

**STATE OF HAWAI'I**  
**OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**  
**560 N. NIMITZ HIGHWAY, SUITE 200**  
**(VIRTUAL MEETING - VIA ZOOM WEBINAR)**  
**COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
**MINUTES**  
**July 23, 2025 11:30 a.m.**

**FULL MEETING CAN BE VIEWED AT [7/23/25 Budget and Finance \(BF\) Meeting](#)**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Chairperson Luana Alapa  
Vice-Chairperson John Waihe'e, IV  
Trustee Dan Ahuna  
Trustee Kaleihikina Akaka  
Trustee Keli'i Akina  
Trustee Brickwood Galuteria  
Trustee Kaiali'i Kahele  
Trustee C. Hulu Lindsey  
Trustee J. Keoni Souza

Nathan Takeuchi  
Richelle Kim

**ADMINISTRATION STAFF:**

Stacy Ferreira, *CEO / Ka Pouhana / Administrator*  
Kehaulani Pu'u, *COO / Ka Pou Nui*  
Chantelle Belay, *Grants Manager*  
Grace Chen, *Budget Chief*  
Guy Moriwaki, *Director of Technology Services*  
Hailama Farden, *Sr. Director of Hawaiian Cultural Affairs*  
Kevin Chak, *Sr. Systems Engineer & Administrator*  
Kyle Saucier, *Systems Engineer & Administrator*  
Lauwaeomakanakualoha Clayton, *Sr Exec Assistant*  
LeAnn Gentry, *Commercial Property Agent*  
Lise Vaughan-Sekona, *Community Engagement Director*  
Micah Kahiwa, *Administrative Asst.*  
Poni Askew, *Director of Economic & Business Resilience*  
Royce Campbell, *Operations Manager*  
Ryan Lee, *Investment Director, Interim CFO*  
Sandra Stancil, *Sr Exec Assistant*

**BOT STAFF:**

Carina Lee  
Crayn Akina  
Kanani Iaea  
Lehua Itokazu  
Lei-Ann Durant  
Mark Watanabe  
Melissa Wennihan  
Morgan Kauai Robello

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**Chair Alapa** calls the Committee on Budget and Finance meeting for Wednesday, July 23, 2025 to order at **11:34 a.m.**

**Chair Alapa** notes for the record that **PRESENT** are:

MEMBERS			AT CALL TO ORDER (11:34 a.m.)	TIME ARRIVED
CHAIR	LUANA	ALAPA	PRESENT	
VICE-CHAIR	JOHN	WAIHE'E, IV	PRESENT	
TRUSTEE	DAN	AHUNA	PRESENT	
TRUSTEE	KALEIHIKINA	AKAKA	PRESENT	
TRUSTEE	KELI'I	AKINA	PRESENT	
TRUSTEE	BRICKWOOD	GALUTERIA	PRESENT	
TRUSTEE	KAIALI'I	KAHELE	PRESENT	
TRUSTEE	C. HULU	LINDSEY	PRESENT	
TRUSTEE	J. KEONI	SOUZA	PRESENT	Arrived at 11:40 a.m.

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

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

None

**III. OLD BUSINESS**

None

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. **Action Item BF #25-52: OHA Biennium Budget for the Fiscal Biennium Periods 023-2024 (FY24) and 2024-2025 (FY25) – Realignment #4 – Approval of Core and Non-Core Budget Realignments.\***

**Chair Alapa** asks if there is anyone signed-up to testify on this agenda item.

**BF Staffer Akina:** No one has signed-up to testify on this agenda item.

**Chair Alapa** calls on Grace Chen and Ryan Lee to the table for discussion.

**Vice-Chair Waihee** moves to approve the Fiscal Biennium Budget Realignment #4 (“BR4”), Core and Non-Core Budget, for the fiscal biennium periods (“FB”) 2023-2024 (“FY24”) and 2024-2025 (“FY25”) as summarized at Attachment #1. As well as the carryover of \$1,103,000 in unspent, uncommitted, unencumbered funds from the BOT #23-07 Maui Island Wildfire for Maui wildfire recovery efforts. These funds will be used for OHA’s Deployment of Kanaaho Grants for Lahaina and Kula, including direct distribution of disaster aid grants to beneficiaries.

**Chair Alapa** calls for discussion.

There is none.

**Chair Alapa** acknowledges Grace Chen and Ryan Lee for presentation.

**Interim CFO Lee:** Aloha Chair Alapa and fellow Trustees. Today, Administration is presenting Action Item BF 25-52, requesting approval for a final budget realignment for Fiscal Year 24-25 biennium. Budget realignments are a regular part of the year-end financial management and are essential to ensure OHA’s financial records are actually expenditures. These routine adjustments help close out the fiscal year, in alignment with all the requirements to ensure our books are complete, accurate, and compliant. I’m going to hand it off to Grace to review the key elements of the realignment.

**Financial Analyst Chen:** Mahalo. As Ryan said, the biennium budget is prepared and authorized only once every two years, so it may be necessary to update and make adjustments to the budget for various changes that may have occurred since the budget was passed. Budget Realignment 3 was presented and approved by the Board on February 6<sup>th</sup>. Today we’re asking the Board to approve budget realignment 4, to close Fiscal 2025, which was on June 30<sup>th</sup>

As you look at the action item, fiscal is updating the main tables, table 1, the spending limit and table 2, the total operating budget to accurately incorporate grants recently awarded from February 6<sup>th</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> and use this time to update those tables.

**Financial Analyst Chen:** Table 3 shows the core operating budgets, and this table provides updates to the adjustments made since February 6th and through June 30th of the budget in the core operating budget.

Skipping over to Table 6, which starts with the commercial property, are budget realignments necessary to reconcile the commercial budgets at the end of the fiscal year.

I'll pause here for any questions.

**Chair Alapa** recognizes Trustee Galuteria

**Trustee Galuteria:** *Grace is this basically Kaka'ako Makai?*

**Financial Analyst Chen:** We have the 4 properties that require realignment. All 4 of them Kaka'ako Makai, Nā Lama Kukui, 500 North Nimitz, and 501 Sumner. Lori Walker, and LeAnn Gentry are also both here, who can also answer any questions.

**Trustee Galuteria:** Okay, thank you.

**Financial Analyst Chen:** The budgets that were set 2 years ago and have been updated through February 6th may not be sufficient to cover all the expenses that have shown since February 6th to now, for one, I'll turn it over to Ryan regarding Sumner Street, just to bring your attention on what happened in Sumner.

**Interim CFO Ryan Lee:** These are expenses that were not budgeted, so the reconciling is meant to cover those expenses that are not budgeted. So, with Sumner there was additional principal repayment back to the loan to satisfy a loan covenant for the property, so that adjustment needs to be made within our own books.

**Financial Analyst Chen:** We'll pause here for any questions.

**Chair Alapa** recognizes Trustee Kahele

**Trustee Kahele:** Would you mind just starting with table one, rather than jumping around.

**Financial Analyst Chen:** Yes, of course table one table one is the spending limit is on page 4. So, looking at column C is where we ended on budget realignment number 3. This is the table of the spending limit, which is the amount that we can budget up to for the FY25, and in this realignment we're realigning FY25, so no changes to the FY24.

So, looking at column C, you'll see that the changes from column C to column D is the increase of 1.8 million in the Core Operating Budget. It's the in the first section under core operating budget, the subtotal of the of the core operating budget increased from 49.58 million to 51.4, the result of an increase of 1.8 in carryovers that were approved in various grants over this period.

**Trustee Kahele:** Then, if you flip the next page, that 1,835,148 is a combination of these two footnotes.

**Financial Analyst Chen:** Correct, Yes.

**Trustee Kahele:** The 140,000, that was that discussion about a month ago, where as trustees, we moved right resource over to Poni's kuleana, right to execute the Mahi'ai Grant program. Then can you speak to the Ola Ke Kanaka Grant?

**Financial Analyst Chen:** Yes, I have in my notes it's regarding an action item that was approved on October 23rd 2024, RM 24-52, and within that action item, the Budget authorization table, section 5, it was to look at the grants budget carryover summary, and that specific parts of that grant was to be funded using the carryover. Kēhau is here as well to speak to it, if that's okay.

**Ka Pou Nui Pu'u:** So just to provide some context, RM 24-52 was part of the fiscal year 24 open grant solicitation, that had come before the Board in May 2024, and then the Grants manager at the time, Keala Neumann went back; I think that this Board had expressed desire to fund additional organizations, and so what came back was the decrease of requested funding to all of these organizations that had been recommended for award, so that was what had been approved initially. So back in, I believe September and October we came back to the Board to approve the remaining grants that had not come before the Board for approval. Then, in October we had come before the Board to restore the initial funding requests that were made by all of these organizations, and in addition to that we awarded additional organizations who had scored 90% or higher. So, it was just a small handful of organizations that had been awarded in that last action item, RM 24-52.

**Trustee Kahele:** Those are both health grants and economic stability grants.

**Ka Pou Nui Pu'u:** Yes, so like the recent KCDC one that we're going to be providing an update on tomorrow came out of that last action item. And these are the grants that, although awarded, given the limited capacity of our grants team, because we only had a few officers. It's taken this long to start to execute those grants. So that was the goal of our team, they finally were able to finish all the contracts and execute.

**Trustee Kahele:** Okay.

**Chair Alapa:** Mahalo, Kēhau.

**Financial Analyst Chen:** We can continue with the table 1, section 2, the commercial property. The revised figures in column D reflects an update in the revenue. So, now we have more accurate figures to provide those revenues as of June 30<sup>th</sup>. That's the commercial property. Section 4, there's no changes in the legacy property.

**Chair Alapa** recognizes Trustee Galuteria

**Trustee Galuteria:** I know that it's footnoted about the debt service on Sumner, the net increase of 1.4 seems excessive, I need a little more explanation.

**Interim CFO Lee:** Sure, I can explain it. Basically, there's a loan covenant that's tied to the property with the bank and given that the property has not been leased out, there's a shortfall in net operating income over the loan outstanding balance. So what's required to maintain that loan is to pay down certain principle. So this is principle that we're paying down with just an equity to the property. So it's not a fine or penalty, but it's to bring down the outstanding loan balance to meet the debt limit. So basically, we didn't have a tenant in there for the last couple of months, it didn't meet a debt yield test, to satisfy that test we need to pay down principle to be in compliance. So these funds are not

coming from the core marketing expenses, but from existing cash flow from the other commercial properties.

**Ka Pouhana Ferreira:** Ryan, can you please explain to the Board also that there was an increase in that that covenant requirement, so there was change from the previous year, because I think that makes a difference.

**Interim CFO Lee:** Yes, what Stacy is mentioning is that typically within a loan, the first couple years there's a different level of ratios that you need to meet. At the end of last year, which I think it's the 3 year that ratio increased, so it's standard language within loan documents, but it's one that, as mentioned, not having sufficient net operating income, did not meet that increase test. I believe, Lori can comment about plans on getting that property leased out such that we can meet those requirements going forward.

**Trustee Galuteria:** One follow-up; who controls the ratios.

**Interim CFO Lee:** Typically, when you have a loan, those ratios are set by the bank, to test that you have sufficient cash flows to pay back the bank. So, typically it's set by the bank, and it's negotiated upfront between the borrower and the bank.

**Trustee Galuteria:** *And we can move in the middle of everything.*

**Interim CFO Lee:** The set ratios don't move, I think what moves is when we measure the financial performance of the property to test whether the property itself is performing in line with expectations. So this test helps the bank such that if there's insufficient net operating income they can get ahead of it and we can address it accordingly.

**Trustee Galuteria:** *Mahalo.*

**Ka Pouhana Ferreira:** I just want to make note that because we have to meet that threshold for the loan, doing the pay down is also a benefit to OHA, just because it becomes equity. So it's money that's kind of recirculated within our own portfolio.

**Financial Analyst Chen:** Okay, I'll continue on. There are no changes in the next funding source, legacy properties. The next one we're looking at is the Federal funded, in there we have HLID, Department of Transportation, we're looking under section 4, 1st line, 1st row. That says, Halawa Luluku Interpretive Development, HLID, there was an increase in the budget, that I was notified about prior to this realignment, and this reflects it, and that was in personnel.

So these are the changes in the spending limit.

In total, realignment number 3 was 65 million in spending limit for the total operating budget. In realignment number 4, we're revising the figure to 67.6 million.

Continuing on to table 2, while the first table shows the spending limit, table 2 shows the total operating budget proposed for realignment number 4. Again in Section 1 to correspond to what we saw in the spending limit, the core operating budget that the increase in 1.8 is in the non-personnel item.

**Financial Analyst Chen:** Section 2, the commercial properties, the changes in this section reflects the budget adjustments requested for this time, for each of the properties, and it's also detailed in the tables following. So we're looking at column C, comparing to column D and the changes in column E.

There are no changes in the legacy, and, as mentioned earlier, under the last funding source, the Federal fund is an increase of \$10,300.

Continuing on to table 3, this presents the figures by category for the core operating budget. What I've include in the footnotes are adjustments that have been made since the last realignment that occurred on February 6th, including those adjustments to June 30<sup>th</sup>. Just bringing it up to date, to reflect the final budgets. Where there's surplus there are repurposed into those that needed additional funding.

**Ka Pouhana Ferreira:** I think it's important to note that when we talk about reconciling the budget that it's not necessarily just increases that we are coming for board approval for, but also decreases that are reflected in the footnotes as well.

**Financial Analyst Chen:** The next section, before we go on, I actually have as inserts, and we'll go back to this after we finish these tables, if that's okay. Because in these inserts I provided updates to the next approval, which is the Kanaaho disaster in Section B and section C again, I provided the budget carryover update. So we'll go back to it after we look at the other tables.

Continuing on to page 10, which starts Kaka'ako Makai, these are the adjustments necessary to bring the budget up to date. As you can see in Kaka'ako Makai the last change to the fiscal 25 budget was actually in 2024, so it was not in February, but prior to that. So we're now updating it more than just 6 months and the explanations are provided in the footnotes.

Continuing on to Nā Lama Kukui, it was adjusted in the last realignment. We're again readjusting, and it's good news, the increase is for the property management security, in that we're able to lease out the property and therefore need to make pay more commission, therefore requesting for the decrease. Where we can repurpose the unused funds, as you can see there's a minus 116,000 where we anticipate surplus, we're trying to repurpose that before requesting for an increase.

Table 8 on page 12 presents the figures for 500 N. Nimitz, in addition to presenting an updated projected revenue, this is also to close out the fiscal year with these adjustments.

The last of the commercial properties, table 9, aside from the 1.4, are there any other questions?

*No audible reply from the Committee.*

**Financial Analyst Chen:** Okay, Table 10 presents the adjustments needed for HLID. Again, there has been adjustments between February 6th and June 30th I'm presenting all this time, in addition to the increase of the budget.

One last item, Papahānaumokuākea on page 11, this was proposed to reallocate the 77,000 in travel to 21,400, at that time requested by the program manager in order to enter some of the requisitions at the end of the year.

So these are the tables, by approving part A of the proposed action.

**Financial Analyst Chen:** Part B talks about the 1.1 in unspent, unencumbered funds relating to the Maui Island wildfire, and I present the figures of what was available in Table 4 on page 8. This recaps that when the Maui Island wildfire occurred the BOT shortly approved BOT 23-07, to award 5 million. Since that event occurred in 2023, as of June 30th 2024, 943,000 were processed, between July 1st and June 30th of 2025, an additional 2.9 million were processed. So total process to date is nearly 3.9 million, showing that there's 1.1 million available. My understanding is that because they were carry over to fiscal year 2025, we're requesting that 1.1 million to be carried forward to fiscal 26, but continue processing.

**Chair Alapa** recognizes Trustee Kahele

**Trustee Kahele:** Can you speak to the details, and maybe Chair Emerita that represents Maui can talk more about the unspent balance, some of the timelines along July 31st and I think it's August 31st, and then a possible Kanaaho 2.0 and how that's going to work.

