lili‘uokalani Trust, and independent consultants. Their advisory participation provided additional expertise, institutional knowledge, and community perspective to help inform the Committee's consideration of critical needs and opportunities for meaningful Native Hawaiian impact.

The resulting framework provides a structured approach for directing available resources toward identified needs in the areas authorized under Act 032, including education, health, economic development, and community-based initiatives. The proposed framework and associated funding option is presented to the Board of Trustees for consideration and approval to establish the funding approach necessary to activate the framework and move forward with implementation.

II. PROPOSED ACTION

Approve the Malu Project framework attached as Attachment A and recommended funding approach described below, developed by the Malu Project Ad Hoc Committee to guide the management, allocation, timing, and expenditure of the $55 million transferred to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs pursuant to Act 032, Session Laws of Hawai‘i 2026. The framework and funding approach shall comply with Act 032's purposes and limitations, including support for Native Hawaiian programs and services addressing critical, short-term funding needs in education, health, economic development, and community-based initiatives.

The recommended funding approach consists of Option 1 and its contingency, Option 1A. Both assume investment of the full $55 million in the Native Hawaiian Trust Fund (NHTF) and use an illustrative—not guaranteed—annual return of 8% annual return, informed by historical NHTF performance. The options provide different levels of near-term spending depending on whether additional Public Land Trust (PLT) funding becomes available beyond Year 3.

Options 1 and 1A constitute a single funding approach, with a primary path and a built-in contingency. Option 1 combines a 3% annual investment draw or spending rate with $8 million in annual PLT funding for Malu Project objectives. If additional PLT funding cannot be sustained beyond Year 3, Option 1A allows the Project to continue through the 3% draw, balancing ongoing support for beneficiaries with the corpus's long-term growth.

Option 1 – 3% Spending + $8 Million Annually in PLT Funds
Reduces the spending rate to 3% (within the spending policy limit of 5%) from the invested funds and authorizes an additional $8 million annually in PLT funds for Malu Project objectives. The lower investment draw preserves more of the corpus for projected long-term growth, while the PLT funding supports immediate needs. Under the illustrative return assumptions, the corpus is projected to reach approximately $89 million by Year 10 and $663.2 million by Year 50. This option requires no change to the current spending policy.

Option 1A – 3% Spending + $8 Million Annually in PLT Funds for Years 1–3: Provides the same funding as Option 1 for the first three years. If additional PLT funding is unavailable thereafter, Malu Project spending continues through the 3% annual investment draw alone. This contingency preserves the initial investment of the full $55 million and supports continued assistance within available resources. Under the same illustrative return assumptions, the corpus is projected to reach approximately $89 million by Year 10. This option also remains within the current spending policy.

The Joint Committees are requested to recommend Board approval of Option 1, with Option 1A as its built-in contingency, as the Malu Project's funding approach. Table 1 below compares the projected financial outcomes of both scenarios.

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Table 1. Illustrative Financial Comparison of Funding Option 1 and 1A

TWO OPTIONS 1 AND 1A · SIDE-BY-SIDE COMPARISON

Spending & Corpus Growth – Option 1: $8mm every year vs Option 1A: $8mm in years 1-3 only

Both scenarios invest the full $55mm in the NHTF · 8.0% expected annual return · Years 1–50, $mm

	Option 1 3% + $8mm PLT	Option 1A 3% + $8mm PLT, Yrs 1–3
Spending policy	3% of 20Q avg	3% of 20Q avg
Additional PLT funds	$8mm per year	$8mm, Yrs 1–3 only
Year 5 corpus	$69.4mm	$69.4mm
Year 5 annual spend	$10.0mm	$2.0mm
Year 5 cumulative spend	$49.1mm	$33.1mm
Year 10 corpus	$89.1mm	$89.1mm
Year 10 annual spend	$10.2mm	$2.2mm
Year 10 cumulative spend	$99.3mm	$43.3mm
Year 50 corpus	$663.2mm	$663.2mm
Year 50 annual spend	$24.7mm	$16.7mm
Year 50 cumulative spend	$714.2mm	$338.2mm
Policy change needed	None	None

Source: Malu Project $55mm model — 3pct (Options 1 and 1A), Option 1A is Option 1 with the additional PLT funds received in Years 1–3 only; the corpus path is identical to Option 1. For illustrative assumption with no modeled probability of receipt or deterministic returns; illustrative scenarios, not forecasts.

