

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
560 N. NIMITZ HIGHWAY, SUITE 200
(VIRTUAL MEETING - VIA ZOOM WEBINAR)
COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FINANCE
MINUTES

May 27, 2026 10:00 a.m.

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

FULL MEETING CAN BE VIEWED AT [05/27/26 Budget and Finance \(BF\) Meeting](#)

ATTENDANCE:

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

Melissa Wennihan
Momi Kaaihue

ADMINISTRATION STAFF:

K. Sean Kekina, COO / Ka Pou Nui
Bill Brennan, *Director of Communications*
Chantelle Belay, *Grants Manager*
Deja Ostrowski, *Public Policy Manager*
Elena Farden, *Senior Director, Strategy & Implementation*
Interim Director of Quality Housing
Everett Ohta, *General Counsel*
Grace Chen, *Budget Chief*
Kevin Chak, *Senior Systems Engineer & Administrator*
Kyle Saucier, *IT Systems Engineer & Administrator*
Leinaala Ley, *Chief Advocate*
Lise Vaughan-Sekona, *Director of Community Engagement*
Ryan Lee, *Interim CFO*
Sandra Stancil, *Senior Executive Assistant*

ATTENDANCE:

Vice-Chairperson Dan Ahuna
Trustee C. Hulu Lindsey

BOARD COUNSEL:

Kapono Kiakona

BOT STAFF:

Carina Lee
Crayn Akina
Mark Watanabe

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Waihe'e calls the Committee on Budget and Finance meeting for Wednesday, May 27, 2026 to order at **10:45 a.m. (0:30 / 57:04)**

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

MEMBERS			AT CALL TO ORDER (10:45 a.m.)	TIME ARRIVED
CHAIR	JOHN	WAIHE'E, IV	PRESENT	
TRUSTEE	KALEIHIKINA	AKAKA	PRESENT	
TRUSTEE	KELI'I	AKINA	PRESENT	
TRUSTEE	LUANA	ALAPA	PRESENT	
TRUSTEE	BRICKWOOD	GALUTERIA	PRESENT	
TRUSTEE	KAIALI'I	KAHELE	PRESENT	
TRUSTEE	J. KEONI	SOUZA	PRESENT	

At the Call to Order, **SEVEN (7) Trustees are PRESENT**, thereby constituting a quorum.

EXCUSED from the BF Meeting are:

MEMBERS			COMMENT
VICE-CHAIR	DAN	AHUNA	MEMO – REQUESTING TO BE EXCUSED
TRUSTEE	CARMEN HULU	LINDSEY	MEMO – REQUESTING TO BE EXCUSED

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. May 13, 2026

Chair Waihe'e moves to approve the Minutes of May 13, 2026.

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

BF Chair Staff Akina states that no one is signed up to testify on this agenda item.

Chair Waihe'e asks if there are any changes.

There are none.

Chair Waihe'e calls for a Roll Call Vote

10:48 a.m.							4:00 / 57:04
TRUSTEE	1	2	'AE (YES)	A'OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED	
VICE-CHAIR DAN AHUNA						EXCUSED	
KALEIHIKINA AKAKA			X				
KELI'I AKINA			X				
LUANA ALAPA			X				
BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA			X				
KAIALI'I KAHELE			X				
CARMEN HULU LINDSEY						EXCUSED	
J. KEONI SOUZA			X				
CHAIR JOHN WAIHE'E	1		X				
TOTAL VOTE COUNT			7	0	0	2	

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

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

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. **Action Item BF #26-11:** Approval of OHA Funding for Hoakoakoa Lahui Event Sponsorships Awards for the following organizations and events for Fiscal Year 2027, Qtr 1

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

BF Chair Staff Akina states that no one has signed up to testify on this item, however there are presenters online and in person.

Chair Waihe'e okay, then I will make a motion.

Chair Waihe'e moves to approve and authorize OHA funding for Ho'ākoakoa Lāhui event sponsorship awards for the following organizations and events for Fiscal Year 2027, Quarter 1:
[\(6:20 / 57:04\)](#)