**Financial Analyst Chen:** We have Poni here that can give a recap and talk about the next stage if it's okay.

**Chair Alapa:** Yes, please. That would be nice.

**Chair Alapa** recognizes Trustee Lindsey

**Trustee Lindsey:** I did have a discussion with staff about that leftover money, and they made a recommendation that, I think, is a good solution to it, so I'll have Poni explain it.

**Ka Pou Nui Pu'u:** Before Poni jumps on I just wanted to reshare with the Board that Kanaaho has actually been extended to next week Thursday. So that is the absolute deadline, for "Kanaaho 1.0" and that's the \$4,000 and \$9,000 grants to homeowners or renters. So next week Thursday is the last day, and we do have some applications that are being processed. So we estimate a little over \$200,000 more that will go to Grants, and then Poni will speak to the rest.

**Director of Economic & Business Resilience Askew:** Mahalo, so in anticipating the closeout on July 31st we do expect at least 2 weeks to reconcile those numbers which will give us a final result. Just to backtrack a little, we did do a survey in March to all the recipients of Kanaaho, about 24% responded. And just to share really quickly some of the responses, 67% of the respondents were renters, and they expressed the need for housing-related financial assistance, which is kind of an obvious statement. 57% cited that they had a need for everyday living expenses, 39% long-term housing affordability and stability, and then 48% of kupuna related expenses, things like ADA and home adjustments, because they had to take in Kupuna and their homes weren't equipped for that. Then the other part was emotional and mental well-being challenges. So, instead of creating new programs for the second tranche of funds, the recommendation that Trustee Lindsey, is on board with is that we just do a second round to the recipients of "Kanaaho 1.0" and the split of the remaining amount will be similar to, like a 2 to 1 ratio, so the renters will get about 50% of what a homeowner would get. So, homeowners had received 9,000, renters got 4,000, we'll do the same split and provide that update to you folks once we get that final reconciled number.

**Trustee Lindsey:** You might give them an idea of what that number is like, you gave me.

**Director of Economic & Business Resilience Askew:** Sure, as of the moment that Trustee had approved it, we were looking at approximately 2,900 for homeowners, and around 1,400 for renters. But that really does depend on the final amount with the 1.1 million divided by how many are renters, and how many are homeowners, so I look forward to getting that final number so we can really have a true assessment of what we can disperse to homeowners and renters. Mahalo.

**Chair Alapa:** Mahalo Poni.

**Chair Alapa** recognizes Trustee Ahuna

**Trustee Ahuna:** Thank you, Chair. I was just wondering, we have a million dollars left, and could it be open up to the entire State of Hawaii? The only reason why I'm saying this is because, I think those funds came from emergency money or where did that money come from? Maybe it can be available to the entire State next time, if that's a possibility.

**Ka Pouhana Ferreira:** Mahalo, Trustee Ahuna, for that question. So, my understanding was that the Board approved this specifically for the Maui wildfires, that was a commitment that was publicly made specifically to Kula and Lahaina residents affected by the fires. In this budget approval for biennium there is disaster aid that was set aside and our administration has already been working to quickly put together an AI so that we can bring it in front of the Board to start dispersing the biennium appropriation for disaster aid that would be statewide, and would address what Trustee Ahuna is asking for. So we should have an AI in front of the BF Committee regarding disaster aid that has been appropriated in the Fiscal Year 26 budget.

**Chair Alapa:** *When can we expect that?*

**Ka Pouhana Ferreira:** At the next BF Committee meeting, so in two weeks.

**Trustee Ahuna:** So, I was just talking about how we are realigning the money. I just thought that we could open it up to everybody, Maui included for the second round.

**Chair Alapa** recognizes Trustee Souza

**Trustee Souza:** I think to Trustee Ahuna's point, this amount of 5 million dollars came out of a realignment. I think when we initially talked about it, maybe Trustee Lindsey can help me out on this, I think it was \$384,000 left in that fiscal year emergency funds. So, I think, to his point, where is the money going after the left over, if there's another \$200,000 going out potentially. I understand Ka Pouhana's explanation where we committed the 5 million dollars to Maui, specifically, so would it be adding it to our budget that was already approved in the last couple of weeks, or... and keeping it in emergency funds is what I'm saying.

**Trustee Lindsey:** There's 1 million left, the same people that got the issuance at the beginning get the leftover money, the same recipients, they don't have to go through any paperwork, they're just going to cut a new check for the balance after it's spread out. All the homeowners will get a certain amount, and all the renters will get a certain amount, and they'll use the leftover money. I mean, there's no question that the people in Lahaina really need it. I don't know if you noticed, but I didn't ask for anything in the budget because I was grateful to the Board for giving Maui the 5 million. So, I think that this 5 million should go to the Lahaina people.

**Trustee Souza:** Right, just a follow up to Trustee Ahuna, are you referring to a certain disaster that happened recently?

**Trustee Ahuna:** Don't get me wrong, I'm talking about the money going to Lahaina, yeah, I just thought we had money that we're gonna have to realign to something else. I was just saying, since we never spend that money. I know how we got the 5 million for Lahaina, and the reason why I'm saying this is just because for me, I like help Maui, but if they cannot spend it all, maybe we can open them up to everybody, that's all I'm saying.

**Trustee Souza:** I think the current ask is for it to stay, and be dispersed amongst the original applicants.

**Director of Economic & Business Resilience Askew:** Correct.

**Trustee Ahuna:** If cannot, cannot. I'm just trying to say that we can spend this for all beneficiaries, too. But, Maui needs help, but I know we'll get extra money. So that realignment, I want to, if it's possible, if we can just change one line that says to the everybody in the State to have that same opportunity. Aloha.

**Chair Alapa:** Mahalo Trustee.

**Trustee Kahele:** Yeah, so just for clarification, the application window is still open until July 31st and whatever you have that completes an application by July 31st and what you have now, you expect to be about 200,000.

**Director of Economic & Business Resilience Askew:** 200,000 less, so we're probably going to land on 900,000.

**Trustee Kahele:** So, my question is, you're going to have \$900,000 left on the table, and what you want to do is go back to all those people that you've already awarded and give them more money, they've already received money.

**Director of Economic & Business Resilience Askew:** Yeah, so they'll get a second tranche of the monies that were already committed to them. The proposal also includes the ones that I should say, we won't have to go through another round of applications or verification process. It's just to deplete it to the existing recipients of "Kanaaho 1.0", and it's going to be about \$900,000, give or take.

**Trustee Kahele:** Do you know approximately how many current applicants have received, or what is the amount of homes?

**Trustee Lindsey:** 600, I think about.

**Director of Economic & Business Resilience Askew:** So right now as of yesterday, the count is 236 homeowners and 448 renters received Kanaaho funds. And that makes up the 3.9 million that we've already dispersed.

**Trustee Lindsey:** The point I'd like to make is that the amount that we gave them in the 1st place, was not significant, but was very helpful, and I cannot tell you how appreciative those people were, so if we can help them a little bit more, and this was the money that we appropriated for them, then let's do it.

**Trustee Kahele:** That was the 9 and the 4, 9 to homes and 4 to renters.

**Director of Economic & Business Resilience Askew:** Yes.

**Trustee Kahele:** You think that'll be the same.

**Director of Economic & Business Resilience Askew:** It'll be less and based on the...

**Trustee Lindsey:** Much less, it would be like 1,500 for the renters, if we're lucky and maybe 3,000 for the homeowners that lost their homes.

**Director of Economic & Business Resilience Askew:** And more than likely it'll end up being less because of the increase in the report that we got yesterday in recipients. So it is actually going to decrease.

**Trustee Kahele:** And how quickly do you think...

**Director of Economic & Business Resilience Askew:** Yeah, thank you. That's why I came back because I didn't finish answering your question. So we're thinking that by middle of August everybody will be reconciled. I'm hoping to start working with Communications, so that we can get a press release drafted up within the next week. So, it's queued up and ready to go, ETA for this new round of disbursements to start. We're hoping for September 1st, and we'll probably queue it from whoever received it first and then work backwards to the most recent. Between September 1st hoping to finish disbursement by December 31<sup>st</sup>. And then the other part is that we can probably get that reconciled and come back to you folks for a report update, probably around end of January early February, where everything landed.

**Chair Alapa:** Thank you, any other questions, Trustees?

*There are none.*

**Chair Alapa:** Mahalo, Poni.

**Financial Analyst Chen:** So, having heard the request is to carry over the 1.1 from FY25 to FY26 to continue processing these payments, that sums it up for our request in this action item.

**Chair Alapa** recognizes Trustee Kahele

**Trustee Kahele:** Just a general question on the budget realignments. Obviously, this is the fourth realignment we're doing, and it follows action item 18-01, that describes how we do budget realignments. Matter of fact, I think, Chair Emerita, you were the RM Chair back when you adopted 18-01. I was looking at budget alignment number 3 and one of the things that caught my eye was the \$90,000 that was appropriated to the strategy and implementations data dashboard, and I know 18-01 requires a quarterly report of budget adjustments submitted to the Board of Trustees. I know the data dashboard was in our budget, pretty significant amount, well over a quarter million dollars that we put for FY26 and 27. Do we have any information on how the \$90,000 was spent on the S&I's data dashboard. Just looking back at previous realignments that the Admin has asked this Board to do, we have done the realignment we gave S&I \$90,000 for data dashboard, between January and today what was done for that, that would have justified that request, and maybe it was covered in a quarterly report that has already been submitted, but I'm just asking if anyone knows.

**Financial Analyst Chen:** Thank you, I'll answer the question, and we can also have a follow up. In terms of the \$90,000, where it is at this time, part of my work is to provide the Trustees with the Quarterly Report, and that's actually due July 31st for the quarter, ending June 30<sup>th</sup>. So at that time I will provide an explanation on any surplus as well as any deficiencies in each of the line items. So, for now, if it's okay to wait until that report is prepared and released, and to prepare that report, I actually will go back to all the directors and managers to ask for an explanation of where the variances are

**Trustee Kahele:** Great, thank you.

**Financial Analyst Chen:** So, if it's okay to approve the action item, and I've summarized the budgets for both years in Attachment 1 where you'll see the revised and proposed figures for both the FY24 and the FY25.

**Chair Alapa:** Thank you so much. Is there anyone signed up to testify on this item?

**BF Staff member Wennihan:** Not at this time.

**Chair Alapa** calls for discussion.

There is no further discussion.

**Vice-Chair Waihee** restates the motion to approve the Fiscal Biennium Budget Realignment #4 (“BR4”), Core and Non-Core Budget, for the fiscal biennium periods (“FB”) 2023-2024 (“FY24”) and 2024-2025 (“FY25”) as summarized at Attachment #1. As well as the carryover of \$1,103,000 in unspent, uncommitted, unencumbered funds from the BOT #23-07 Maui Island Wildfire for Maui wildfire recovery efforts. These funds will be used for OHA’s Deployment of Kanaaho Grants for Lahaina and Kula, including direct distribution of disaster aid grants to beneficiaries.

**Chair Alapa** asks all in favor to say ‘AE – All nine (9) Trustees present said ‘AE

							MOTION: 11:38am
							VOTE: 12:19pm
TRUSTEE		1	2	'AE (YES)	A'OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
DAN AHUNA				X			
KALEIHIKINA AKAKA				X			
KELI'I AKINA				X			
BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA				X			
KAIALI'I KAHELE				X			
CARMEN HULU LINDSEY				X			
J. KEONI SOUZA				X			
VICE-CHAIR JOHN WAIHE'E	1			X			
CHAIR LUANA ALAPA				X			
<b>TOTAL VOTE COUNT</b>				<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

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

**Chair Alapa** notes for the record that ALL members present vote 'AE (YES) and the **MOTION PASSES.**

**Chair Alapa:** At this time I would like to have the presentations all at once to expedite the matter between the agenda items. Are there any objections, trustees?

**Trustee Lindsey:** Can I bifurcate one of the sponsorships, and then go along with your multiple movement.

**Chair Alapa:** Okay.

**Trustee Lindsey:** And that particular sponsorship is the EPIC Wahine 2025, they're asking for \$15,000. I have several questions; I wanted to know how many of this group are Hawaiians, for this kind of sponsorship? How long have they been in existence, and what are they going to do with the money. They were supposed to be here today, and then they sent a last minute letter, saying they cannot attend in person, or virtually, I would think if \$15,000 is going to be given to their group, somebody from the group would be happy to attend or even virtual because they're from Kona, they could have attended virtually.

**Chair Alapa:** Alright, thank you, Trustee.

**Board Counsel Kiakona:** Just to be clear, the motion was to have Kēhau's presentation be compiled together, not to have the votes, or to have any discussion just to have Kēhau's presentation done all at once. So, the discussion on each item will happen separately. But this would just be so that she's not up and down every time, she can just present, and you guys can take notes.

**Chair Alapa:** Are there any objections.

There are none.

**Chair Alapa** recognizes Ka Pou Nui Pu'u

**Ka Pou Nui Pu'u:** I'm just gonna preface with saying I may not have be as well detailed in each and every sponsorship. But I did want to. I did ask to come before the Board 1st to speak on these 15 sponsorships before we delve in, and it's actually going to be 14, because we're going to defer 25-61 when we get to that one. I just first wanted to mahalo the Board for the \$635,000 that was budgeted for Ho'ākoakoa Lahui Sponsorships this fiscal year, combined with our \$235,000 for those line item sponsorships, OHA is committing a total of \$870,000 towards supporting organizations in their events this year. So, the 14 sponsorships that we're going to go cover are those that fall under that 635,000, so these are not line item budgets, these are organizations that have applied and have met our Ho'ākoakoa criteria and are in compliance with HRS 10-17 requirements and have undergone evaluation, and basically a competitive process. So, these are the 14 sponsorships before you today. I wanted to share that these are sponsorships for quarter two. So, except for the first 4, those were quarter one sponsorships that didn't make it in our last Budget and Finance June meeting because of the changes in the Sunshine law, so that meeting had to be canceled. So, except for the 4, the remainder of the sponsorships, the 10 are for quarter two, so these are events happening October through December. In past meetings and presentations, I've shared that we've set earlier deadlines, and that we want to bring sponsorships to the Board Quarterly, so that we're not bringing them every month, and that there is ample time, for evaluation, approval and ratification and processing, because we want to make sure that these organizations are getting their payments on time.

**Ka Pou Nui Pu'u:** So that \$635,000 will actually fund the 4 that didn't make it in FY25, but they're intended to fund events in quarter two, three, four, as well as quarter one, because again, we want to ensure time to process and evaluate and award and coordinate with the organizations. I do want to share just a couple more things before we go through them; Chantelle Belay is our Grants manager, and we have already begun the process of transition, so she's taken some part in this round of sponsorships, because it'll be her moving forward. And we've already spoken about, I think I've been open about the opportunities for improvement in this sponsorship process, so she's planning a training for all of the evaluators next month. She's already working on moving our application process into Foundant, which is what is used for our community grants, so using that portal will create much more ease of use for our applicants. I also want to mention that this quarter two round of sponsorships, we finally got two evaluators. So each of those events have two, which is good practice when you're doing grant reviews, so that's just to preface the 14 that we're going to go through. any questions on that so far.

**Chair Alapa** recognizes Trustee Akina

**Trustee Akina:** Kēhau, thanks for the update and Chair, thank you for acknowledging me. In terms of the evaluators, are these internal or external evaluators.

**Ka Pou Nui Pu'u:** All internal, so we've grown our pool of evaluators, hey include staff both on the Administration and on the Bot side. So I do, Mahalo them, because it is a time commitment, there's need for calibration when your scores don't quite match up, and they have all engaged in that, and to them I mahalo you guys, and it's going to get better. We're working on process improvements, and you folks will be brought together to do more training on an evaluation in August.

**Trustee Akina:** Mahalo.

**Ka Pouhana Ferreira:** I just wanted to make a quick note that it'll be the Board of Trustee aides that will be that second set of evaluators, and I know that previously there was discussion at the table around who is basically the authorized evaluators on the Administration side, and it was made very clear to us that it was at a director level. So, I just want to make sure that we understand that obviously on the BOT side, they're not going to be at a director level, so I want to make sure that we're good with that.