The Malu Project Ad Hoc Committee also requests authorization to advance the next phase of work under the approved funding approach and framework, including authority for the Administration to allocate and disburse up to $4 million in aggregate for the initial implementation of the Malu Project Framework, to address critical, short-term funding needs of Native Hawaiian programs and services, including those identified in Section IV.F. and additional needs identified during implementation, consistent with Act 032 and applicable OHA requirements.

III. ISSUE

Whether or not the Board of Trustees will approve a funding option to activate the Malu Project framework and authorize the allocation and disbursement of funds to address critical short-term needs affecting Native Hawaiian organizations, programs, and communities. This includes, but is not limited to, organizations and programs experiencing reductions to or the elimination of funding previously available for Native Hawaiians specifically.

The Malu Project framework is intended to provide OHA with a structured approach for identifying and responding to critical and emerging funding needs while ensuring that available resources provide a meaningful and direct benefit to Native Hawaiians. The framework considers immediate funding gaps as well as the responsible management and long-term sustainability of the trust resources transferred to OHA pursuant to Act 032.

As part of its review, the Malu Project Ad Hoc Committee considered information regarding funding gaps and critical needs affecting Native Hawaiian organizations, programs, and communities. The Committee also sought input and perspective from its Non-Voting Participants to help identify existing and emerging needs, impacts associated with reductions or changes in funding, and opportunities for Malu Project resources to complement, rather than duplicate, other available support. This is consistent with the work already described in the Action Item.

Approval of the recommended funding approach would establish the financial mechanism needed to move from planning and information gathering to implementation. It would guide the timely deployment of resources to address identified and emerging critical, short-term needs in the areas of education, health, economic development, and community-based initiatives, consistent with the purposes of Act 032 and the approved framework.

IV. BACKGROUND & DISCUSSION

A. Establishment of the Malu Project Ad Hoc Committee and Statutory Parameters

On August 13, 2026, the Board of Trustees approved Action Item BOT #26-11, establishing the Malu Project Ad Hoc Committee to develop recommendations regarding the framework and funding approach for the $55 million transferred to OHA pursuant to Act 032. The Board retained final authority to approve the framework and funding approach. Since its establishment, the Committee has evaluated funding approaches, gathered information regarding critical, short-term funding needs, and sought advisory input to inform its recommendations to the Board of Trustees. Act 032 provides that the transferred funds shall be used solely for Native Hawaiian programs and services with critical, short-term funding needs in the areas of education, health, economic development, and community-based initiatives. The Act further provides that the transferred funds may not be used for planning, developing or constructing residential or mixed-use projects or related infrastructure.

B. Non-Voting Participants– Purpose and Role

As part of the development of the Malu Project framework, the Ad Hoc Committee identified and conferred with a discrete group of Non-Voting Participants to provide additional expertise, institutional knowledge, and community perspective. Their role or contributions were advisory and intended to assist the Committee in better understanding the needs, funding gaps, and challenges affecting Native Hawaiian organizations, programs, and communities, as well as opportunities for addressing those needs collectively.

The Non-Voting Participants did not have voting authority or decision-making authority over the Committee's recommendations. Rather, their participation provided an opportunity for the Committee to receive input and perspective from organizations and individuals with experience serving Native Hawaiians and working in areas aligned with the purposes of Act 032, including education, health, economic development, community well-being, philanthropy, and community investment.

C. Participation of Non-Voting Participants

The Committee invited participation from representatives of Kamehameha Schools, The Queen's Health Systems, Lili‘uokalani Trust, and independent consultants. These participants brought different areas of experience and perspective to the Committee's discussions.

Their participation was intended to help broaden the Committee's understanding of conditions affecting Native Hawaiian communities and identify needs that may not have been fully captured through OHA's initial information-gathering efforts.

Kamehameha Schools

Kamehameha Schools brings extensive experience in Native Hawaiian education, community investment, ‘āina stewardship, and programs designed to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians. Its mission is centered on empowering Native Hawaiians and improving the well-being of the lāhui through education. Its participation provided the Committee with perspective on educational needs, community-based initiatives, long-term investment, and opportunities to align resources with existing efforts serving Native Hawaiian communities.