#	Organization Name	Event	Event Date(s)	Evaluation Scores (Out of 50 Points)	Award Amount Recommendation
1	'Imi Ola Canoe Club	Race for Hawaii's Future	July 5, 2026	Evaluator A:44 Evaluator B:40	\$11,250
2	Kikaha Foundation	Papa Hula Kane	July 11, 2026	Evaluator A:40 Evaluator B:44	\$7,500
3	Goodwill Industries of Hawaii	Goodwill Goes GLAM!	July 16-18, 2026	Evaluator A:45 Evaluator B:47	\$15,000
4	Youth in Motion	Molokai Holokai Hoolaulea	July 17-18, 2026	Evaluator A:44 Evaluator B:42	\$11,250
5	Hana Arts	Hoakoakoa Lahui: Hana Mele & Cultural Gathering 2026	July 23-24, 2026	Evaluator A:45 Evaluator B:50	\$15,000
6	Big Island Substance Abuse Council	12 th Annual Summer Jam	July 25, 2026	Evaluator A:46 Evaluator B:45	\$15,000
7	Pu'uhonua Society	Lā Hoi'ho'i Ea	July 26, 2026	Evaluator A:45 Evaluator B:47	\$11,280
8	Hiki Ola	Ipuaehu and Mele in the Forest	August 8, 2026	Evaluator A:39 Evaluator B:38	\$1,766
9	ODKF Support Inc., dba Duke Kahanamoku OceanFest	Duke Kahanamoku OceanFest	August 14-24, 2026	Evaluator A:46 Evaluator B:48	\$11,800
10	Bishop Museum	E Ulu A Pa'a 2026 Fundraiser Gala	August 22, 2026	Evaluator A:39 Evaluator B:35	\$10,000
11	Welo Foundation	Kū I Ka Welo	August 22, 2026	Evaluator A:45 Evaluator B:47	\$15,000
12	Hoolehua Homesteader's Association	Molokai Paniolo Heritage Festival & Rodeo Round Up	August 22, 2026	Evaluator A:36 Evaluator B:39	\$5,000
13	Leadership in Disabilities & Achievement of Hawaii	Hoomalamalama Ohana	August 28, 2026	Evaluator A:45 Evaluator B:45	\$10,800
14	Kekelaokalani	Hawai'i Swim Show	August 29-30, 2026	Evaluator A:40 Evaluator B:40	\$11,250
15	The Lawrence and Hokulani De Rego Foundation	Hula' Oni E Hula Festival	September 4-6, 2026	Evaluator A:46 Evaluator B:47	\$15,000
16	Hawai'i Songwriting Festival	Hawai'i Songwriting Festival 2026	September 10-12, 2026	Evaluator A:35 Evaluator B:35	\$7,500
17	Aloha Amplified, Inc.	Lights for Lahaina 2026	September 11-12, 2026	Evaluator A:35 Evaluator B:35	\$7,500
18	Waimea Hawaiian Homesteaders Association Inc. Trade Name/ DBA: Aloha Festivals Island of Hawaii	74th Annual Paniolo Parade Aloha Festivals Island of Hawaii	September 19, 2026	Evaluator A:45 Evaluator B:46	\$15,000
19	Maui United Way	Pa'ūpili Saturday: Ho'omau - Resilience and Rebuilding	September 19, 2026	Evaluator A:43 Evaluator B:44	\$7,200
20	Friends of Amy B.H. Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden	'Ulu Festival	September 19, 2026	Evaluator A:44 Evaluator B:42	\$8,775
21	Moanike'ala Akaka Aloha 'Āina Education Aha (MAAEA)	Aha 'Ulu: 'Ike Kūpuna, 'Ike Honua	September 20-21, 2026	Evaluator A:46 Evaluator B:46	\$15,000
					\$227,871

Chair Waihe'e recognizes Trustee Akaka ([8:07 / 57:04](#))

Trustee Akaka: Mahalo, Chair Waihe'e. With Number 16, Hawaii Songwriting Festival 2026, I ask that we bifurcate that for the reason that my parents have participated through the years.

Chair Waihe'e: Okay, are there any other awardees that someone wants to have bifurcated from the rest?

There are none.

Chair Waihe'e moves to bifurcate The Hawaii Songwriting Festival 2026, in the amount of \$7,500 from the rest of the awardees. ([9:15 / 57:04](#))

Chair Waihe'e: Is there any discussion on that?

There is none.

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

10:53 a.m. - BIFURCATION							9:59 / 57:04
TRUSTEE		1	2	'AE (YES)	A'OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
VICE-CHAIR DAN	AHUNA						EXCUSED
KALEIHIKINA	AKAKA			X			
KELI'I	AKINA			X			
LUANA	ALAPA			X			
BRICKWOOD	GALUTERIA			X			
KAIALI'I	KAHELE						Not present at time of vote
CARMEN HULU	LINDSEY						EXCUSED
J. KEONI	SOUZA			X			
CHAIR JOHN	WAIHE'E	1		X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT				6	0	0	3

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

Chair Waihe'e notes for the record that ALL (6) members present vote 'AE (YES) , THREE (3) are EXCUSED and the **MOTION PASSES**.

Chair Waihe'e: Thank you. Okay, members, we have representatives of the awardees available to us if you guys had any questions on any specific sponsorship

There are none.

Chair Waihe'e calls for a **ROLL CALL VOTE** on all of the Sponsorships except for #16.