**Chair Alapa** recognizes Trustee Akaka

**Trustee Akaka:** I want to make sure I'm hearing this correctly, so our BOT Aides will be evaluators of sponsorships.

**Ka Pou Nui Pu'u:** Yes, those who volunteered.

**Trustee Akaka:** I have a concern like, I don't want this organization, of those aides, or the applicants to be, in conflict. Are we not worried about that?

**Ka Pou Nui Pu'u:** I think that's a concern for anybody who's evaluating sponsorship, so first of all mahalo to my point of contact on the BOT side. The evaluators have all gone through ethics training, and this is why I'm looking forward to the training they'll be receiving in August to make sure anyone will recuse their self if there is a conflict of interest, and part of that is a trust thing, but that's a concern for anybody. I'll be honest I had to jump in on this round and do an evaluation, I had a partner,

because we had several people who had to recuse themselves from being an evaluator. So again, that's an expectation for any evaluator. I do also want to throw in that we did consult with Everett, so we're good, they are able, there's no conflict in them being evaluators.

**Trustee Akaka:** Even though they fall under the work of the Trustee.

**Ka Pou Nui Pu'u:** Yes, I was very specific about who was joining the evaluation team.

**Chair Alapa** recognizes Trustee Lindsey

**Trustee Lindsey:** I would be very uncomfortable if my aides were evaluating, because, whatever our aides do, reflects on the elected official. So, I think that we should pass this through the Ethics Commission and if they can confirm that it's okay, and then, I wouldn't mind. But I kind of see a conflict of interest, because if I wanted somebody to get the money, I just tell my aide, hey, make sure that get approved, and that's not good. So, if you, if you would pass it through the Ethics Commission, I'm okay with it.

**Ka Pou Nui Pu'u:** Okay, we'll do, and I'll check with Everett, because he may have already done that, but I'll double check with Everett. He may have already done that when I brought to him the idea of adding BOT aides to the evaluator pool.

**Chair Alapa** recognizes Trustee Kahele

**Trustee Kahele:** Yeah, so just a couple of things trustees for context on this. First of all, the board side is on an interim basis only, part of it is because they're so short staffed in reviewing Ho'ākoakoa sponsorships, all conflicts of interest training were updated and certified. It was only on a volunteer basis, only if the Trustee allowed their staff to participate, and if there was any type of conflict of interest, self-recusal was expected by the staff, Trustee Aide, or Secretary that volunteered only if their Trustee approved of it. So, it's on an interim basis to help them get through this this time, and frankly, I think it has helped the speed at which you guys have been able to process applications.

**Ka Pou Nui Pu'u:** It certainly has. What it does is it helps to solidify the recommendations coming before you, it wasn't just one person, but two people who came to agreement on the score, and what's being presented and recommended. So that's how it's a huge help. Then for our community grants, we actually contract external evaluators, these are big grants, we're talking six figure dollar grants, so we contract external evaluators. It's best practice to have multiple evaluators on a grant. They will evaluate independently, and they don't even really know who evaluated what. What we did in this last round of having more than one evaluator is, bring them together only if there was a need for calibration.

My hope is that this could be more than interim. I think we went in thinking that that they would be part of our pool, because we would like to be able to maintain having multiple evaluators on each of the sponsorships. I just put that on the table. And then yes, Mahalo, for the reminder that Aides had to get approval of their Trustees, and so thank you for those of you who have supported that.

**Trustee Kahele:** I also point out self-recusal is expected right, and we had a sponsorship a month ago, the Hōkū's, we have two Board of Governors sitting at this table, and they recused themselves from voting on that sponsorship. So on an interim basis, at least, for now I don't see a problem with it, provided all the safety measures are put in place.

**Trustee Lindsey:** Well, in the past we've always had three people review each grant request. I'm just sharing because two people you seem to think is generous, but three people is a very safe number, and that means that you need more people.

**Ka Pou Nui Pu'u:** So, it was three for community grants, which are the big grants, \$100,000 \$200,000. These are maximum \$15,000 requests, and they're a much larger number of requests, however the process, is way less rigorous than what you would go through for a community grant. So, I think that two is a good ratio, considering these are smaller grants, and the frequency and volume of them. But yeah, it's in our budget so Mahalo, stipends for external evaluators which would be minimally 3 for community grants.

**Chair Alapa** recognizes Trustee Galuteria

**Trustee Galuteria:** Thank you, Chair. I've noticed that we are receiving grants to approve unlike before, when we used to approve them two days before they're supposed to happen, now is that a clear result of this new of two man team, or how did it come? We wanted you to extend that walk up to the grant.

**Ka Pou Nui Pu'u:** Thank you, I do recall you made a comment, both you and Trustee Akina had asked that one meeting, there were concerns because the sponsorship that was being put before the Board that the event was happening in the same month. So we rolled out Ho'ākoakoa in January, and we had to kind of catch up give organizations time to apply, which is why we were bringing things before the Board the month before. But what we finally have gotten to is the timeline that we have set where we are giving ourselves ample time. So we're setting deadlines early, I believe April 1st was the deadline for these quarter two sponsorships, but I can't remember off the top of my head, but we're giving ourselves time to take it in, process, ensure that they're meeting the criteria, they got all their forms in and then sending them out for evaluation, and then making sure we have time to work on those action items, recommendations, and then the back end, too, because that takes time as well, making sure that they're going to get their checks on time. Not to say we didn't have challenges here during this round, but that's the plan with Chantelle, to get to a place where it becomes a kind of a well-oiled machine, where the process is easier. But it was intentional to get to this point, it just took this time.

**Trustee Galuteria:** Yeah, whatever you're doing, you keep it going. Because the Trustees we have, I mean, if we don't want to see our aides involved in this process, we just won't give them approval. It's pretty simple, but thank you very much. Because if we're approving for December now, that's really good. Thank you.

**Chair Alapa** recognizes Trustee Akaka

**Trustee Akaka:** So we will be receiving more sponsorship requests going forward in the B&f Committee.

**Ka Pou Nui Pu'u:** So next round should be after September. September 1st is the deadline for quarter 3, and then that'll give Chantelle and the team time to take them in, process, send them out for evaluation, and then I believe told her to make her own timeline, so I believe October or November is when she's going to bring the next round of sponsorships before the Board.

**Trustee Akaka:** So, quarter 3. What are the months of quarter 3?

**Ka Pou Nui Pu'u:** January through March.

**Trustee Akaka:** So this is it, the ones on this agenda is the remaining for 2025.

**Ka Pou Nui Pu'u:** Yeah, but what we want to do is approve the following fiscal years quarter one sponsorships in the previous, so in 26, we want to approve July, August, September, because again if we wait until July, it's not going to provide enough time to come before the Board and process, and you folks don't like to approve it after the fact, so we want to be sure that we can bring them to you before these events are happening.

**Trustee Akaka:** So, if there's an event that is happening between next month and December the window is closed.

**Ka Pou Nui Pu'u:** The window closed, yes, it did. Not to say, Trustees could make exception, but we would need to get that in writing. But yeah, the window closed, and I think Comms did a good job of blasting Ho'ākoakoa, it's on our website, we have the deadlines posted. They did a good job of getting the word out there.

**Trustee Akaka:** Well, the reason why I'm asking, too, is, when I was reviewing the application from the intertribal council with the Powwow, it specifically mentioned that their event coincides with Aloha festivals so trying to recall if Aloha Festivals had applied, I know it's not just on this island, it's throughout Hawaii. Nei.

**Ka Pou Nui Pu'u:** I think they did, I gotta check our records. But I think Molokai and Maui, we had some Aloha Festival event approvals. I'm not sure for this island, but I'll ask the team to go back in and check.

**Trustee Akaka:** Yeah, I think those are certain deadlines that it would be good for us to have on our radar, so that when we're out in the community, or if anybody asked well were to ask us that we have those firm deadlines on hand, so that if there are different entities that are interested, we can let them know. Thank you.

**Chair Alapa:** Thank you. At this time, Kēhau please continue to proceed with the presentation on our scholarships.

**Ka Pou Nui Pu'u:** Okay, so 25-53 is the Ulu festival, 'Āina Momona group from Moloka'i, you folks see the recommendation being made, I believe they're here. Most of these groups are here to testify, we have some in person and some online. Mahalo to all of them for taking the time to be with us. I do want to point out for this and action item 25-55, in their request, they had a mix of entertainment and cultural workshop costs. So, what we did as an Administration is reduce the amount, and we just tried to be even by \$500, the eligible amount, so I want to point that out to you folks. If you're looking at their applications and if entertainment catches your eye. In looking at it further, we saw that it's a mix of both entertainment and other cultural purposes.

We have Hala Festival, 25-54.

25-55, which is the Intertribal Powwow.

**Ka Pou Nui Pu'u:** OHCRA 25-56, we did fund them last fiscal year. So that's the other thing, I just want to remind Trustees is that organizations are only eligible for one event per fiscal year.

25-57 and on is where we've had two evaluators on each of these sponsorships. So we do have the Hawaii Wildlife Center's Festival of Birds. I believe that's going to be at the Naniloa for \$5,770, that was their full request.

25-58, Hawaiian Islands Land Trust for their Mālama 'Āina Kākou event, and I see their CEO here today.

The Lydia<sup>8</sup> for the EPIC Wahine, I don't know too much about this one, kala mai but I know that this is one that Trustee Lindsey has some questions about, so we'll have to follow up to respond to those questions. Again, what we're looking at is criteria and compliance with HRS 10-17, and then Everett does also do a check with DCCA as he is reviewing and approving action items. They did submit written testimony however they are not here or online.

25-60, Mana Maoli for their Paepae Pōhaku Student leadership camp, that's exciting.

The Sacred Light 'Ohana event.

E kala mai, I'm not giving a lot of details, I'm just kind of going through.

25-61 is deferred, so we won't be hearing that one today.

25-62 is the Key Project on the windward side of the island.

25-63, Ho'olu 'Ike Center for Hula and Mele, we did support their conference last fiscal year. This year they requested funds for their hula competition.

Waianae Economic Development Council, Action Item 25-64 for their Small Business Saturday event.

25-65, the Makaha Hawaiian Civic Club for their Annual Scholarship Luau event, which benefits students on the west side of this island.

Nā Kama kai for their Keiki Surf Kontest and this one is also being held out on the West Side

Hāmākua Youth Foundation for their Ohana day event, that's 25-67.

The last one, that's not an event sponsorship, but Chantelle will join me here to just get some approval, to be able to process more quickly the line-item sponsorships that you folks approved in the fiscal in the biennium budget.

**Chair Alapa:** Thank you so much Kēhau. At this time we will hear from any testifiers on this items.

**Chair Alapa** recognizes Mercy Ritte.

**Mercy Ritte:** Aloha, my name is Mercy Ritte. I have the great privilege to serve as the Molokai events and community engagement coordinator for 'Āina Momona. I just want to Mahalo the OHA Board of Trustees for the opportunity to apply for the Ho'ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorship and to also share about the organization and the exciting event we look forward to hosting this year.

**Mercy Ritte:** ‘Āina Momona is a nonprofit organization, deeply rooted in community. The mission of ‘Āina Momona is to protect and restore the environment while promoting sustainability and food sovereignty. Community events and engagement are an essential part of our mission. Our events bring Ohana together, community together, strengthens cultural identity and empowers ohana to take active roles in caring for the ‘Āina and growing more food. In 2021, ‘Āina Momona received a little over 250 ulu trees from Dr. Noah Kekuewa Lincoln. We distributed many trees to community and organizations, and planted 120 on our farm site which today continues to thrive and produce fruit. Our first harvest came in 2024, allowing us to share hundreds of pounds of Ulu with our community, and we also hosted an Ulu Cooking Series class to teach how to prepare and enjoy Ulu in multiple ways. Fast forward to today, 2025, this year alone ‘Āina Momona has distributed over 2,200 pounds of ulu to feed the community. Any excess that we had was used to feed the pigs on site, ensuring nothing went to waste. The demand for Ulu has grown significantly, one of our goals is to get ulu trees into more yards, as the saying goes, plant an ulu tree and you'll never go hungry. This is absolutely true, Ulu trees are a high yielding crop requiring minimal care, especially compared to kalo and U'ala, and has potential to produce up to 700 fruit per year per tree. As we know, Ulu was once a dietary staple for generations of Hawaiians, and provided a consistent and nutritious food source. Hosting an Ulu festival on Molokai helps encourage the planting and consumption of Ulu as a local sustainable food, we plan to welcome a wide range of guest speakers; from chefs to agroforest specialists who bring deep knowledge and expertise around Ulu. We also hope to distribute ulu trees to Ohana and offer a farm tour of our Ulu grove and educational site at Keawenui Fish pond before the event. Overall, the Ulu festival directly supports ‘Āina Momona and Molokai's ongoing efforts and mission to build food security by promoting a crop that thrives in our island climate and requires minimal inputs. Most importantly, the festival highlights the critical need for self-sufficiency and resilience in the face of our reliance on imported food. Approximately 80 to 90% of Hawaii's food is imported, according to the Hawaii Public Health Institute. The festival is scheduled for Saturday, September 20th of this year, timed closely with Maui's annual La'ulu celebration early in the month. In closing the Ulu festival on Molokai, would be a powerful and timely initiative that directly aligns with OHA's priorities to elevate the health of our Lahui, and to perpetuate cultural practices. With OHA's support we can bring this vision to life and continue cultivating a thriving connected Lāhui here on Molokai Mahalo nui for your time.

**Chair Alapa:** Mahalo, Mercy. Thank you so much for joining us and sharing testimony. Thank you. *Do we have any other testifiers on this item?*

**BF Staff Akina:** *No further testifiers on this item.*

**Chair Alapa:** Mahalo, what we're going to do at this time, because we do have quite a bit to cover. Unless there are any objections Trustees we will be proceeding with the public comment for action items IV. B through R, and then reserving Trustee discussion and vote until the end. There being no objection, we'll proceed accordingly.

*There are no objections.*

**Chair Alapa:** Additionally, per Administration's request will be deferring IV. J, which is Action Item 25-61.

**Chair Alapa** recognizes Kawehi Young.

**Kawehi Young:** Aloha Chair Alapa, Vice-Chair and trustees. My name is Kawehi Young. I'm here at the Hawaii Conservation Conference. I'm based on Hawaii Island, but I'm here with you today as a co-organizer of the Hala festival. I also serve as a public outreach coordinator for the Big Island invasive species committee. First off, I just want to, Mahalo you folks, for the opportunity to provide testimony and request your support in funding the second annual Hala festival. The festival is more than just an event, it's a gathering of 'Ohana, of 'Ike and of shared Kuleana to place. It was born from a deep recognition that our connection to Hala, both as a cultural and ecological resource, is vital to the health of Lāhui. We held our 1st annual Hala festival back in May of 2024, with over a thousand attendees. We hosted over 16 different workshops, including weaving and planting and five talk story sessions, featuring respected members of the community. As part of my work at the Big Island Invasive Species Committee we raise awareness about invasive species threats, like the hala scale and the invasive coconut rhinoceros beetle, both of these posing serious threats to Uluhala. The festival gives us a chance to talk about these pests in a way that is grounded in Aloha Aina, because we know that when people understand what's at risk, they're more likely to take action. This event features hands-on weaving and planting workshops, talk story sessions with cultural practitioners and activities for the whole Ohana. Many of our workshop leads and speakers are Kanaka who call Puna home. We also plan to have various nonprofits and community organizations, hosting educational booths as well as local craft and food vendors at the event. Your support will be instrumental in making this event a success, and Mahalo nui for your time and consideration, and I'm here to answer any questions that you folks may have. Mahalo.

**Chair Alapa:** Mahalo, Kawehi. Trustees?

*No, follow up*

**Chair Alapa:** Alright, thank you. Thank you very much for your time. At this time. We'd like to move on to our next presenter, and he's in here in person in the OHA boardroom. I'd like to call upon Robert Kakalia for BF 25-55, he'll be representing the Sky Brothers Collective DBA Oahu Intertribal Council.