The Queen's Health Systems
The Queen's Health Systems brings a health and community well-being perspective grounded in its mission to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and the people of Hawai‘i. Queen's has specific experience addressing Native Hawaiian health priorities, access to health care, community support networks, and culturally responsive approaches to care. Its participation provided the Committee with insight into health-related needs, barriers to services, and areas where funding gaps may affect the health and well-being of Native Hawaiian communities.

Lili‘uokalani Trust
Lili‘uokalani Trust brings a community and ‘ohana-centered perspective to the Committee's work, particularly regarding the needs of Native Hawaiian children, families, and communities. Their insights into community conditions, direct-service needs, and opportunities for collaboration are invaluable. The Trust expressed openness to further discussion and exploration of potential partnerships to strengthen the well-being and long-term resilience of Native Hawaiian ‘ohana.

Independent Consultants
Independent consultants were also included as Non-Voting Participants to provide perspectives based on their professional experience, subject-matter expertise, and work alongside Native Hawaiian organizations and communities. Their participation provided an additional independent lens through which the Committee could consider funding strategies, community needs, implementation considerations, and the potential short- and long-term impacts of the proposed framework.

D. Areas of Discussion and Input

The Non-Voting Participants were asked to provide input and perspective regarding:

- critical and short-term needs affecting Native Hawaiian organizations, programs, and communities;
- known or emerging funding gaps;
- reductions to or elimination of funding previously available to support Native Hawaiians;
- needs that may not have been identified through OHA's initial information-gathering efforts;
- opportunities for Malu Project resources to provide meaningful and direct Native Hawaiian impact; and
- ways OHA funding could complement, rather than duplicate, existing programs, funding sources, and community investments.

E. Contribution to Development of the Malu Project Framework

The Committee considered input from the Non-Voting Participants alongside OHA's findings on impacts to Native Hawaiian organizations and programs, the proposed funding approaches developed for the $55 million transferred under Act 032, and the Act's requirements and limitations.

These perspectives helped inform a framework responsive to critical short-term needs and grounded in responsible stewardship and long-term management of available resources.

The Non-Voting Participants' input was advisory. It did not constitute approval or endorsement of the framework, funding approaches, eligibility criteria, or individual funding decisions. The Committee retained responsibility for developing recommendations for consideration by the Board of Trustees.

F. Proposed Initial Deployment of Malu Project Funds

The Ad Hoc Committee recommends that the Board authorize the Administration to allocate up to $4 million for initial deployment of the Malu Project framework described in Section II. This authority would enable timely assistance for identified and emerging critical, short-term funding needs affecting Native Hawaiian programs, services, and beneficiaries in the areas of education, health, economic development, and community-based initiatives, consistent with Act 032 and the approved framework.

Building on Board-approved practices for deploying funds through existing programs and qualified service providers, this authorization would provide flexibility to respond as needs are verified, within a firm funding ceiling and established safeguards. Implementation would remain subject to the Board-approved framework, applicable to OHA financial, program, and accountability requirements, and established oversight and institutional processes for responsible stewardship of trust resources. These guardrails would enable the Administration to move promptly from approval to assistance with the urgency and responsiveness the program demands.

The proposed initial funding priorities reflect the Malu framework's emphasis on protecting and stabilizing beneficiaries facing immediate or near-term harm (Mālama), addressing disruptions to essential programs and services (Ho‘ōla), and advancing measurable improvements in Native Hawaiian well-being and economic opportunity (Ho‘oulu). Aligned with OHA's Mana i Mauli Ola strategic outcomes, the following categories illustrate potential uses of funding. They do not designate recipients, guarantee awards, or exhaust the needs that may qualify under the approved framework.

1. **Education - Early Learning and ‘Ohana Empowerment**

   Initial funding could help sustain culturally grounded early childhood education and related ‘ohana support services facing verified funding gaps or disruptions. Eligible services may include community-based early learning, early literacy, kindergarten readiness, parent and caregiver engagement, and intergenerational learning, particularly in rural and underserved communities with limited alternatives.