10:55 a.m. – ALL except #16							11:20 / 57:04
TRUSTEE		1	2	'AE (YES)	A'OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
VICE-CHAIR DAN	AHUNA						EXCUSED
KALEIHIKINA	AKAKA			X			
KELI'I	AKINA			X			
LUANA	ALAPA			X			
BRICKWOOD	GALUTERIA			X			
KAIALI'I	KAHELE						Not present at time of vote
CARMEN HULU	LINDSEY						EXCUSED
J. KEONI	SOUZA			X			
CHAIR JOHN	WAIHE'E	1		X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT				6	0	0	3

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

Chair Waihe'e notes for the record that ALL (6) members present vote 'AE (YES) , THREE (3) are EXCUSED and the **MOTION PASSES**.

Chair Waihe'e moves to approve and authorize OHA funding for Ho'ākoakoa Lāhui event sponsorship awards for Hawaii Songwriting Festival 2026 in the amount of \$7,500 (6:20 / 57:04)

#	Organization Name	Event	Event Date(s)	Evaluation Scores (Out of 50 Points)	Award Amount Recommendation
16	Hawai'i Songwriting Festival	Hawai'i Songwriting Festival 2026	September 10-12, 2026	Evaluator A:35 Evaluator B:35	\$7,500
					\$7,500

Chair Waihe'e asks if there is any discussion

There is none.

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

10:56 a.m. – JUST #16							27:46 / 57:04
TRUSTEE		1	2	'AE (YES)	A'OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
VICE-CHAIR DAN	AHUNA						EXCUSED
KALEIHIKINA	AKAKA					RECUSED	
KELI'I	AKINA			X			
LUANA	ALAPA			X			
BRICKWOOD	GALUTERIA			X			
KAIALI'I	KAHELE						Not present at time of vote
CARMEN HULU	LINDSEY						EXCUSED
J. KEONI	SOUZA			X			
CHAIR JOHN	WAIHE'E	1		X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT				5	0	1	3

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

Chair Waihe'e notes for the record that FIVE (5) members present vote 'AE (YES), ONE (1) IS RECUSED, THREE (3) are EXCUSED and the **MOTION PASSES**.

Chair Waihe'e recognizes Trustee Akaka ([12:50 / 57:04](#))

Trustee Akaka: I see that a number of those that were interested in presenting would like to share something.

Chair Waihe'e: I apologize, we can hear from those who would like to speak, now.

Chair Waihe'e recognizes Heather Murakami ([14:20 / 57:04](#))

Heather Murakami (Imi Ola Canoe Club): Aloha Chair Waihee and Trustees. Thank you for the approval. My name is Heather Murakami and I am with Imi Ola Canoe Club. I know you already approved it, but I'm here to answer any questions about our application. Otherwise we are mostly here to say thank you very, very much.

Chair Waihe'e: You're very welcome, Thank you.

Chair Waihe'e recognizes Kelly Cho ([15:10 / 57:04](#))

Kelly Cho (Goodwill Industries of Hawaii): Aloha, o wau no Kelly Cho mai Goodwill Hawaii. We were approved so thank you so much. This is actually the first time we've submitted an event proposal or grant for our 15th annual Goodwill Goes Glam! Which is happening July 16-18, so thank you very much for the approval.

Chair Waihe'e: You're welcome.

Chair Waihe'e recognizes Ipolei Lindsey-Asing ([15:55 / 57:04](#))

Ipolei Lindsey-Asing (Welo Foundation): Aloha nui kakou, o wau no o Ipolei Lindsey-Asing on behalf of Welo Foundation. I also wanted to mahalo you folks for approving, this was also our very first time applying for the OHA grant, so we are super honored and just humbled by your folk's opportunity really for any of us to apply for this, it's really a kokua. Just briefly, the foundation is hosting an annual event that focuses on creating a cultural space of Hawaiian music, hula, native traditions. So please, if you're on Hawaii island during August 22nd, we will be there, OHA, you are definitely welcome to attend as well. Nui ka mahalo iā oukou, and we look forward to more of these opportunities with you folks. Ke Aloha Nui.

Chair Waihe'e: You're welcome, Thanks.

Chair Waihe'e recognizes Lehuanani DeFranco ([17:30 / 57:04](#))

Lehuanani DeFranco (Pu'uhoonua Society): Aloha. I work with Pu'uhoonua Society as our Director of Operations and Mahalo again like everyone else has said for approving us. We are in collaboration with La Ho'iho'i Ea and we curate the makai side of the park with cultural practitioners throughout the whole day. I won't go into my full testimony since it has already been approved, but I just wanted to ask, this is our second year of being approved, so mahalo for that. Last year, we were able to receive the rubric of that approval and basically how everything was scored, and I was wondering, maybe not this year because it has already been approved, but if next year we could also get that rubric and that would just be really appreciative, so we can continue to improve upon our grant

applications and really know what everybody is looking for. So that's just a small request in the future. La Ho'iho'i Ea, this year will be celebrated on Sunday, July 26 at Thomas Square Park from 10:00am to 6:00pm, and we will be working with OHA to provide a tent and to really work with what that tent looks like that day, so mahalo again for your support.