**Robert Kakalia:** Aloha Chair, I'm Dr. Robert Kakalia, I serve as a volunteer CFO for Sky Brothers Collective doing business as Oahu Intertribal Council. I am the sole Hawaiian that serves on that Board, otherwise they are all Native Americans that are both from here and the Turtle Island. I also serve as the CFO for Ka Makani Kaili Koa, the fiscal sponsor of Sky Brothers collective. The event is a continuation of a 49-year legacy of powwows in Hawaii. This year we've asked Mayor Blangiardi to declare September to be powwow month in Hawaii, as during that month, what we call a powwow trail is occurring, starting out on the 6th of September and each weekend there will be a powwow. So, after the first one, the next one will be in Hilo, and then we will be the tail finish of the Powwow Trail at Kapiolani Park. Originally, when this proposal was drafted, we had intended to utilize the bandstand, instead, we are currently looking to utilize the amphitheater that was originally the home to the Kodak Hula show. So, we take great pride in pairing this with that legacy. I'm sure that many people are unaware that native Americans have been present here since kingdom times, and actually intermarrying with our people, especially in Lahaina, when they came over on whaling ships. So, we carry on that legacy of their presence in these islands from the 1800's, and we share that aspect with visiting Native Americans to show that they have a place here. We also take great pride in sharing with them our perspective of our mahu culture in their culture is referred to as 2 spirit, and so during powwow we will be creating a safe space called Rainbow Circle, to invite visiting attendees to our powwow, and expose them to how we value our mahu culture.

**Robert Kakalia:** Also as an economic supporter of local business. If you're familiar with Kapiolani Park, it's called section 3, section 3 is the Makai section that is, outside of the amphitheater between the bandstand. We will be using Section 3 as a vendor space, where we are estimating to have roughly 100 local vendors, a combination of both food and merchandise. We have been on the hunt for local businesses attending events, we just attended the Hula festival, where we were actively recruiting vendors there, and in that space we hope to share with the 15 visiting Native American vendors, exposure to our Native Hawaiian crafters and goods, and support native indigenous businesses. As you can imagine, it can be a little difficult to host out of town merchants, so one of the reasons that we're looking for assistance, not specifically from this grant is to be able to host them properly and make sure that they're in compliance with State laws and what have you. That is basically what our powwow event is, and we hope that the Board will be able to see the value of supporting this cross-cultural event here in Hawaii. Aloha!

**Chair Alapa:** Thank you very much, Trustees?

*No, follow up*

**Chair Alapa:** Alright, seeing none, Thank you so much for sharing your time with us. We missed a testifier earlier, her name is Leila Kealoha, she is testifying the 25-54.

**Leila Kealoha:** Aloha mai kakou, my name is Leila Kealoha and I am coming in from Puna. I am the Executive Director of Pohaku Pelemaka, the organization that's applying for the funding for Hala Festival in collaboration with Big Island Invasive Species Committee. I want to say Mahalo for allowing me to testify today in your folks meeting. Our mission of Pohaku Pelemaka is to preserve, protect, and enhance the special things about Puna, in collaboration with our Ohana and the Native Hawaiian well-being, and the transmission of intergenerational knowledge. The Hala Festival last year was an amazing first time event that occurred at the Maku'u Market, and one really beautiful thing that that happened that day was we had our kupuna of Puna there all day long, and the funding that we're seeking for from you folks is to help pay for our practitioners. We believe that it's important to pay our practitioners for their work, their time, their 'ike. As well as for those who are coming to play music, or people that come and talk stories and share their mo'olelo of the significance of hala. If you folks are familiar, Puna is well known for hala, some of the best hala come out of our area in our district, and with the threats that are coming with the hala scale, the CRB that's now attacking Hala because it's losing the niu, it's very important that we promote and educate the significance of hala. It's very important to our people, it's a dying practice, and it's our Kuleana.

So our mission also is about providing these events for free to the community and they come and be a part of these practices, they don't pay to do a workshop, they don't pay to listen to the concert sessions, they don't pay for the music. They can come and be educated about Hala and those that are working with Hala, how to work with Hala and the things that are affecting its livelihood. We just want to ask you folks to please support our organization, this will be the second annual that we'll be doing this year, and we anticipate having more participants at our event this year, which is free to the public and in collaboration with our local market folks, our Ohana over there, so I just appreciate the opportunity to testify today. On behalf of Pohaku Pelemaka and our BIISC team for this event. Mahalo.

**Chair Alapa:** Mahalo Leila, have a wonderful day. At this time we'd like to bring up our next testifier for BF 25-57, Angela Emiliano will be representing Hawaii Wildlife Center.

**Angela Emeliano:** Hi, thank you to the Trustees and to the entire group that's responsible for the sponsorship opportunities. My name is Angela Emeliano, I am the Community Coordinator at Hawaii Wildlife Center, together with the Conservation Council for Hawaii, we put on every single year the Hawaii Island Festival of Birds. This is a full celebration of our native manu, and our approach is to shine a light on conservation efforts for our native manu but also to expand it. And we know that the expansion of the work that we do starts off very simply helping to educate people about what is native versus non-native. So, it is a full day of events, we have it every year at the Grand Naniloa in Hilo, and the day is a combination of vendors, so everybody who has manu based merchandise and also different vendors sharing their conservation work. We also have a full day of speakers and entertainment, but this is a family-friendly event, and as I mentioned earlier, we start very simply. So this year we have added on a Manu 101 component, which is going to be teaching the basics of bird watching, conservation efforts. Throughout the day we'll have presentations from experts, we are shining the light on our conservation work, but also trying to help keep the momentum positive, because we know that there are a lot of hurdles with conservation work, but we are focusing on the successes. So one of the things that we are focusing on through our merchandise and also through our talks, is the Nene population, how it was almost extinct and now it's being celebrated, almost 3,500 strong, and now shifting to conversations of how to be good wildlife neighbors. We will have experts talking about Hakalau and the reforestation work that's being done there, and the conservation work. So together this is just a grand celebration of our native manu, everything is just focused towards it. And as I'm sitting here, I'm seeing the Manu Oku flying around, many of us have seen more Nene around, so it's just sharing and celebrating our conservation work. Again, keeping the momentum and really targeting a lot of different ages, so if it's keiki and families learning about manu for the first time, to high school students or emerging professionals that are trying to go into the conservation field and sharing opportunities for them as well. And also just to spotlight all the good work that we're doing in a climate that isn't very friendly to conservation, how we can all have hands in helping it in many different ways. I thank you all for the time and for the consideration for this sponsorship. Mahalo.

**Chair Alapa:** Mahalo, Angela. At this time, though I'd like to make a note of BF 25-56 to our Trustees, the Oahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association, there is no one here present to testify, but I would still like to see if there are any other testifiers.

**BF Staff Akina:** *No one has raised their hand.*

**Chair Alapa:** Okay, great. Thank you very much. We'll move on to BF 25-58, Olu Campbell will be representing the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust.

**Olu Campbell:** Hi, Trustees, nice to see you all. Thank you very much for the consideration of this sponsorship request for one of our major events every year, called Malama 'Āina Kākou. I could tell you all about the event I'm not going to. Instead, I'd just like to share a little story about 8 years ago or so, when I was working here at the Office of Hawaiian affairs, I had a chance to attend this event Malama 'Āina Kākou as a representative of OHA, and I remember Aunty Hulu was there, I believe, Trustee Waihe'e, I think you might have been there as well, and a few others. It was my first introduction to this organization, and as a result of that introduction, I'm now the CEO of the organization, and I'm in a position where I can allocate millions of dollars of capital and other resources every year, much of which is not Native Hawaiian specific type of resources to support Native Hawaiian interests and well-being of our Lahui. I think that type of impact that OHA creates, that's sometimes really hard to track, but it's there and I really appreciate that. I just wanted to share

that story with you, share the appreciation that the OHA's presence in the community goes far and wide and sometimes not seen, but it's there, I'm a personal testament to that. Really appreciate the consideration of the sponsorship request, and if you have any questions about the event, I'd be happy to answer them.

**Chair Alapa:** Thank you, Trustees?

*No questions.*

**Chair Alapa:** Thank you so much for sharing and giving up your time to come here. Are there any other testifiers for this item?

**BF Staff Akina:** *No further testifiers.*

**Chair Alapa:** Alright, we're going to move on to our next item, number 25-59.

**Chair Alapa** recognizes Trustee Lindsey

**Trustee Lindsey:** I move that we defer this item.

**Chair Alapa:** Okay, any objections to that?

**Trustee Ahuna:** Why would you defer, what is the reason? Didn't they get selected?

**Trustee Lindsey:** They did, but I have questions, and they're not here to answer. \$15,000 is a lot of money.

**Trustee Ahuna:** Yah, but I want to support our Lāhui, and not everybody is here today, and that doesn't mean they don't get money. What I'm trying to say is, I want to be behind our organizations and our lāhui, and I'm not here to put anybody down or anything. These guys are very capable, they obviously have been awarded a grant, and I don't want to say anything bad about these people.

**Chair Alapa:** Okay, I also wanted to include that she did send in written testimony. I have it here, and it has been emailed to all of our BOT and our Administration. Would you like for me to read it?

**Trustee Lindsey:** No.

**Board Counsel Kiakona:** Since currently we are just having presentations, if you can hold your motion until or withdraw your motion, you can re-raise it when you're having discussion on this particular issue, because this is just the presentation, the testimony from the public.

**Trustee Lindsey:** Okay.

**Chair Alapa:** Mahalo, I'd like to call upon BF 25-62, Rainbow Uli'i, who will be representing Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth Project.

**Rainbow Uli'i:** I just want to advocate for the other groups that weren't present, you know, with 7 days notice, it's one of those things where we try our best as community members, and we're running community organizations to be able to make it happen. So, I'm one of those folks who wasn't able to

come in person today for Key Project, and I hope that you folks all understand that. We are out here, and we're making it work. Mahalo, for this time.

**Rainbow Uli'i:** Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Trustees. My name is Rainbow Uli'I, I'm the Executive Director at Key Project over in Waihee, Oahu. Key Project was founded in 1968, and since has been a pillar in our community building ever since. The mission of Key Project is to nurture the well-being of people in 'Āina by supporting, serving, and sustaining our community. Our campus is located in Waihe'e Oahu, right between Kahalu'u and Ka'alaea. We're grateful and proud to be able to serve the entire Ko'olau, Oahu through our programs, focusing on everybody, keiki to kupuna. Key Project is hosting our annual Waihe'e Fest this year, October 11th 2025, it's a free public cultural event celebrating Waihe'e Valley, where we live, the Ahupua'a that we call home. And this community centered event and gathering invites residents from across Oahu to engage in cultural learning and Ohana activities rooted in Native Hawaiian traditions. The event features cultural workshops, for example, lei making, ohe Kapala, live entertainment, mele and Hula, and a marketplace of Native Hawaiian vendors. Cultural practitioners from the Ko'olau region will offer Hana Noeau and Mo'omeheu workshops in Key Project's classroom facilities, and outside we have at least 20 vendors offering food, crafts and other goods. For additional reference, we host a Kalo Fest event every year in March, and this year we saw approximately 2,500 visitors throughout the entire event. We were also able at that event to host similar cultural workshops, ku'i 'ai opportunities, and we gave out \$2,000 worth of free kalo and poi that was through granted funds there. Key Project is the heart of Ko'olau, leading with aloha, we're a trusted organization rooted in 'Āina and responsible for uplifting, connecting and serving our people from keiki to kupuna. We look forward to continuing our mission across Ko'olau with OHA's sustained support. Ke Aloha No, Mahalo.

**Chair Alapa:** Mahalo, Thank you so much for joining us. Are there any other testifiers for this item?

**BF Staff Akina:** *No further testifiers.*

**Chair Alapa:** Mahalo, we're going to move on to 25-63 Kalani Hiapo will be representing Ho'oulu 'Ike Center for Hula and Mele, and this is a virtual testifier.

**Kalani Hiapo:** Aloha nui kakou, o wau Kalani Hiapo, I am the Executive Director for Ho'oulu 'Ike Center for Hula and Mele. I extend our deepest mahalo to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs for this opportunity to testify, and for considering sponsorship for support for our first A'a I Ka Hula competition that will take place on October 25<sup>th</sup> 2025 at Moanalua Gardens. This competition was created with a clear and vital purpose to provide secondary students with a dynamic and meaningful platform to showcase their achievements in Mele, Hula and Oli. More than a competition, it's a celebration for their dedication, discipline, passion, and a vehicle to nurture deeper connections to the Hawaiian identity, language and cultural practice. What makes A'a I Ka Hula competition unique, is the direct engagement with students and Kumu hula within the school systems. It's a place where Haumana and Kumu come together in a competitive yet uplifting environment to share the knowledge and skills cultivated throughout the school year, and often more and beyond that. This collaboration not only reinforces cultural identity, but also emphasizes the vital role of Hawaiian arts within education, it highlights the value of place-based learning and affirms the rightful place of Hula, Mele and Oli in academic settings. The competition strongly aligns with OHA's Mana Maui Ola Strategic Plan, especially in advancing Cultural Identity, Olelo Hawai'i and Oihi well-being. It is also a powerful opportunity for community engagement, bringing together students, families, cultural practitioners, and the wider public to celebrate excellence in Hawaiian culture, and Hawaiian arts.

**Kalani Hiapo:** In it's core A'a I Ka Hula is about investing in our youth, when we uplift them to culturally rooted platforms like this, we strengthen their sense of belonging, and pride and resilience, ensuring our heritage, lives on through them. On behalf of Ho'olu 'Ike Center for Hula and Mele, and many school communities, and Kumu Hula participating, we humbly ask for your continued support. Your investment in the competition, and is an investment in the future of our lāhui. Mahalo piha to the Budget and Finance Committee, the Board of Trustees, and the entire OHA Ohana for your time and consideration, and for uplifting our people. Mahalo.

**Chair Alapa:** Mahalo Nui, Kalani. Are there any more testifiers on 25-63?

**BF Staff Akina:** *No further testifiers.*

**Chair Alapa:** Mahalo, we're going to move on to 25-64. Shavone Lave will be presenting for the Waianae Economic Development Council.

**Shavone Lave:** Aloha, my name is Shavone Lave, and I serve as the Program Director for the Waianae Economic Development Council. Mahalo, for the opportunity to share why Small Business Saturday Waianae and our business resource hub is vital for our community. The mission of WEDC is to increase economic opportunities for Waianae coast residents by developing the community's rich, natural, cultural, and human resources. The Small Business Saturday Waianae and Business Resource Hub isn't just a makeke, it's an economic lifeline. It's a day focused on building capacity, strengthening resilience, and creating long-term opportunities for Native Hawaiian and local businesses on the Waianae coast. This free event delivers real solutions, such as technical assistance and financial education to help businesses grow strategically, it offers direct access to resource partners, so funding programs, trainings and business development support that small business owners rarely have access to in our area on Oahu. It also offers community education, so teaching residents powerful ways to champion small businesses beyond just purchasing, such as advocacy referrals, and sustained engagement. With OHA's sponsorship, we will launch a business resource Hub, at the event, which is a one-stop space where owners can connect to the tools and partnerships they need to succeed. We'll showcase local businesses which keeps dollars circulating in our community where they matter most, and we'll provide technical assistance kits so that every participant leaves with actionable steps for long-term sustainability. OHA's sponsorship will directly support a Native Hawaiian graphic designer to develop the event graphics, demonstrations by Waianae based cultural practitioners, presentations by Waianae based small businesses, shop local kits and business starter kits to empower the community and the entrepreneurs.

This event directly aligns with OHA's mission to advance economic self-sufficiency for Native Hawaiians, supporting our small businesses means supporting our Ohana preserving cultural practices and ensuring that Waianae's economy is not only surviving but thriving. Your Kokua removes barriers, it opens doors and maximizes impact, making this event free and accessible to all. Thank you for your time and consideration, and I humbly ask for your favorable decision on this sponsorship request.

**Chair Alapa:** Mahalo, Shavone. Are there any more testifiers on 25-64?

**BF Staff Akina:** *No further testifiers.*

**Chair Alapa:** Mahalo, we're going to move on to BF 25-65. This is for with Lu Ann Mahiki Langford Faborito, who will be representing Makaha Hawaiian Civic Club.