   These investments would support continuity of educational opportunities for Native Hawaiian keiki and strengthen ‘ohana participation in their learning and development, advancing Malu’s Mālama and Ho‘ōla outcome areas and Mana i Mauli Ola’s Educational Pathways outcomes.

2. **Workforce Development – Employment and Economic Stability**

   Initial funding could support workforce programs experiencing verified, critical short-term funding needs that threaten services for Native Hawaiian beneficiaries. Potential uses include sustaining or restoring access to job training, employment readiness, career counseling, job placement, credential attainment, and career advancement services.

   These investments would help beneficiaries secure and retain employment, increase earning potential, and strengthen household financial stability, advancing Malu’s Ho‘ōla and Ho‘oulu outcome areas, and Mana i Mauli Ola’s Economic Stability outcomes.

3. Health—Access to Care and Essential Supports

Initial funding could help sustain essential health services and address barriers that place Native Hawaiian beneficiaries at risk of interrupted care or worsening health. Potential uses include culturally responsive primary and preventive care, behavioral health services, community-based outreach, patient navigation, and assistance with health coverage enrollment and renewal. Support could also address health-related social needs, such as access to nutritious food, transportation to care, and coordination of housing and other essential services.

Priority consideration could be given to verified, critical short-term needs affecting kūpuna, people with disabilities, beneficiaries experiencing houselessness, and households facing financial hardship. Investments could help qualified providers maintain services during funding disruptions and assist beneficiaries in navigating coverage changes before administrative or financial barriers result in delayed or lost care.

These investments would advance Malu’s Mālama and Ho‘ōla outcome areas by protecting beneficiaries from immediate harm, preserving continuity of essential services, and strengthening access to care and the supports necessary for Native Hawaiian health and well-being.

4. Emergency Relief – Immediate ‘Ohana and Community Support

Initial funding could support timely assistance to Native Hawaiian beneficiaries affected by emergencies, disasters, or other qualifying disruptions that create immediate hardship. Potential uses include community-based response coordination, essential supplies, assistance with urgent household needs, and beneficiary needs assessments to guide further support.

Building on OHA’s established emergency response practices, these investments would help stabilize affected ‘ohana and sustain access to essential resources as needs emerge, consistent with Malu’s Mālama outcome area.

5. Housing Stability and Home Ownership – Access to Capital and Economic Opportunity

Initial funding could address verified, near-term barriers to housing stability and homeownership through eligible financial assistance, mortgage-access mechanisms, financial education, and homebuyer readiness services. Potential investments may include expanding established financing arrangements that reduce upfront purchase costs or ongoing mortgage expenses for qualified Native Hawaiian households.

These investments would help beneficiaries translate financial readiness into attainable homeownership, retain more household income, and build intergenerational wealth while strengthening their ability to remain in Hawai‘i. Support would focus on eligible services and financing for existing or completed homes, subject to Act 032’s restrictions on residential construction and development. These efforts would advance Malu’s Mālama and Ho‘oulu outcome areas and Mana i Mauli Ola’s Economic Stability outcomes.

Supporting References:

1. Governor Josh Green, *Proclamation Relating to Affordable Housing* (September 15, 2023), pp. 1–3: https://governor.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/2309120.pdf
2. Governor Josh Green, *Twenty-First Proclamation Relating to Affordable Housing* (September 8, 2026): https://dod.hawaii.gov/hiema/files/2026/09/2609016_Twenty-First-Proclamation-Relating-to-Affordable-Housing-Scanned.pdf
3. UHERO, *The Hawai‘i Housing Factbook 2026*: https://uhero.hawaii.edu/the-hawaii-housing-factbook-2026/

Across these categories, allocations would be guided by verified critical, short-term needs, readiness to deploy funds, anticipated beneficiary impact, and opportunities to complement existing resources. These categories are illustrative rather than exhaustive; additional eligible programs and services could be supported as needs emerge and are verified during implementation, consistent with Act 032, the approved framework, and the aggregate funding authorization.

V. TIMEFRAME

Immediate action is recommended.