Chair Waihe'e: Thank you, and we can definitely get that to you.

Chair Waihe'e recognizes Kumu Hula La'akea Perry ([18:55 / 57:04](#))

Kumu Hula La'akea Perry (Kikaha Foundation): Aloha kākou, just wanted to say mahalo for your folks support and from perspective it's always been a challenge for our kāne to be involved in hula, they have so many other interests and I just felt that we needed to find support so we can get ourselves out in the public and present hula in a different light to our kāne. Mahalo to you guys for your support.

Chair Waihe'e: Thank you.

Chair Waihe'e recognizes Gordon Albino ([19:45 / 57:04](#))

Gordon Albino (Youth in Motion): Sorry, I'm having some technical difficulties, but I am the husband of Claire Albino who applied to the grant. As far as my testimony goes, I'm going to keep it brief. I have no idea if we were approved or not.

Chair Waihe'e: You were approved.

Gordon Albino (Youth in Motion): Well, then this turns into a great Mahalo, and I just want to say we're super excited serving the youth of Molokai who are in many ways at a great disadvantage as far as opportunities, encouragement and mentoring. We're going on 25 years of the Molokai Holokai, which is a two-day event. The first day is all about crossing the channel and really developing a deeper love for culture, tradition, and that's what we focus on the second day of the event. And it's all focused on Molokai's youth and benefit for the youth culturally. We have a lot of events and activities for the kids, but the most rewarding thing is watching the kids excel throughout the years, and we are kind of a stepping stone to get them interested. Today, a lot of our kids that first started with us are now crossing Pailolo and Kaiwi Channels. Some of them have become world class athletes, and it is really an amazing thing, and I'm sorry that my wife Claire couldn't be here to testify. She's also teaching at the high school full-time. So, a great mahalo. My mother is here as well, Opuulani Albino and she's been a great kumu and support and she is our Chief Advisor also for our event. So she also helps that protocol is met and that we actually meet the standard that we set for ourselves to malama our kids of Molokai. But thank you very much, we really really appreciate this and are really excited to carry on with this tradition and serve our youth of Molokai.

Chair Waihe'e: Thank you, Gordon.

Chair Waihe'e recognizes Dr. Hannah Preston-Pita ([22:45 / 57:04](#))

Dr. Hannah Preston-Pita (Big Island Substance Abuse Council): Aloha and Mahalo for supporting the Big Island Substance Abuse Council, obviously on Hawaii Island. You have provided support for several years already and we're very grateful. For over 60 years we've been providing services on this island for the full continuum of care and we finally opened up the first social detox program on Hawaii Island about two years ago. So we're very proud of that. Our summer jam event welcomes

about a thousand people every year at the civic center and we will be able to do it again just by your support. So, mahalo again.

Chair Waihe'e: Thank you.

Chair Waihe'e recognizes Lu Ann Lankford-Faborito ([22:45 / 57:04](#))

Lu Ann Lankford-Faborito (Ho'olehua Homesteader's Association): Aloha, on behalf of the Hoolehua Homesteader's Association and our Molokai Paniolo Heritage we want to thank you. We would be remised if we didn't say it. I know you guys want to get through this really quickly, but mahalo, mahalo, mahalo.

Chair Waihe'e: Thank you.

Chair Waihe'e recognizes Keli'ikanoe Mahi ([24:05 / 57:04](#))

Keli'ikanoe Mahi (Hiki Ola): Aloha members of the Budget and Finance Committee. Mahalo for your approval, I did prepare some thoughts that I wanted to share to respectfully advocate for the full requested amount, but know that It's already been approved. I'm not sure if you can advise whether I speak or not to that advocacy.

Chair Waihe'e: Not at this time, but maybe at the Board Meeting you could bring it up there.

Keli'ikanoe Mahi (Hiki Ola): Okay, well Mahalo nui loa everyone for all that you do. Aloha.

Chair Waihe'e: Aloha.

Trustee Galuteria: Louella, Gordon's mom has been waiting patiently.

Chair Waihe'e recognizes Louella Opu'ulani Wallace Albino ([25:35 / 57:04](#))

Louella Opu'ulani Wallace Albino (Youth in Motion): Aloha mai kakou, na ka wai ola o OHA. Mahalo nui no keia hui ana a 'oukou, ko 'oukou mana'o nui i loko o ko 'oukou na'au e pili ana i keia hana. As a kupuna of Molokai, I have been involved in many of the culture activities and I do support this activity because of the combination of community and practitioners coming together to assist our next generation throughout all of the adversities. And as a very rural community, I want to thank you. Mahalo nui for accepting us and allowing us to continue 25 plus years of helping community come together so that the pilina is paa with whatever comes to Molokai we will be ohana, we will support each other and especially look at our youth. They are the future leaders of us. So mahalo nui loa, mai ka hohonu o ku'u puuwai ia 'oukou pakahi a pau, mahalo nui.