**Lu Ann Faborito:** Aloha, Good afternoon, Trustees. Thank you so much for the opportunity, Makaha Hawaiian Civic Club is very proud to submit an application for sponsorship. We provide an annual scholarship for the Opio living in the 96792 Zip code, and we actively advertise on OHA's He Ipu Kaeo scholarship resource page, which we get a lot of success from, and we do it throughout with the counselors on the West Side. As far as our testimony, I'm sure you guys have had a long day. We just want to thank you folks for your consideration. I did want to point out your Grant reviewers did a really good job in the matrix, and what that does is it helps us to see where we did not Max out and where we could do better. So, I thank your Grant reviewing team, mahalo everyone, have a great afternoon.

**Chair Alapa:** Mahalo, Lu Ann. Are there any more testifiers on 25-65?

**BF Staff Akina:** Yes, *Germaine Meyers is here in person.*

**Chair Alapa** recognizes Germaine Meyers.

**Germaine Meyers:** Aloha Chair. My name is Germaine Meyers, I'm an OHA beneficiary for beneficiary advocacy and empowerment. I'm also a Nanakuli Hawaiian Homestead lessee. Mahalo for speaking on this and the previous action item, they're from Waianae Moku, my community. I of course, have been very much in support of our community receiving grants from OHA. My only input is regarding the fundraiser, I don't understand when OHA is now giving grants for fundraising. What are some of the criteria, which I had asked about when the policy was first brought out, but I haven't heard that answer regarding it. For example, if they're receiving a \$10,000, Grant, and they only fundraise \$5,000. Also, in the past OHA would buy a table, so if they bought a ticket for a hundred dollars, but now the event is asking for a \$15,000 grant. How is OHA reconciling the difference between attending a fundraiser or buying a ticket on a fundraiser versus giving monies to help with the expenses of a fundraiser. The fundraiser component is something that I'm still kind of trying to understand, because when you're applying for a grant, are you going to say all of your expenses. Does OHA require you to say, how much money are you fundraising for, what is that fundraising money going towards? So, in this case it's a scholarship, but why not just give the whole \$10,000 for the scholarship instead of fundraising for a scholarship and using it towards expenses for scholarships. That's just the perplexity of it. Depending on how reports are being asked, you're asking for an event report, maybe they had multiple sponsors. Is it going to go towards the expense of the nonprofit versus actually being put into a scholarship fund? It's just very messy in my perspective when there's an event sponsorship, but the event is actually for a fundraiser. In that respect all nonprofits should just send OHA fundraiser requests for events, create an event, just create an event and do a fundraiser, and then that way you can have fundraising for your administrative costs, or whatever in order to get OHA funding. It's just very, very confusing, and I didn't see anything in the packet to help me understand, like the consequences of taking X amount of dollars, and if that does not end up in the purpose of the fundraiser, such as a scholarship, or can they actually fundraise to help sustain the nonprofit, you know just have a luncheon, and we need funding to sustain our nonprofit to pay for employee salaries or for executive salaries. One of the Executive Grant recipients that are asking for \$500,000 is paying himself \$120,000 a year, and OHA is going to give him \$250,000 a year, does that reconcile itself when most of OHA's money is going to pay for one individual salary. That's the kind of questioning, because I don't see the State doing GIA's for fundraising.

**Germaine Meyers:** I don't see the city doing GIA's for fundraising. I also don't see DHHL, who gives a lot of money out for fundraising events. I'm just looking for next quarter, and next quarter when fundraising events come up, has that been reconciled? But I also didn't hear a conversation on the Board level with an understanding of fundraising in regards to how that works out in the event, because that was never part of OHA's events sponsorship to do fundraising. So when you compare it to like, when you're sponsoring an event for say CNHA Hawaiian convention, yes, they're charging funding because the expenses outweigh the amount of the grant funding, but it is for workshops, etc. So, I'm just trying to reconcile it. Ke Akua Pu, God bless all of you.

**Chair Alapa:** Mahalo, Germaine. Are there any more testifiers on this item?

**BF Staff Akina:** *No further testifiers on this item.*

**Chair Alapa** recognizes Matt Kauwe with Nā Kama Kai.

**Matt Kauwe:** Aloha, this is Matt Kauwe, nice to see all of you. I serve as the COO of Nā Kama Kai, and like everyone else, we are very grateful for the opportunity to compete for this grant. We are based out of Waianae at Pōka'i Bay, and we offer daily services to empower Keiki in the ocean. We have a property on the water, it is the old Harvey House for those that may be familiar with it, and we've been doing daily services for children in the community absolutely free for the past 3 years. Every single program we give to kids, they do not pay a dime. So, it's important to get funding like this to support our events. I'm also excited to share that we're starting swim lessons in the ocean for all of the 4th graders on the West Side, in our public school system. That's a huge win for our community, in a community that has no public swimming pools from Kapolei all the way to the end, so that's just an example of some of the work we do. This event that we're trying to get a grant for is our 9th annual Keiki Surf Kontest at Makaha. We've been holding it for specifically kids in the 96792 area, so only children that live in that zip code can enter, it's free to enter, and the purpose of the event is to provide access to competitive surfing, to Hawaiians in the community and to children that live there. We serve a lot of Hawaiians, as everyone knows the West Side is the highest concentration in the world of Native Hawaiians. And you'd be surprised to see how many kids don't have access to surfing competitions, to mentorship, so it's just a really fun event that we do for children. We're expecting about 300 contestants, and about 250 of them are Native Hawaiian. We offer trophies, we play it up with great prizes, kids get surf boards. It's a lot of fun, and they are also fed breakfast and lunch. All of this is shared in our application, in terms of the budget. So, just want to Mahalo, you guys for your consideration. I know everyone's busy and everyone's doing great work, and you can only imagine how difficult it is to go through all of these requests, so Mahalo Nui, Aloha.

**Chair Alapa:** Mahalo, Matt – thank you so much for sharing your testimony. At this time are there any more testifiers?

**BF Staff Akina:** *No further testifiers on this item.*

**Chair Alapa** recognizes Māhealani Maiku'i and Monica Szczupider representing Hāmākua Youth Foundation.

**Māhealani Maiku'i and Monica Szczupider:** Aloha I am Māhealani Maiku'i from Hāmākua Youth Center and we'd like to say mahalo, for your time and listening to our testimony today the Hāmākua Youth Center has been in the Honoka'a community for 20 years, and we service youth of all ages. It started as a drop-in program, and now it's an after school program.

**Māhealani Maiku'i and Monica Szczupider:** 86% of our kanaka and we bridge the gap between home and school. So, we help a lot with their homework, we support families in whichever way that we can. Our project aligns with the strategic policies and programs that support multiple pathways for economic stability for Kanaka. We also streamline a lot of our activities with OHA's Ohana, Mo'omeheu and 'Āina priorities. So, we are asking for this funding for our main fundraiser, which happens in December and the funds that we raise for our fundraiser goes directly to our keiki, whether it's for transportation, providing services, having people come in to teach them a certain skill, and we do food assistance, quarterly. Mahalo for your time, appreciate all of you. I know you guys have a lot to ponder, and we just want to say, Mahalo.

**Chair Alapa:** Thank you, ladies, for joining us today. Mahalo, do we have any more testifiers on this item?

**BF Staff Akina:** *No further testifiers on this item.*

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**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

**B. Action Item BF #25-53: Approval of OHA funding for Ho‘ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorship to ‘Āina Momona for the 2025 ‘Ulu Festival Event on September 20, 2025, in the amount of \$10,875.00\***

Vice-Chair Waihe‘e moves to approve and authorize FY 2026 sponsorship funding to ‘Āina Momona for the 2025 ‘Ulu Festival Event on September 20, 2025, in the amount of \$10,875.

Organization Name	Event	Award Amount Recommendation
‘Āina Momona	‘Ulu Festival September 20, 2025 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM Moloka‘i Community Health Center 30 Oki Pl, Kaunakakai, HI 96748 <b>(Moloka‘i)</b>	\$10,875
<b>Total Recommendations (1)</b>		<b>\$10,875</b>

**Chair Alapa** calls for a **ROLL CALL VOTE**.

TRUSTEE	1	2	'AE (YES)	A'OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
DAN AHUNA			X			
KALEIHIKINA AKAKA			X			
KELI'I AKINA			X			
BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA			X			
KAIALI'I KAHELE			X			
CARMEN HULU LINDSEY			X			
J. KEONI SOUZA			X			
VICE-CHAIR JOHN WAIHE'E	1		X			
CHAIR LUANA ALAPA			X			
<b>TOTAL VOTE COUNT</b>			<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

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

**Chair Alapa** notes for the record that ALL members present vote 'AE (YES) and the **MOTION PASSES**.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

**C. Action Item BF #25-54: Approval of OHA funding for Ho‘ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorship to Pohaku Pelemaka for the Hala Festival 2025 Event on September 20, 2025, in the amount of \$9,834.00\***

Vice-Chair Waihe‘e moves to approve and authorize FY 2026 sponsorship funding to Pohaku Pelemaka for the Hala Festival 2025 Event on September 20, 2025, in the amount of \$9,834.

Organization Name	Event	Award Amount Recommendation
Pohaku Pelemaka	Hala Festival 2025 September 20, 2025 9:30 AM – 3:00 PM 15-2131 Keaau-Pahoa Rd, Pāhoa, HI 96778 <b>(Hawai‘i Island)</b>	\$9,834
<b>Total Recommendations (1)</b>		<b>\$9,834</b>

**Chair Alapa** calls for a **ROLL CALL VOTE**.

TRUSTEE	1	2	'AE (YES)	A'OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
DAN AHUNA			X			
KALEIHIKINA AKAKA			X			
KELI'I AKINA			X			
BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA			X			
KAIALI'I KAHELE			X			
CARMEN HULU LINDSEY			X			
J. KEONI SOUZA			X			
VICE-CHAIR JOHN WAIHE'E	1		X			
CHAIR LUANA ALAPA			X			
<b>TOTAL VOTE COUNT</b>			<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

1:39pm

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

**Chair Alapa** notes for the record that ALL members present vote 'AE (YES) and the **MOTION PASSES**.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

**D. Action Item BF #25-55: Approval of OHA funding for Ho’ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorship to Sky Brothers Collective DBA Oahu Intertribal Council for the 2025 Honolulu Intertribal Powwow – Circle of Nations & Ho’okipa Ali’i Event on September 20 - 21, 2025, in the amount of \$14,500.00\***

Vice-Chair Waihe’e moves to approve and authorize FY 2026 sponsorship funding to Sky Brothers Collective DBA O’ahu Intertribal Council for the 2025 Honolulu Intertribal Powwow – Circle of Nations & Ho'okipa Ali’i Event on September 20-21, 2025, in the amount of \$14,500

Organization Name	Event	Award Amount Recommendation
Sky Brothers Collective DBA O’ahu Intertribal Council	2025 Honolulu Intertribal Powwow – Circle of Nations & Ho'okipa Ali’i September 20, 2025 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM September 21, 2025 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM Kapiolani Park, 3840 Paki Ave, Honolulu, HI 96815 (O’ahu)	\$14,500
<b>Total Recommendations (1)</b>		<b>\$14,500</b>

**Chair Alapa calls for a ROLL CALL VOTE.**

TRUSTEE	1	2	'AE (YES)	A'OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
DAN AHUNA			X			
KALEIHIKINA AKAKA			X			
KELI'I AKINA			X			
BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA			X			
KAIALI'I KAHELE			X			
CARMEN HULU LINDSEY			X			
J. KEONI SOUZA			X			
VICE-CHAIR JOHN WAIHE'E	1		X			
CHAIR LUANA ALAPA			X			
<b>TOTAL VOTE COUNT</b>			<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

1:39pm

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

**Chair Alapa notes for the record that ALL members present vote 'AE (YES) and the MOTION PASSES.**

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

**E. Action Item BF #25-56: Approval of OHA funding for Ho’ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorship to O’ahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association Hawaii for the 2025 Na Wahine O Ke Kai Event on September 28, 2025, in the amount of \$12,000.00\***

Vice-Chair Waihe’e moves to approve and authorize FY 2026 sponsorship funding to O’ahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association Hawaii for the 2025 Na Wahine O Ke Kai Event on September 28, 2025, in the amount of \$12,000.

Organization Name	Event	Award Amount Recommendation
O’ahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association Hawaii	Na Wahine O Ke Kai September 28, 2025 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM 2005 Kālia Rd, Honolulu, HI 96815 (O’ahu)	\$12,000
<b>Total Recommendations (1)</b>		<b>\$12,000</b>

**Chair Alapa** calls for a **ROLL CALL VOTE**.

						1:40pm
TRUSTEE	1	2	'AE (YES)	A'OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
DAN AHUNA			X			
KALEIHIKINA AKAKA			X			
KELI'I AKINA			X			
BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA			X			
KAIALI'I KAHELE			X			
CARMEN HULU LINDSEY					1 - x, 2 -x	
J. KEONI SOUZA			X			
VICE-CHAIR JOHN WAIHE'E	1		X			
CHAIR LUANA ALAPA			X			
<b>TOTAL VOTE COUNT</b>			<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

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

**Chair Alapa** notes for the record that eight (8) members present vote 'AE (YES) , and one (1) abstains, and the **MOTION PASSES**.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

**F. Action Item BF #25-57: Approval of OHA funding for Ho‘ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorship to Hawaii Wildlife Center for the 2025 Hawaii Island Festival of Birds Event on October 4, 2025, in the amount of \$5,770.00\***

Vice-Chair Waihe‘e moves to approve and authorize FY 2026 sponsorship funding to Hawaii Wildlife Center for the 2025 Hawai'i Island Festival of Birds Event on October 4, 2025, in the amount of \$5,770.

Organization Name	Event	Award Amount Recommendation
Hawaii Wildlife Center	Hawai'i Island Festival of Birds October 4, 2025 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM Grand Naniloa Hotel Hilo 93 Banyan Dr, Hilo, HI 96720 (Hawai'i Island)	\$5,770
<b>Total Recommendations (1)</b>		<b>\$5,770</b>

**Chair Alapa** calls for a **ROLL CALL VOTE**.

							1:41pm
TRUSTEE	1	2	'AE (YES)	A'OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED	
DAN AHUNA			X				
KALEIHIKINA AKAKA			X				
KELI'I AKINA			X				
BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA			X				
KAIALI'I KAHELE			X				
CARMEN HULU LINDSEY			X				
J. KEONI SOUZA			X				
VICE-CHAIR JOHN WAIHE'E	1		X				
CHAIR LUANA ALAPA			X				
<b>TOTAL VOTE COUNT</b>			<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	

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

**Chair Alapa** notes for the record that ALL members present vote 'AE (YES) and the **MOTION PASSES**.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

**G. Action Item BF #25-58: Approval of OHA funding for Ho‘ākoako Lāhui Event Sponsorship to Hawaiian Islands Land Trust for the 2025 Mālama ‘Āina Kākou Event on October 4, 2025, in the amount of \$10,000.00\***

Vice-Chair Waihe‘e moves to approve and authorize FY 2026 sponsorship funding to Hawaiian Islands Land Trust for the 2025 Malama ‘Aina Kakou Event on October 4, 2025, in the amount of \$10,000.

Organization Name	Event	Award Amount Recommendation
Hawaiian Islands Land Trust DBA Hawaii Land Trust	Malama ‘Aina Kakou October 4, 2025 5:00 – 9:00 PM Lanikuhonua Cultural Institute 92-1101 Ali‘inui Dr, Kapolei, HI 96707 (Oahu)	\$10,000
<b>Total Recommendations (1)</b>		<b>\$10,000</b>

**Chair Alapa** calls for a **ROLL CALL VOTE**.

TRUSTEE	1	2	'AE (YES)	A'OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
DAN AHUNA			X			
KALEIHIKINA AKAKA			X			
KELI'I AKINA			X			
BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA			X			
KAIALI'I KAHELE			X			
CARMEN HULU LINDSEY			X			
J. KEONI SOUZA			X			
VICE-CHAIR JOHN WAIHE'E	1		X			
CHAIR LUANA ALAPA			X			
<b>TOTAL VOTE COUNT</b>			<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

1:42pm

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

**Chair Alapa** notes for the record that ALL members present vote 'AE (YES) and the **MOTION PASSES**.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

**H. Action Item BF #25-59: Approval of OHA funding for Ho‘ākoako Lāhui Event Sponsorship to Lydia8 for the EPIC Wāhine 2025 Event on October 5-12, 2025, in the amount of \$15,000.00\***

Vice-Chair Waihe‘e moves to approve and authorize FY 2026 sponsorship funding to Lydia8 for the EPIC Wāhine 2025 Event on October 5-12, 2025, in the amount of \$15,000.