VI. BUDGET AUTHORIZATION

The proposed funding approach under Option 1, with Option 1A as the built-in contingency, includes authorization for the initial deployment of up to $4,000,000 in FY2027 NHTF Spending Limit budget to support eligible Native Hawaiian programs and services consistent with Act 032, as described in Section IV.F. The funding would be provided from Malu Project Funding, subject to any necessary budget adjustments and applicable OHA financial requirements.

Action Item BAE-BF #26-01: Approve the Malu Project framework and funding approach for the management, allocation, and use of the $55 million transferred to OHA pursuant to Act 032, Session Laws of Hawai‘i 2026, to address critical, short-term funding needs affecting Native Hawaiian beneficiaries and organizations and programs serving them, including, but not limited to, those affected by cuts to or loss of funding previously available for Native Hawaiians specifically.

VII. CERTIFICATION

The Chief Financial Officer certifies that the funding sources supporting the proposed initial allocation of up to $4,000,000 have been identified and are available, subject to Board approval of the proposed funding approach and any required FY2027 budget adjustments.

Dhiren Patel Dhiren Patel

Chief Financial Officer

Date: 10/21/2026

VIII. RECOMMENDATION

Approve the Malu Project framework and funding approach—Option 1, with Option 1A as its built-in contingency—for the management, allocation, and use of the $55 million transferred to OHA pursuant to Act 032, Session Laws of Hawai‘i 2026, to address critical, short-term funding needs affecting Native Hawaiian beneficiaries and organizations and programs serving them, including, but not limited to, those affected by cuts to or loss of funding previously available specifically for Native Hawaiians.

Authorize the Administration to proceed with initial implementation, including allocating and disbursing up to $4 million in aggregate to address identified and emerging eligible needs, subject to the approved framework and funding approach, Act 032’s purposes and limitations, and applicable OHA financial, program, and accountability requirements.

IX. ALTERNATIVE ACTION

A. Amend the recommendations and/or actions; or

B. Do not approve the recommendations and/or actions.

X. ATTACHMENT(S)

A. Attachment A – Malu Framework

Action Item BAE-BF #26-01: Approve the Malu Project framework and funding approach for the management, allocation, and use of the $55 million transferred to OHA pursuant to Act 032, Session Laws of Hawai‘i 2026, to address critical, short-term funding needs affecting Native Hawaiian beneficiaries and organizations and programs serving them, including, but not limited to, those affected by cuts to or loss of funding previously available for Native Hawaiians specifically.

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Attachment A – Malu Framework

OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS — MALU AD HOC COMMITTEE

$55 Million — Spending Framework

SB 903 / Act 32 × Mana i Mauli Ola

Version 3 — Updated October 2026

Malu provides a framework for how OHA will organize and evaluate the use of the $55 million appropriated under SB 903 / Act 32. The five outcome areas distinguish between immediate beneficiary needs, recovery, advancement of outcomes, long-term capacity building, and preservation of resources for future generations. These outcome areas are intended to guide future funding recommendations and decisions.

Together, the five outcome areas provide a continuum for the use of Malu resources—from addressing immediate beneficiary impacts and recovery needs, to advancing outcomes and building long-term capacity, while preserving a portion of resources for future generations.

Outcome Area	Purpose	Distinguishing Scope
MĀLAMA	Protect and stabilize beneficiaries facing immediate or near-term harm.	Current or reasonably imminent conditions affecting basic well-being, essential services, health, safety, or economic stability.
HOʻŌLA	Restore stability following disruption, loss, or adverse conditions.	Recovery, restoration, and resilience needs after the immediate impact.
HOʻOULU	Advance or accelerate measurable Native Hawaiian outcomes identified in OHA's Board-approved strategic plan and Mana i Mauli Ola.	Opportunities where additional investment can measurably advance strategic outcomes and there is demonstrated readiness and capacity to move effective work forward.
KŪKULU	Build the capacity needed to sustain outcomes over time.	People, systems, organizations, infrastructure, partnerships, or other enabling capacity that must be strengthened or created.
HOʻOMAU	Preserve and sustain long-term financial capacity.	Resources intentionally retained, stewarded, or invested for future Native Hawaiian needs and opportunities.

Future funding recommendations and allocations within these outcome areas will be supported by defined criteria, available evidence, fiscal analysis, and applicable OHA approval processes before funds are committed or expended.