Chair Waihe'e: Thank you.

Chair Waihe'e recognizes Kalia Wasson ([26:50 / 57:04](#))

Kalia Wasson (Kekelaokalani): Aloha, mahalo no ke ia launa pu ana mai o kakou I just wanted to mahalo you all for your time and consideration in all of our applications and your support in the community. This really means a lot to me as well as this being my first year applying so mahalo you guys for all that you do. Kekelaokalani is really important to me and my ohana, it has been essential in just a part of what we do and how we live on a daily basis. Hawaii Swim Show is a community event that involves about 20 designers from Hawaii as well as beyond. We do have some coming in

from Polynesia this year to showcase their art and their culture, as well as 50 vendors who are always a part of it each year. So it's just amazing to be recognized by you guys and just that it is more than a fashion show event. It is a beautiful community of talent creatives sharing their art and culture to the world, so we are just so grateful for your kāko'o this year and on behalf of Kekelaokalani and Hawaii Swim Show, mahalo nui.

Chair Waihe'e: Thank you.

Chair Waihe'e recognizes Charles Brotman ([26:50 / 57:04](#))

Charles Brotman (Hawaii Songwriting Festival): Aloha, just wanted to send our mahalo from Hawaii Songwriting Festival. We're an organization that works with Hawaii's young songwriters and the craft and the business of songwriting to teach people where those income streams come from and how to make a living here in Hawaii without leaving Hawaii. We also have a really robust scholarship program, so pretty much any young music creator or student that wants to come, we can fund them to come. So if you know of any people that are interested, send them our way <https://www.hawaiisongwritingfestival.com/> Thank you.

Chair Waihe'e: Thank you.

Chair Waihe'e recognizes Ho'oululāhui Akaka ([29:25 / 57:04](#))

Ho'oululāhui Erika Akaka (MAAEA): Aloha, I also would like to turn my testimony time into a big mahalo to you all. My name is Ho'oululāhui Erika Akaka, I'm from Hilo and I'm representing what we call for short MAAEA, which is the Moanike'ala Akaka Aloha 'Āina Education Aha. This was also our first time in applying for funds from OHA for an event and we really want to mahalo you for supporting this first ever 'Aha Ulu that will be taking place in Kona on Hawai'i Island in September. We're very excited about having your support to help make it possible to create a practitioner focused convening within a longer full week of events around ulu. There will be a summit and a festival, but this 'Aha Ulu will be a specific two days for practitioners from across Hawaii but also Moananuiākea to share intergenerationally. We're excited to bring in youth and practitioners from across the Pacific to share their wisdom, practices and traditions around ulu. So, mahalo nui for your support. Very much appreciated. Aloha.

Chair Waihe'e: Thank you.

III. NEW BUSINESS

B. Action Item BF #26-12: Approval for Administration to execute the Puuhonua Reentry Program from Strategy and Implementation – Health Outcomes Fiscal Year 2026 Contracts budget.

Chair Waihe'e moves to approve Administration to (32:30 / 57:04)

- (1) Execute the Pu'uhonua: Restorative Justice program from Strategy and Implementation – Health Outcomes Fiscal Year 2026 Contracts budget.;
- (2) Execute and/or procure all necessary agreements, instruments, applications, and other appropriate documents necessary for due diligence to engage and administer the Pu'uhonua Restorative Justice Program;
- (3) Appropriate funds up to \$200,000 [Contingent on approval of the FY26 Biennium Budget allotment request under program – 7130.] to cover necessary costs incurred for, or associated with the administration of the Pu'uhonua Restorative Justice Program; and
- (4) Take all other reasonable actions necessary and appropriate to implement the foregoing.

Ka Pou Nui Kekina: Mahalo Chair Waihe'e, I'd like to call Elena Farden to the table.

Senior Director of Strategy & Implementation Farden: Aloha, Mr. Chair, honored trustees. Parker Spencer is out on approved leave, Kū'ike is attending his eldest child's graduation so you have me. So, the Action Item that you have before you is to approve the Pu'uhonua re-entry program. What I'd like to point out within the action item before you would be page six, which would be the program description and scope. Also page nine, which share the expected outcomes and impact. So this is what we would look for success indicators for the program. Finally on page 11 within the Action Item for financial considerations would be the program funding for the \$200,000. Before I turn it over to any questions, I do want to say that there has been extensive stakeholder engagement in the redesign of this program including guidance and direction and ongoing conversation with Chair Kahele in helping us the Hoe Amau report, and so putting this together we're happy to provide it before you. I'm happy to take any questions on the program or funding at this time. Thank you.