Organization Name	Event	Award Amount Recommendation
Lydia8	EPIC Wāhine 2025 October 5-12, 2025 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM Hale Hālāwai 75-5670 Alii Drive, Kailua-Kona, HI 96740 <b>(Hawai‘i Island)</b>	\$15,000
<b>Total Recommendations (1)</b>		<b>\$15,000</b>

**Trustee Lindsey moves to defer this item.**

**Chair Alapa** calls for discussion on the motion to defer.

**Trustee Lindsey:** The reason for my request on the deferral is that we're giving \$15,000 here, and we haven't heard from this person, and we received the memo minutes before our meeting, saying they weren't able to attend virtually or in person. I wanted to know for such an activity, how many Hawaiians are involved, and how is the money going to be spent. I see that it's later on in the year, and maybe we can get those questions answered by the next meeting or so. So I ask the trustees to give me that opportunity

**Chair Alapa** So to clarify, we're seeking a postponement till the next Budget and Finance Committee meeting.

**Chair Alapa** recognizes Trustee Ahuna

**Trustee Ahuna:** Thank you, Chair. You know there are certain guidelines that everybody has to qualify before getting chosen for these grants, and I believe this Grant got chosen because they went through everything. We cannot just stop and just drop everything because we don't like an our organization. The reason why I'm saying this is, I believe in our Grants department, I believe they did a good job, and we gotta stop doing this, going back and saying, Oh, this was bad, because they never show up. They gave testimony, and not everybody who got awarded here at OHA gave testimony. I just don't want to put a bad flag on people in our organizations, and this is happening too many times, because we don't like the organization. So, for me, we have to step up as Trustees, as well, and support our people who actually went through the process and they got awarded.

**Trustee Ahuna:** And now, we're asking just these guys, how many Hawaiians are going to attend, this is not fair to this organization. Thank you.

**Chair Alapa** recognizes Trustee Akaka

**Trustee Akaka:** Mahalo. I'm seeing in this application that there's an estimated 1,500 Native Hawaiian attendees participating actively. But maybe Kēhau or somebody from Grants can come up to give better clarification on this event.

**Chair Alapa:** Yes, I was just going to ask that, Kēhau would you mind coming back to the table and giving us a more in depth detail on this particular request.

**Ka Pou Nui Pu'u:** Can do, and I'll be honest, the detail I'm going to provide is what was provided by the organization in the application. So, they do have an expected attendance of 4,000, with 1,500 being Native Hawaiian, they have provided a breakdown of their budget request. They have matching resources, they are collaborating with Lili'uokalani Trust and other organizations to put on this multi-day event. Some of the things that stood out for me, they're going to have a cultural village. It looks like it's an Ironman competition, but they're also going to have Mo'olelo and Mele workshops. It is honoring and uplifting our Wahine Ali'i as part of the multi-day event, they have an 'O Wai Kou Inoa initiative, so along the paths of this event they have interpretive signage, that's strategically placed to talk about different mo'olelo and facts about this place. So yes, a multi-day event, different types of events, the workshops, a Lā Pena, which looks like this is a community mural day, where the design is inspired by Ali'i symbolism. They'll be having some hands-on demonstrations and collaborations that showcase Ali'i stewardship and Malama 'Āina, and also indigenous art and engagement. This comes straight from the app, just FYI, where there will be featuring Native Hawaiian artists. I did read somewhere that they are collaborating with other Native Hawaiian Organizations and putting this multi-day event on. And I do mahalo Trustee Ahuna's mana'o. So again, all of our organizations had to meet the criteria of Ho'ākoakoa, which is again a combination of what was formerly 'Ahahui grants as well as just event sponsorships, and they have met that criteria, they've provided all the required documents to be in compliance with HRS 10-7, and this particular event did undergo evaluation by two evaluators.

**Trustee Akaka:** Mahalo, I don't recall an application coming in from them in previous times. Is this a one-time EPIC Wahine event? Or is this something that has been ongoing through the years?

**Ka Pou Nui Pu'u:** This is their second year.

**Trustee Akaka:** Mahalo

**Chair Alapa** calls for a **ROLL CALL VOTE** on the **MOTION TO DEFER**.

Moved to Defer							1:43pm
TRUSTEE		1	2	'AE (YES)	A'OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
DAN	AHUNA				2 - X	1 - X	
KALEIHIKINA	AKAKA				X		
KELI'I	AKINA				X		
BRICKWOOD	GALUTERIA				X		
KAIALI'I	KAHELE				X		
CARMEN HULU	LINDSEY	1		X			
J. KEONI	SOUZA				X		
VICE-CHAIR JOHN	WAIHE'E				X		
CHAIR LUANA	ALAPA				X		
<b>TOTAL VOTE COUNT</b>				1	8	0	0

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

**Chair Alapa** notes for the record that eight (8) members present vote A'OLE (NO), one votes 'AE (YES) and the **DEFERMENT FAILS**

**Chair Alapa** calls for a **ROLL CALL VOTE** on the **MOTION**.

							Motion - 1:42pm Vote - 1:54pm
TRUSTEE		1	2	'AE (YES)	A'OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
DAN	AHUNA			X			
KALEIHIKINA	AKAKA			X			
KELI'I	AKINA			X			
BRICKWOOD	GALUTERIA			X			
KAIALI'I	KAHELE			X			
CARMEN HULU	LINDSEY				X		
J. KEONI	SOUZA			X			
VICE-CHAIR JOHN	WAIHE'E	1		X			
CHAIR LUANA	ALAPA			X			
<b>TOTAL VOTE COUNT</b>				8	1	0	0

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

**Chair Alapa** notes for the record that eight (8) members present vote 'AE (YES) , and one (1) A'OLE (NO), and the **MOTION PASSES**.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

- I. Action Item BF #25-60: Approval of OHA funding for Ho‘ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorship to Mana Maoli for the 2025 Paepae Pohaku Student Leadership Camp on October 8-10, 2025, in the amount of \$14,980.00\***

Vice-Chair Waihe‘e moves to approve and authorize FY 2026 sponsorship funding to Mana Maoli for the 2025 Paepae Pohaku Student Leadership Camp on October 8-10, 2025, in the amount of \$14,980.

Organization Name	Event	Award Amount Recommendation
Mana Maoli	Paepae Pohaku Student Leadership Camp October 8-10, 2025 4:00 PM – 3:00 PM (next day) Kamehameha Schools 2125 Alii Rd, Honolulu, HI 96817 <b>(O‘ahu)</b>	\$14,980
<b>Total Recommendations (1)</b>		<b>\$14,980</b>

**Chair Alapa** calls for a **ROLL CALL VOTE**.

TRUSTEE	1	2	'AE (YES)	A'OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
DAN AHUNA			X			
KALEIHIKINA AKAKA			X			
KELI'I AKINA			X			
BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA			X			
KAIALI'I KAHELE			X			
CARMEN HULU LINDSEY			X			
J. KEONI SOUZA			X			
VICE-CHAIR JOHN WAIHE'E	1		X			
CHAIR LUANA ALAPA			X			
<b>TOTAL VOTE COUNT</b>			<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

1:52pm

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

**Chair Alapa** notes for the record that ALL members present vote 'AE (YES) and the **MOTION PASSES**.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

- J. Action Item BF #25-61: Approval of OHA funding for Ho‘ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorship to Sacred Light ‘Ohana Event on October 8-12, 2025, in the amount of \$7,500.00\*

ITEM IS DEFERRED

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

- K. Action Item BF #25-62: Approval of OHA funding for Ho‘ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorship to Kualoa-Heeia Ecumencial Youth (KEY) Project for the Waihe‘e Festival on October 11, 2025, in the amount of \$7,500.00\*

Vice-Chair Waihe‘e moves to approve and authorize FY 2026 sponsorship funding to Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth (KEY) Project for the Waihe‘e Festival 2025 Event on October 11, 2025, in the amount of \$7,500.

Organization Name	Event	Award Amount Recommendation
Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth (KEY) Project	Waihe‘e Festival 2025 October 11, 2025 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM 47-200 Waihe‘e Rd, Kāne‘ohe HI 96744 (O‘ahu)	\$7,500
<b>Total Recommendations (1)</b>		<b>\$7,500</b>

Chair Alapa calls for a **ROLL CALL VOTE**.

TRUSTEE	1	2	'AE (YES)	A'OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
DAN AHUNA			X			
KALEIHIKINA AKAKA			X			
KELI'I AKINA			X			
BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA			X			
KAIALI'I KAHELE			X			
CARMEN HULU LINDSEY			X			
J. KEONI SOUZA			X			
VICE-CHAIR JOHN WAIHE'E	1		X			
CHAIR LUANA ALAPA			X			
<b>TOTAL VOTE COUNT</b>			<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

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

Chair Alapa notes for the record that ALL members present vote 'AE (YES) and the **MOTION PASSES**.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

**L. Action Item BF #25-63: Approval of OHA funding for Ho‘ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorship to Ho‘oulu ‘Ike Center for Hula and Mele for the 2025 A‘a I Ka Hula Competition on October 25, 2025, in the amount of \$10,875.00\***

Vice-Chair Waihe‘e moves to approve and authorize FY 2026 sponsorship funding to Ho‘oulu ‘Ike Center for Hula and Mele for the 2025 A‘a I Ka Hula Competition on October 25, 2025, in the amount of \$10,875.

Organization Name	Event	Award Amount Recommendation
Ho‘oulu ‘Ike Center for Hula and Mele	A‘a I Ka Hula Competition October 25, 2025 7:00 AM – 4:00 PM Moanalua Gardens 2850-A Moanalua Rd Honolulu, HI 96819 <b>(O‘ahu)</b>	\$10,875
<b>Total Recommendations (1)</b>		<b>\$10,875</b>

**Chair Alapa** calls for a **ROLL CALL VOTE**.

TRUSTEE	1	2	'AE (YES)	A'OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
DAN AHUNA			X			
KALEIHIKINA AKAKA			X			
KELI'I AKINA			X			
BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA			X			
KAIALI'I KAHELE			X			
CARMEN HULU LINDSEY			X			
J. KEONI SOUZA			X			
VICE-CHAIR JOHN WAIHE'E	1		X			
CHAIR LUANA ALAPA			X			
<b>TOTAL VOTE COUNT</b>			<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

1:54pm

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

**Chair Alapa** notes for the record that ALL members present vote 'AE (YES) and the **MOTION PASSES**.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

**M. Action Item BF #25-64: Approval of OHA funding for Ho’ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorship to Waianae Economic Development Council for the 2025 Small Business Saturday Wai’anae, Business Resource Hub Event on November 8, 2025, in the amount of \$10,000.00\***

Vice-Chair Waihe’e moves to approve and authorize FY 2026 sponsorship funding to Waianae Economic Development Council for the 2025 Small Business Saturday Waianae, Business Resource Hub Event on November 8, 2025, in the amount of \$10,000.

Organization Name	Event	Award Amount Recommendation
Waianae Economic Development Council	Small Business Saturday Waianae, Business Resource Hub  November 8, 2025  9:00 AM – 2:00 PM  85-888 Farrington Hwy.,  Waianae, HI 96792  (O’ahu)	\$10,000
<b>Total Recommendations (1)</b>		<b>\$10,000</b>

**Chair Alapa** calls for a **ROLL CALL VOTE**.

TRUSTEE	1	2	'AE (YES)	A'OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
DAN AHUNA			X			
KALEIHIKINA AKAKA			X			
KELI'I AKINA			X			
BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA			X			
KAIALI'I KAHELE			X			
CARMEN HULU LINDSEY			X			
J. KEONI SOUZA			X			
VICE-CHAIR JOHN WAIHE'E	1		X			
CHAIR LUANA ALAPA			X			
<b>TOTAL VOTE COUNT</b>			<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

1:55pm

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

**Chair Alapa** notes for the record that ALL members present vote 'AE (YES) and the **MOTION PASSES**.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

**N. Action Item BF #25-65: Approval of OHA funding for Ho‘ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorship to Makaha Hawaiian Civic Club for the 2025 Makaha Hawaiian Civic Club Annual Scholarship Luau Event on November 8, 2025, in the amount of \$8,000.00\***

Vice-Chair Waihe‘e moves to approve and authorize FY 2026 sponsorship funding to Makaha Hawaiian Civic Club for the 2025 Makaha Hawaiian Civic Club Annual Scholarship Luau Event on November 8, 2025, in the amount of \$8,000.

Organization Name	Event	Award Amount Recommendation
Makaha Hawaiian Civic Club	Makaha Hawaiian Civic Club Annual Scholarship Luau November 8, 2025 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM Makaha Golf Course (Lilikoi Lounge) 84-627 Makaha Valley Rd, Waianae, HI 96792 (O'ahu)	\$8,000
<b>Total Recommendations (1)</b>		<b>\$8,000</b>

**Chair Alapa** calls for a **ROLL CALL VOTE**.

TRUSTEE	1	2	'AE (YES)	A'OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
DAN AHUNA			X			
KALEIHIKINA AKAKA			X			
KELI'I AKINA			X			
BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA			X			
KAIALI'I KAHELE			X			
CARMEN HULU LINDSEY			X			
J. KEONI SOUZA			X			
VICE-CHAIR JOHN WAIHE'E	1		X			
CHAIR LUANA ALAPA			X			
<b>TOTAL VOTE COUNT</b>			<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

1:55pm

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

**Chair Alapa** notes for the record that ALL members present vote 'AE (YES) and the **MOTION PASSES**.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

- O. Action Item BF #25-66: Approval of OHA funding for Ho’ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorship to Nā Kama Kai for the 2025 Keiki Surf Kontest Event on November 28-30, 2025, in the amount of \$11,250.00\***

Vice-Chair Waihe’e moves to approve and authorize FY 2026 sponsorship funding to Na Kama Kai for the 2025 Keiki Surf Kontest Event on November 28-30, 2025, in the amount of \$11,250.

Organization Name	Event	Award Amount Recommendation
Na Kama Kai	Keiki Surf Kontest Event November 28-30, 2025 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM Makaha Beach 84-369 Farrington Hwy, Waianae, HI 96792 <b>(O’ahu)</b>	\$11,250
<b>Total Recommendations (1)</b>		<b>\$11,250</b>

**Chair Alapa** calls for a **ROLL CALL VOTE**.

TRUSTEE	1	2	'AE (YES)	A'OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
DAN AHUNA			X			
KALEIHIKINA AKAKA			X			
KELI'I AKINA			X			
BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA			X			
KAIALI'I KAHELE			X			
CARMEN HULU LINDSEY			X			
J. KEONI SOUZA			X			
VICE-CHAIR JOHN WAIHE'E	1		X			
CHAIR LUANA ALAPA			X			
<b>TOTAL VOTE COUNT</b>			<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

1:56pm

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

**Chair Alapa** notes for the record that ALL members present vote 'AE (YES) and the **MOTION PASSES**.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

**P. Action Item BF #25-67: Approval of OHA funding for Ho‘ākoako Lāhui Event Sponsorship to Hāmākua Youth Foundation (dba: Hāmākua Youth Center, or HYC) for the ‘Ohana Day 2025 Event on December 13, 2025, in the amount of \$5,875.00\***

Vice-Chair Waihe‘e moves to approve and authorize FY 2026 sponsorship funding to Hamakua Youth Foundation (dba: Hamakua Youth Center, or HYC) for the ‘Ohana Day 2025 Event on December 13, 2025, in the amount of \$5,875.

Organization Name	Event	Award Amount Recommendation
Hamakua Youth Foundation (dba: Hamakua Youth Center, or HYC)	‘Ohana Day 2025 December 13, 2025 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM Honokaa People’s Theatre 45-3574 Mamane St, Honoka‘a, HI 96727 <b>(Hawai‘i Island)</b>	\$5,875
<b>Total Recommendations (1)</b>		<b>\$5,875</b>

**Chair Alapa** calls for a **ROLL CALL VOTE**.

TRUSTEE	1	2	'AE (YES)	A'OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
DAN AHUNA			X			
KALEIHIKINA AKAKA			X			
KELI'I AKINA			X			
BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA			X			
KAIALI'I KAHELE			X			
CARMEN HULU LINDSEY			X			
J. KEONI SOUZA			X			
VICE-CHAIR JOHN WAIHE'E	1		X			
CHAIR LUANA ALAPA			X			
<b>TOTAL VOTE COUNT</b>			<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

1:56pm

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

**Chair Alapa** notes for the record that ALL members present vote 'AE (YES) and the **MOTION PASSES**.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

**Q. Action Item BF #25-68: Approve the delegation of authority to the OHA Administration to execute and administer grants to identified OHA sponsorship recipients that were approved through line items in the Fiscal Year 2026 and Fiscal Year 2027 OHA Biennium Budget and which meet budget proviso requirements.**

**Chair Alapa** notes for the record that this item has been previously approved by the BF Committee, on June 30, 2025 as BF #25-51, so no further action will be needed by this Committee. However we will take testimony, if anyone has signed up.

**BF Staff Akina:** *There are no testifiers for this item.*

**Chair Alapa:** Alright, so by unanimous consent I'm moving to indefinitely postpone this item. This item is deferred.

**Ka Pou Nui Pu'u:** So these were the Legacy Grants, the 15 that were approved in Line Items of the Budget, it was on the agenda for clarity, transparency that these will be processed differently; we will collect all the requirements, we won't put them through evaluation. Mahalo

*Discussion was active, but not recorded...*

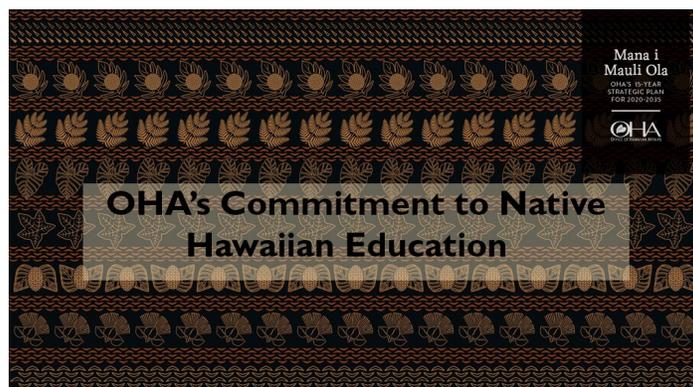
**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

**R. Presentation by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs Administration – Briefing on Hawaiian Focused Charter School Funding Implementation Plan for Fiscal Year 2026**

**Chair Alapa** recognizes Ka Pou Nui Pu'u

**Ka Pou Nui Pu'u:** Chantelle will be presenting, and I just want to apologize that we brought so many sponsorships before the Board at one time again it was the goal to do it quarterly. But I think we're learning like that was too much for one meeting, and so Chantelle will break those up, I wanted to get it off my plate before I go. So, and I'm going to turn it over to Chantelle. Mahalo.

**Grants Manager Belay:** Lise is going to join me for the first part.



**Community Engagement Director Vaughan-Sekona:** Mahalo, Chair, Vice Chair and Trustees, Mahalo for this opportunity to present today on Native Hawaiian Education, we are here to walk you through the awarding process for the Hawaiian Focused Charter School grant and to share how this investment will support our haumana, educators and school communities across the pae 'āina

# Presentation Overview

1. Purpose and Award Funding
2. Process, Payment and Monitoring
3. Implementation Process
4. Next Steps
5. Q&A



## OHA & Charter Schools: An Agency-to-Agency Relationship



**Shared Public Mission:**

- OHA and charter schools serve public purposes centered on Native Hawaiian well-being and education.
- Both support cultural revitalization, 'āina-based learning, and educational equity.

**Public-Government Alignment:**

- OHA: Constitutionally established state agency
- Charter Schools: Public schools governed by nonprofits but part of the state education system

**Partnership, Not Transaction:**

- Relationship is built on shared kuleana, not vendor-client dynamics
- Engagement through grants, technical assistance, and policy collaboration

**Legal and Policy Framework:**

- Aligned under Hawai'i State Constitution, HRS §10-3/§10-4, and BOE/SPCC policies
- Supports OHA's Mana I Maui Ola Strategic Direction

**Community Engagement Director Vaughan-Sekona:** Our goal is to ensure that we are aligned with the Board on the intent and implementation of this funding, and to confirm that there's a clear and efficient process in place to get these funds to the schools. These grants represent a meaningful shift for OHA. We have not directly administered Charter school funding in many years, because of that we want to ensure both our staff and our school partners are fully prepared and supported throughout this transition.

The relationship with the Charter schools is an agency to agency partnership which is rooted in a shared public mission to advance the well-being of Native Hawaiian communities. While charter schools are often governed by nonprofit boards, they are part of the State's Hawaii Public Education System, and thus are public institutions aligned with OHA's constitutional and statutory mandates. This connection goes beyond the Funder-Grantee dynamic as it is built on shared kuleana and mutual accountability. Through funding, technical assistance and policy collaboration; OHA and the Hawaiian Focused Charter Schools work together to promote culturally rooted education, Aina-based learning and language revitalization. This partnership aligns with OHA's Mana I Maui Ola strategic direction and is supported by legal and policy framework that prioritizes Native Hawaiian education pathways.

## Purpose of Grant Program

Reinforce OHA's commitment to advancing education as a foundation of Native Hawaiian EA. OHA supports Native Hawaiian Focused Charter Schools through:

1. Per Pupil Funding
  - Ensure equitable educational opportunities for Native Hawaiian students
  - Fund essential student services and learning supports
  - Help schools address disparities in operational funding
2. Facilities & Maintenance (F&M) Support
  - Maintain safe, healthy, and functional learning environments
  - Address urgent infrastructure needs related to student safety
  - Support costly upkeep that is often underfunded in charter school systems
  - Reimbursable program



**Community Engagement Director Vaughan-Sekona:** These grants reaffirm OHA's commitment to Native Hawaiian education as a critical pillar of our mission. Our goal is to create equitable, educational opportunities for our haumana, and to ensure that their learning environments are safe, healthy, and rooted in community and culture. For this Grant cycle, the two prior funding streams which are per pupil and facility and maintenance, have been combined into a single opportunity which gives the schools the flexibility to choose the option that best meets their needs while maintaining strong accountability.

### Approved HFCS Funding Support

School	Charter School Funding FY2026	Charter School Funding FY2027	Total
Haleiwa Learning Center	\$ 176,500	\$ 176,500	\$ 353,000
Hāhau Ki Māhau Public Charter School	\$ 176,500	\$ 176,500	\$ 353,000
Ka Ana Lāhāhā Public Charter School	\$ 176,500	\$ 176,500	\$ 353,000
Ka Kula Nihau O Kaala Learning Center	\$ 176,500	\$ 176,500	\$ 353,000
Kua O'ka Lā New Century Public Charter School	\$ 176,500	\$ 176,500	\$ 353,000
Kula Asupuni Nihau A Kahaletani Aloha	\$ 176,500	\$ 176,500	\$ 353,000
Ka 'Uluaka Kū'ao	\$ 176,500	\$ 176,500	\$ 353,000
Ka Waipona o ka Nā'auao Public Charter School	\$ 275,900	\$ 275,900	\$ 551,800
Kanu o ka 'Āina New Century Public Charter School	\$ 269,493	\$ 269,493	\$ 538,986
Kanaloapone Public Charter School	\$ 176,500	\$ 176,500	\$ 353,000
Kawakini New Century Public Charter School	\$ 176,500	\$ 176,500	\$ 353,000
Ka Kula 'o Nihāhākalanā'Opuu Ki Lab Public Charter School	\$ 275,900	\$ 275,900	\$ 551,800
Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau Laboratory Public Charter School	\$ 176,500	\$ 176,500	\$ 353,000
Mālama Honua	\$ 176,500	\$ 176,500	\$ 353,000
Waimea Middle	\$ 176,500	\$ 176,500	\$ 353,000
Kualapuu School: A Public Conversion Charter	\$ 176,500	\$ 176,500	\$ 353,000
Kamalei Academy Public Charter School	\$ 274,300	\$ 274,300	\$ 548,600
School TOTAL	\$ 3,390,093	\$ 3,390,093	\$ 6,780,186



**OHA Investment**

- Total: \$6,780,186
- Timeframe: 2 Fiscal Years (FY26 & FY27)
- Beneficiaries:
  - 17 Native Hawaiian-Focused Charter Schools
  - Nearly 4000 NH haumana and staff

**Community Engagement Director Vaughan-Sekona:** OHA's commitment of over 6.7 million for FY 26 and 27 combined is the largest funding increase OHA has provided. This enhanced investment will benefit nearly 4,000 Native Hawaiian haumana and staff across 17 schools, each of which will receive an increase in funding.

### Three Funding Options for Charter Schools



**Option 1: Per Pupil & F&M**

- Semi-annual Performance Measurement Report (PMT)
- +Quarterly (F&M invoices + reports)



**Option 2: Per Pupil Only**

- Semi-annual Performance Measurement Report only



**Option 3: Facilities & Maintenance Only**

- Quarterly Invoices + Expenditure, Semi-Annual PMT



### Process, Payment, Monitoring

1. Per Pupil:
  - 25% initial payment
  - Remaining disbursed semi-annually, total of 4 payments
  - Requires Semi-Annual Performance Measurement Report
  - Annual Report Data
2. Facilities & Maintenance:
  - 25% initial payment\*
  - Remaining via cost reimbursement
  - Quarterly review of:
    - Paid invoices
    - Detailed spreadsheets
    - Requires Semi-Annual Performance Measurement Report
    - Annual Report Data
3. Quarterly on-site monitoring by OHA
  - Conducted by Grants Program and/or Education Program



**Grants Manager Belay:** So, what we hope to roll out next week to the charter schools are these three options. Because we combined the per-pupil and the facilities together, we're giving them that flexibility to choose option one, where they will designate what portion of the funding is per pupil, and which portion is facilities; option two, they can decide to use all of it for per-pupil funding; or option three all of it for facilities and maintenance. You can see on the slide we put reporting requirements so, as we have done in the past, per pupil requirement will be semi-annually, and previously facilities was done on a month-to-month basis, but we're going to stretch that into a quarterly report

So, for per-pupil, 25% will be the initial payment, and the remaining would be dispersed semiannually, and they everyone does performance measurement reports, or what we call PMT's, and everyone does an annual report data, or what we call ARD's. Facilities and maintenance have again, the initial 25%. What we are proposing is because sometimes the startup costs for a program can exceed what the 25% is. So, with consultation with Grant Staff, we would be open to approving a greater than 25% initial deposit to help them get started. We'll want to know what those projects are and make sure they if it requires a contractor or anything special, that they will be set up to be successful in completing that. After that we would do the Quarterly reporting, and it's important to note that the facilities funding is a reimbursement for the schools. So again, facilities is quarterly reporting, so they will actually be sending us their invoices so that we can reconcile and then do reimbursements. They will still do the performance reporting and the ADR reporting, and we will be partnering with education to do quarterly visits to all 17 schools.

### Allowable & Disallowed Costs Facilities & Maintenance

✔ Allowable Costs	✘ Unallowable Costs
Routine maintenance (plumbing, electrical, HVAC)	Purchasing land or property
Janitorial services and cleaning supplies	Air conditioning for personal comfort
Landscaping and groundskeeping	Decorative upgrades (artwork, aesthetic-only changes)
Minor facility repairs (roof leaks, floor patching)	Consultant services unrelated to F&M
Utilities (electricity, water, gas)	Furniture or appliances for personal/staff use
Fire safety equipment and inspections	
ADA compliance updates (ramps, signage)	Student transportation: Purchase of motorized vehicles*
Security systems (locks, alarms, cameras)	New construction or building expansion*
Maintenance tools & small equipment (under \$5,000)	
Internet/network upgrades for facilities	

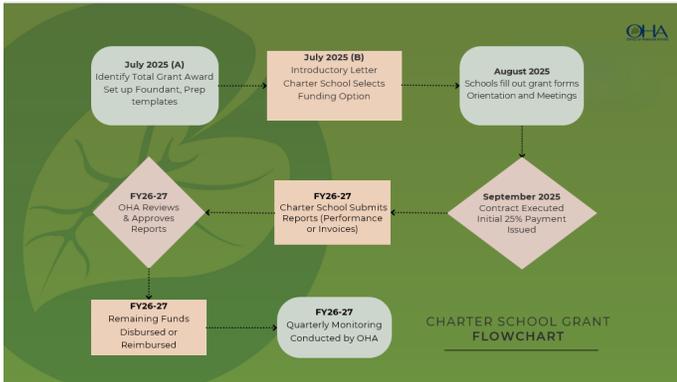


**Grants Manager Belay:** Allowable and disallowed costs, this is mainly for our facilities, as you can see, most of it is very routine. Allowable costs include essential services and repairs that ensure a healthy learning environment; such as janitorial services, utility expenses, repairs, ADA compliance, safety related issues. Disallowable costs include expenses that fall outside of the scope of direct facility operations, or do not serve a clear educational or safety function. These would include instructional materials, staff salaries not tied to facilities work, new construction or land purchase, decorative enhancements or administrative overhead. Some of that is covered in the per-pupil funding.

Funding may not be used for personal use items or major capital projects unless explicitly approved. And again, careful documentation and adherence to allowable uses ensure that this funding is used effectively and equitably across all schools. We did star\* two items; the first is student transportation purchase of motorized vehicles. So what's come up in the past facilities grants are schools asking if they can purchase a bus, a van to transport kids or a golf cart. So, because this is very purposely facilities aligned, we would not allow those larger motor vehicle expenses, but in terms of a golf cart, because golf carts can be used for emergency situation to help haumana with certain disabilities, I myself, as a former Kumu, have seen staff and students collapse for various reasons, and we were lucky to have a golf cart to pick them up and meet an ambulance, so that we could get them the services they need. So with that prior discussion, we feel like it is an allowable cost for them. The second is new construction or building expansions, these are also traditionally not allowable under facilities funding, however, if it's a limited structural modification, example, turning a storage facilities into a health room, if that's needed, we would consider it, have the conversation and make sure you have everything in place, and we would be likely to approve an expense like that. So again, just really emphasizing that it's clearly linked to student safety, facility, usability, and legal compliance

So this is what we hope our implementation plan is, it's pretty aggressive seeing as the start of the school year technically starts next week when teachers and staff return with students returning I believe, August 5<sup>th</sup>. It will be hard to set things up with Po'o, but we hope that what we have planned to do will help them. So, we're going to do as much as we can to preload what we can for the Po'o. We're going to send out a Google form, introducing ourselves, explaining what the new process will be, getting information from them that we can then front-load into Fondant, get them their logistical sign-ins and then help them complete those. We are prepping already with Legal and R&E. any of the PMT measurements. We're setting up budget templates so that once we know what they would like to do, it's a simple drop-in, and then routing the contracts, sitting with them to make sure they understand the contracts, and all of the Follow-ups required. We do expect that there'll be delays with the start of the school year, and also because this is a shift for a lot of the Po'o. Some of the larger schools have support staff to help, some of the smaller schools may not have the support staff

in place to help the po'o, so we want to make sure that the Grant staff is prepared to hold hands, walk through as much as we can with them as often as they need to be successful with this.