Chair Waihe'e asks if there are any questions.

There are none.

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

11:20 a.m.							35:40 / 57:04
TRUSTEE	1	2	'AE (YES)	A'OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)		EXCUSED
VICE-CHAIR DAN AHUNA							EXCUSED
KALEIHIKINA AKAKA			X				
KELI'I AKINA			X				
LUANA ALAPA			X				
BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA			X				
KAIALI'I KAHELE							Not present at time of vote
CARMEN HULU LINDSEY							EXCUSED
J. KEONI SOUZA			X				
CHAIR JOHN WAIHE'E	1		X				
TOTAL VOTE COUNT			6	0	0		3

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

Chair Waihe'e notes for the record that ALL (6) members present vote 'AE (YES), THREE (3) are EXCUSED and the **MOTION PASSES**.

BF Chair Staff Akina states for the record that there were no testifiers on that item.

III. NEW BUSINESS

C. Action Item BF #26-13: Approval of: (1) Budget realignment; and (2) Distribution of Funds to the Papahānaumokuākea Native Hawaiian Cultural Working Group Through Fiscal Sponsor Na Maka Onaona

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

BF Chair Staff Akina states that no one has signed up to testify on this item.

Chair Waihe'e states that he will make a motion that differs slightly from the one that was provided in the Action Item.

Chair Waihee moves to recommend approval of Action Item BF #26-13, as amended by the revised budget table and budget summary distributed at the May 27th BF meeting, approving the proposed Papahānaumokuākea budget realignment and related FY26 budget update for account 203 6600, including the additional \$8,000 in FY26 budget for the Nomenclature Book project under services on a fee basis, and authorizing the distribution of up to \$243,000 as an OHA grant to Nā Maka Onaona, as fiscal sponsor for the Papahānaumokuākea Native Hawaiian Cultural Working Group, to carry out duties under the NOAA-OHA MOA
([36:24 / 57:04](#))

Chair Waihe'e recognizes Ka Pou Nui Kekina.

Ka Pou Nui Kekina: Mahalo, Chair Waihe'e. We have with us today Leina'ala Ley who will be speaking to the budget realignment and distribution of funds.

Chief Advocate Ley: Aloha. Good morning Trustees. We have available online to present two of the members of the Native Hawaiian Cultural Working Group who would be the recipients of the transfer that we are ultimately proposing. Kekuewa Kikiloi and Hau'oli Lorenzo. I would like to turn it over to them as soon as possible, they are really the experts in this area and have longtime familiarity with partnering with OHA. But I did just want to frame the urgency of this budget request; we are coming up on the expiration date of an existing MOA with NOAA who has provided the grant funds, they expire September 30th, 2026. So, the money needs to be expended before that date for the purposes in the MOA to support monument management activities in the area. And the cultural working group, as I'll share with you, have extensive on the ground experience within the monument and also doing activities here in Hawaii to educate our community about the area, the cultural significance, the practices that continue there today, and why it's important for Native Hawaiians to have a voice as we do as co-Trustee of the monument and through the cultural working group who we consult with on all major monument decisions that we're responsible for as an agency. So, we are very fortunate to have them available as a partner to make sure that we can carry out duties that are really beyond the capacity of our staff. As the trustees know based on the past two agenda items related to the Ocean Policy program we are in the process of reconstituting that division. So, prior to 2021, there were two permanent full-time staff dedicated to Papahānaumokuākea and after 2021 until now when we're in our hiring process, we haven't really had anyone at OHA dedicated to this work

and we've really depended on the cultural working group to carry forward our monument management responsibilities and we continue that partnership.

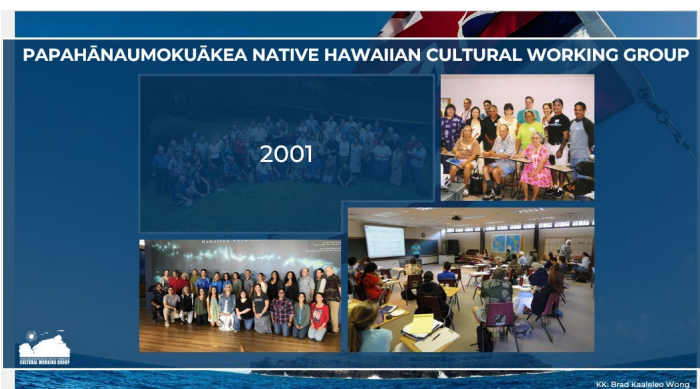
Chief Advocate Ley: So, I am going to turn it over to our guests to go through the proposed budget activities. The transfer that we're asking is for \$243,000 to be transferred as a grant to Nā Maka Onaona, as the fiscal sponsor for the cultural working group and they can go through those activities which are also in the action item and directly align with our duties under the NOAA MOA. So they would essentially be fulfilling our existing duties under the MOA with NOAA as the ultimate funder here. [\(40:45 / 57:04\)](#)

J. Hau'oli Lorenzo-Elarco: Aloha nui kakou, o wau keia Hau'oli, no Waimea mai au, My name is Hau'oli, I'm from Waimea, I'm an assistant professor of Hawaiian language at Honolulu Community College, so just like five minutes away from you guys, but I'm also here representing the culture working group, and I also have here one our co-chairs, Kekuewa.