**Chair Alapa** asks if there are any questions at this time.

**Chair Alapa** recognizes Trustee Kahele

**Trustee Kahele:** Thanks for the presentation, I actually have a lot of feedback for you, and while I think what you've tried to put together has well-meaning, I think it really defeats the purpose of what we were trying to achieve in this budget. What you're attempting to do is overly bureaucratic and overly regulatory. I think first and foremost, slides I think it's 6 and 7 introduce restrictions that exceed those that are outlined in the FY26-27 proviso language. So, the proviso language was clear, and that's policy and it's pretty simple, it's to provide programmatic and facilities funding; it mentions nothing about per pupil. It provides oversight by the Senior Director of S&I, and the Grants Manager to ensure compliance. The Grant recipients are required to submit a semi-annual and a final year-end expenditure report. And then something that we're going to do that's different from years past is assign staff from the S&I Education Paia and the Grants Paia to conduct quarterly in-person site visits at all 17 schools to monitor compliance, strengthen relationships with the school administration and staff. That's the proviso language. That's what you can execute.

What you're proposing is not what you can execute, and I just want to explain to you the concerns I have, so you can see my point of view. The first and foremost is the requirements that you're requiring in 6 and 7. What you're proposing imposes additional layers of oversight and restrictions beyond what the Board-approved provisos require, and while transparency and accountability are critical, I think the added measures may unintentionally create a significant administrative burden on these schools, especially the small schools. I mean, maybe Kalehua's school and Nāwahī, where they have 5-600 students and staff, but the smaller ones, this is going to be very difficult for them to do.

Specific issues I have with the proposal is the lack of clarity in the allocation. It's unclear to me how per-pupil funding impacts the total allocations, which complicate financial planning and decision making for the schools, which is why it was not in the proviso language. The facility and maintenance reimbursement model shifting F&M to a reimbursement structure is going to hinder these schools, especially the smaller ones that lack the upfront funds to put the money up front and ask for a reimbursement that wasn't the intent of the proviso. I think this approach could undermine the broader goals of increasing school autonomy and responsiveness.

**Trustee Kahele:** The quarterly disbursements, releasing funds in quarterly installments or a 25% initial payment instead of a one time, or at the most, the semiannual disbursement may restrict the school's ability to plan and execute their programs effectively. When Po'o Kumu plan, they plan ahead and knowing that they're going to get an X amount of infusion of capital allows them to plan for their school year. Rather than 25% here I gotta front the money here, I got to apply for a reimbursement here, that's not the intent of what we're doing in this budget.

The extensive reporting requirements, quarterly invoice reviews, detailed spreadsheets, semi-annual performance measures and annual report data create a complex and a time consuming process. These overlapping requirements risk diverting time and energy away from serving students and communities.

Now, the restrictive funding limitations you have, I'm not opposed to prohibitions on using funds for air conditioning or student transportation, like you mentioned, vehicles or new construction. I look at the current KALO contract 4422, and the specific items that we allow them to do for facilities funding, and everything that is in there is in your approved list. My only hesitation is that some of these things that we're prohibiting them from using might be misaligned with the realities of what some of these underfunded schools really may need. I think such restrictions could impede their efforts to address transportation challenges, improve attendance, and create an appropriate learning environment. Remember, when Governor Ige came into office and his goal was to put air conditioning in every single department of education school in this state, because classrooms are hot, they might need air conditioning in their classrooms. I think the provisos we provided in the biennium budget reflect a balanced approach to ensure sound oversight, while recognizing the unique role of each 17 Hawaiian Focused Charter schools, and they're all different. I think that the implementation of this we should avoid perpetuating, maybe previous administrative status quo processes that constrain growth, flexibility, and self-determination of these schools.

Just in summary, our goal was to get them the money they need to empower each po'o kumu to decide how they wanted to use those funds, whether it was programmatic or facilities. It was to put OHA staff on a quarterly basis, boots on the ground in the schools, remove bureaucratic requirements, semi-annual, final year-end reporting, and let the po'o kumu do what they do best. So my suggestion would be, just cut them the check, get them the funds as fast as possible. Require the semi-annual and final year-end report. Get our staff out there in the first quarter. Let trustees know when you're going, because I'd love to go as well, especially on my island. I have 5 charter schools and let's get them the money that they need, and let's make it as easy as possible for everyone.

And I appreciate your presentation, but that's just my frank feedback, and I hope it was helpful. I hope it didn't come off sometimes how it can come off...

**Community Engagement Director Vaughan-Sekona:** Trustee, I'm sorry, just wanted to confirm, so you're talking about semi-annual disbursements as well, or just the reporting, you want all up front?

**Trustee Kahele:** Yeah, just give them the check. Fiscal Year 26, send them the money, first quarter we send out our staff to all 17 schools, require a semiannual report, a year-end report.

I'd also add, for our Trustees, contract 4422 is in effect right now. KALO is executing a contract for a whole other year, which is the facilities contract. Each school can get up to \$150,000 this fiscal year, in addition to the money that we appropriated, that's going to be a huge boost for the Hawaiian Focused Charter schools. I'm surprised they're not all here today.

**Trustee Kahele:** So, they're getting 2 tranches of money, 150 grand for facilities, plus the amount that we budgeted for them, and let the po'o kumu do what they do best. They know their schools the best, big or small, and that would be my recommendation. I think it's consistent with what was in the proviso language. I think that makes it easier for all of us.

**Grants Manager Belay:** It does, Mahalo, for that clarification.

**Chair Alapa** recognizes Trustee Akaka

**Trustee Akaka:** So did you folks connect with KALO on this? Can we get some clarification in terms of KALO's role, and then how it would be the same, if not different.

**Grants Manager Belay:** Sure, Trustee. So, in prior contracts KALO administered the grant, so we would contract with KALO, we would give them the disbursement semiannually, they would disperse to the schools. The schools in turn would report back to KALO on enrollment, number of seniors in attendance, number of graduating seniors, number of community engagement events held on campuses and Ohana nights and so forth. So, KALO would gather that information from all of the schools, and then put it in one direct report back to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

**Trustee Akaka:** So, all that you just described that KALO has been doing, does OHA have the capacity to take on that kuleana? Is this implementable?

**Grants Manager Belay:** For 17 separate contracts, it's a big take for the staff, for sure, and we were hoping to simplify the process, with feedback from Chair Kahele I think we can, but this is in addition to still monitoring that last KALO contract, which is easier because KALO does it. So, in terms of the facilities contract, they do receive all the receipts monthly from the schools currently, they reconcile every single month, they send those receipts and their reconciliation to OHA staff to verify and then we reimburse. Some of the schools, the larger schools, they can spend down very quickly, the smaller schools do struggle, and so what KALO does is work with them, strategize with them on ways to help them spend down the money, and so those are things that we anticipate our staff taking on as well for these schools.

**Trustee Akaka:** You had mentioned earlier in your presentation about delays, as we're about a week away from the start of the school year.

**Grants Manager Belay:** Right, with the start of the school year, we just anticipate the po'o, being very busy with PD's and new staff orientation and welcoming the kids back on campus. So just those sort of delays, because again, we don't want to interrupt that start of the school year.

**Trustee Akaka:** Okay, is KALO able to present on this today or sometime in the near future.

**Grants Manager Belay:** *On the facilities?*

**Trustee Akaka:** Is that possible? So we can get a better understanding of what that kuleana has entailed and what we're trying to do the same and or different.

**Grants Manager Belay:** *Okay, so for contract 4422.*

**Trustee Akaka:** Yes. Also regarding your slides, allowable and disallowed costs, facilities, and maintenance. I wanted more clarification, so the part where it says, under unallowable costs for purchasing land property? Can you share why that is? I can guess, but can you share why?

**Grants Manager Belay:** I believe at the moment schools are not allowed to directly purchase land.

**Trustee Akaka:** ...Student transportation purchase of motorized vehicles, and the reason, I ask is, it seems to be an ongoing challenge, even just within DOE in general. I do recall on the news it was mentioned within the last couple days in terms of the DOE, trying to figure that out, but specifically with the Hawaiian immersion and Charter schools, they have that additional challenge in terms of getting proper funding. So is it specifically where you're talking about a motorized vehicle versus, say, supplementing a bus or so, or some kind of proper safe transportation.

**Grants Manager Belay:** I think if it's allowable by the Board, we could discuss with them purchasing student transportation, so a bus or a van depending on the school and their enrollment numbers.

**Trustee Akaka:** In my experience as an Ohana, with the immersion schools, is just this very thing that I'm talking about, is not having the funding for the buses and the ohana, the families, the schools trying to seek out community kokua, and oftentimes that is just not always successful, so what is the alternative. So that's why I'm asking this.

The other part is the new construction or building expansion, can you elaborate a little more on that, too.

**Grants Manager Belay:** The thinking behind that was a brand new building would be a major undertaking capital improvement project. So we weren't sure if this was a suitable grant for that. We're not opposed to it, but we would probably want to have a discussion with the school. We want to make sure, if they undertake those projects that they have enough funding to complete that project as well.

**Trustee Akaka:** I would imagine, as many of the DOE schools are Kaiapuni, and so forth, a lot of them are in like portable units, and they're not new, and they are wela. And there's so many things that come with age and the location of where it's at. So maybe we can relook at the language on this to see on what makes sense, and I think that's part of the evaluation process for us to understand what feedback KALO has received through time, and then what the different po'o of the kula can impart on how we can best work together. Thank you.

**Trustee Kahele:** So, moving forward, how long will it take you to execute the 17 grants for the Hawaiian Focused Charter Schools so we can get them the FY26 money. *You think, first quarter?*

**Grants Manager Belay:** Within the first quarter of the school year, yeah.

**Trustee Kahele:** Okay? Great Yeah, I'm also not opposed, like Trustee Akaka said to potential new construction or building on a case by case basis. Depends right, like, if they think they need a portable building, or whatever, because they have a lack of facilities. I think that's what the facilities funding would be used for. Thank you.

**Trustee Akaka:** The other thing I wanted to ask, is there an annual or quarterly survey that goes out to the kula to get a sense of what's working and what's not working for them, and what the true needs are, and if we're meeting that.

**Grants Manager Belay:** We can implement that within this grant as well, we have not done that in the previous contracts, but we can do that, and we'll work with R&E to make sure that the survey is appropriate, and we're getting the data points we need.

**Chair Alapa** recognizes Trustee Ahuna

**Trustee Ahuna:** Thank you so very much, and I just wanted to say thank you to our Chair Kahele's words. First of all, Charter schools have been lacking monies from day one. It's not fair, the equity they've been behind the bus. What I want to share today is that one of the big reasons why a lot po'o kumu are afraid of receiving money is all the reporting, and KALO has done a great job to help them with the reporting. But now with this new type of way that the Trustees have provided for our charter schools is we want more interaction with OHA going there quarterly. But we want also less reporting, there's a difference between a conversion charter and a public Charter school. Conversion charters the DOE, the school, doesn't, work out so they have facilities, but there are some charter schools that don't have facilities. And then there's some who have vans and some who don't have vans and everything, so what we wanted to try and do is provide them with the best type of outcomes, and it had to do a lot with reporting.

The one thing I can say is, for us it's hard being a Charter School in today's world, and we have to keep everyone together. So, it's very important that OHA stays involved with these charter schools, and we work alongside with them. But we also want to help these po'o kumu with the reporting parts. Some have a lot of students, some have less students. We just want to make sure that we don't scare any of them. I did want to also say one thing, one of the questions that came up to me in an email was, hey, you guys have 17 focused charter schools, what if there's another charter that wants to get in. And I just want people to understand that these 17 focused charter schools have been working on CRA's, which means culturally relevant assessments. They have all been working towards culturally relevant assessments, and it's not standardized like how we do in the DOE. So I just wanted to make sure that you guys understand how they are kept together and what they're striving for, but also some of the impacts that they have, because different schools have different impacts. I don't want to put them in a in a bad situation because they cannot go for transportation when they might need transportation, or cannot fix facility, build something, because they don't really have facilities. So I just wanted to make sure that we allow our po'o kumu to plan and do the right thing, and OHA to work on the side of them, to making sure that that we are working together. So thank you for that report administration. Thank you.

**Chair Alapa:** Mahalo, Trustee Ahuna. Is there any other discussion amongst our Trustees at this point before I call upon our testifiers?

*There is none.*

**Chair Alapa:** I'd like to move on with our first testifier, we have Germaine Meyers.

**Germaine Meyers:** Aloha, Chair Alapa, Vice Chair Waihee and Trustees. My name is Germaine Meyers. I'm an OHA beneficiary for beneficiary advocacy and empowerment, and I'm also a Nanakuli Hawaiian homestead lessee. Mahalo for this opportunity regarding the Charter schools.

**Germaine Meyers:** School is coming up. So it's interesting that the proviso of the budget was just done on June 30th and here we are on the 23rd and expecting for things to roll out, regarding a new proviso, instead of giving a heads up to the teachers, to the schools, to the principals, so that they can understand while they're taking in admissions, taking in teachers issues, taking in Keiki's issues. Our school in Nānaākuli is huge, and the one in Waianae is huge, they don't have just 25 students or 45 students. They have over 600 students, all that comes with managing it, opening up the school and everything, it just behooves me and saddens me that OHA would come up with a proviso during the budget process, instead of having the conversations in BAE or in the BOT prior to whatever committee that would have come under, I don't know, but the proposal to have a robust conversation.

Also was a survey done, it is on Hawaii Island that KALO exists? Was there a survey done by all the schools to say if they nuha, somebody nuha, is it a political thing, they upset with KALO. What was the issue with KALO. Also in the compliance sector, are they going to be in compliance with Hawaii Charter School Commission requirements, and all the State laws, etc, regarding Charter School and management of Charter School that maybe KALO had provided, that OHA employees don't know about. Is OHA now going to call KALO on a consultation basis to get answers that they had just automatically understood over the years of administering the Hawaii Focus Charter School issuance of the grant. I'm just wondering why KALO was diminished as far as their relationship with OHA. Was there a relationship diminished with the schools. I can understand if OHA had done and then it came to the Board table, KALO's been doing this or doing that, or they're out of compliance, they're putting us at risk with the Hawaii State Charter School Commission, or those things, but nothing was actually explained. So I can understand how Administration listening to a proviso at the table on June 30th by some Trustees, and then now they have to execute it, and the Trustee who put in the proviso didn't work with Administration to say, these are my expectations, these are not, or this is what I meant by the language. And now we got Administration showing up with a presentation, and then basically told, you don't even understand what I meant. It's kind of embarrassing to sit back there and hear that Administration didn't understand the proviso, you guys are all in the same building. And we have devices, you can call, email, text. So, I don't understand the lack of communication by the person that put the proviso in regarding the Charter School in the Budget, not to explain it to Administration staff, so that they can come here with a presentation, and not get told that the presentation was inadequate and misunderstood.

For example, my schools, we're in the hot district of Oahu, so yes, we would need air condition. We also don't have public school transportation school buses, sometimes the kids would need, because we're in a community that the cost of living, etc. So, there's just a lot of like, what I'm understanding with this Fiscal Year 26-27 biennium budget, just a lot of changes last minute, and then everybody got to run around and try to figure out why the changes were made instead of leading up to it. So it kind of was like an ambush situation in my perspective over and over. How can anybody execute it, it turns into a toxic work environment that is contradictory to OHA being a place that people would want to work, because just look at what would happen. Ke Akua Pū, God bless all of you.

## **V. ADJOURNMENT**

**Trustee Lindsey** moves to adjourn the RM meeting.

**Chair Alapa** asks if there is any discussion.

There is zero discussion.

**Chair Alapa** calls for a **ROLL CALL VOTE**.

TRUSTEE		1	2	'AE (YES)	A'OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	2:40 p.m. EXCUSED
DAN	AHUNA			X			
KALEIHIKINA	AKAKA			X			
KELI'I	AKINA			X			
BRICKWOOD	GALUTERIA			X			
KAIALI'I	KAHELE			X			
CARMEN HULU	LINDSEY			X			
J. KEONI	SOUZA						Departed mtg. at 2:39pm
VICE-CHAIR JOHN	WAIHE'E			X			
CHAIR LUANA	ALAPA			X			
<b>TOTAL VOTE COUNT</b>				<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

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

**Chair Alapa** adjourns the BF meeting at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Pohai Ryan  
Trustee Aide  
Committee on Budget and Finance

As approved by the Committee on Budget and Finance (BF) on October 1, 2025

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Trustee Luana Alapa  
Chair  
Committee on Budget and Finance