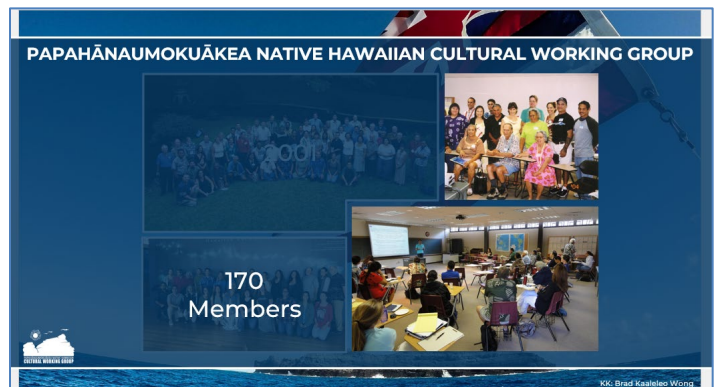
Dr. Kikiloi: Aloha, my name is Dr. Kekuewa Kikiloi, I'm an associate professor at Kamakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies. Aloha.

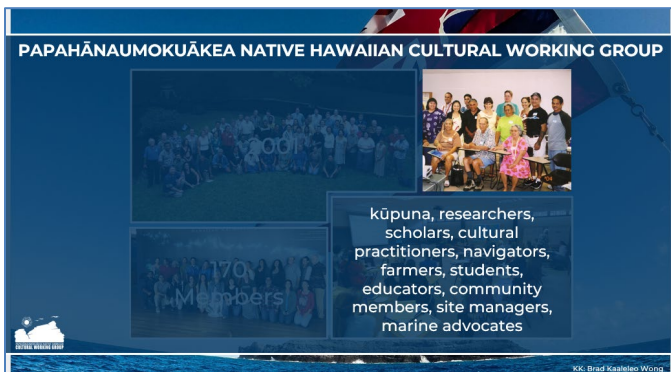


J. Hau'oli Lorenzo-Elarco: Mahalo nui, so as I mentioned, we're here representing Papahānaumokuākea Native Hawaiian Culture Working Group. We have a few slides, I'm going to kind of blast through them a little bit, and really a lot of this is in that budget request that you guys should have already. This presentation is really sort of highlighting the work, who we are and what we do, and what we intend to do with your support.



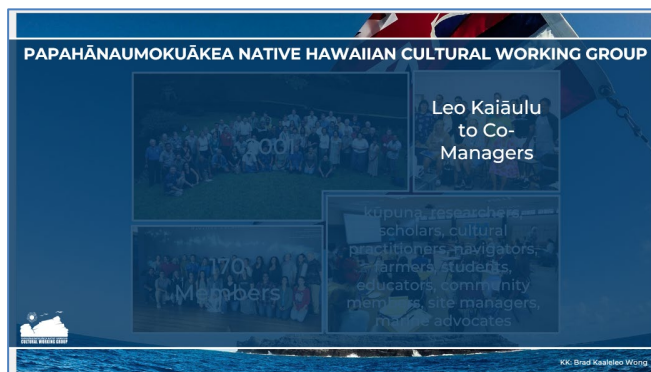
J. Hau'oli Lorenzo-Elarco: So, the cultural working group, we also go by the CWG. I know some of you guys are familiar with us, we have been a group since 2001, and there's about 170 members, it fluctuates as the years go by, people come when they can and they leave when they go to.





J. Hau'oli Lorenzo-Elarco: But we are a group of I think the big word would be volunteers here, but kupuna researchers, scholars, cultural practitioners, navigators, farmers, students, educators, community members, site managers and marine advocates and all of the above.

J. Hau'oli Lorenzo-Elarco: Our huge kuleana here is really to be the Native Hawaiian voice within the management of Papahānaumokuākea and particularly to the co-managers. So first it was through the Sanctuary Advisory Committee to NOAA, but now directly to OHA as a co-manager and co-trustee.



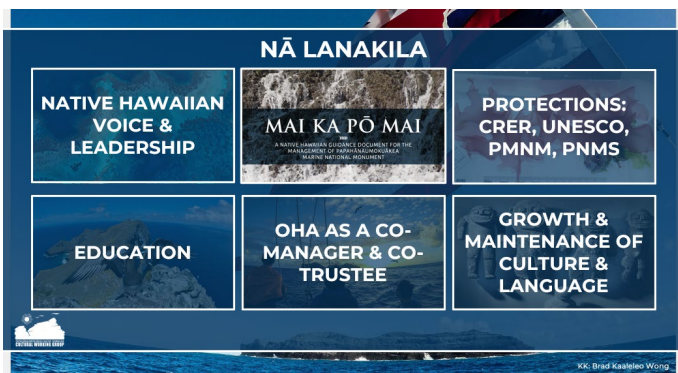
J. Hau'oli Lorenzo-Elarco: Here is what we call the Hui Manamana, this is kind of our papa alaka'i, our leadership board. There's Pelika and Kekuēwa, who are our co-chairs and then Kaipu, Kanoe and myself who are other members here at Hui Manamana.

J. Hau'oli Lorenzo-Elarco: Our work is broken up into several subcommittees. So, we have 'Ohi

Manu, which is looking at the bird permits and the bird cultural practices. We have a Strategic Communications committee which is really about getting the word out there, bringing the place to the people. Advocacy committee, against commercial fishing and other destructive activities in Papahānaumokuākea as an example, permits review, any activity that is to happen in Papahānaumokuākea needs to be reviewed by the co-managers as well as the cultural working group. Then the nomenclature hui is a really fun committee where we get to name newly discovered species found in Papahānaumokuākea in 'Ōlelo Hawaii.

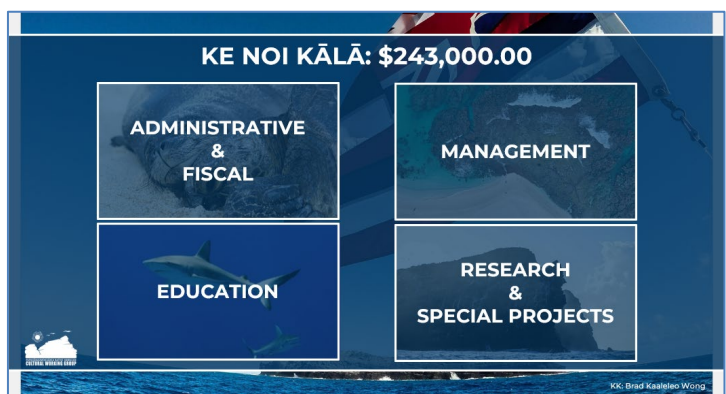


J. Hau'oli Lorenzo-Elarco: Here are some of the lanakila or some of the wins, and I do want to point out before I go over them, many of these wins could not have been accomplished without partnering with OHA.

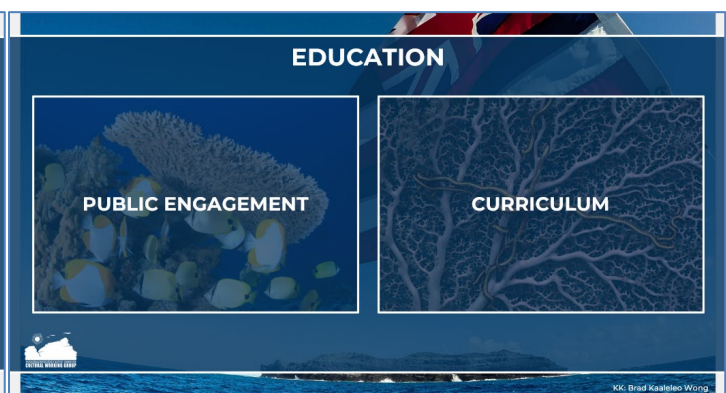


J. Hau'oli Lorenzo-Elarco: I'm kind of new to this history and Kekuewa can talk a little bit more about this if you do have questions on it. This is a partnership driven lanakila, so making sure Native Hawaiian voice and leadership is in the management of Papahānaumokuākea. The educational efforts, learning more about this place, remembering that the ninth island is not Las Vegas, it's Nīhoa. The CWG has helped to advocate for OHA to become a co-manager and a co-trustee of this place. The growth and maintenance of culture

and language in Papahānaumokuākea, we helped to advocate for the several designations that Papahānaumokuākea has and the protection, including for the reserve, UNESCO, monument status and sanctuary. And then lastly, but certainly not least is the development of Mai Ka Pō Mai, a native Hawaiian guidance document for the management of Papahānaumokuākea.



J. Hau'oli Lorenzo-Elarco: This part I'm going to go blast through this part really quickly because it is in the budget packet, but if you do have specific questions on it, please ask. The budget is to meant to fund and support four areas; one of them is Administrative and Fiscal, Management, Education, and Research and Projects. So, this is equaling up to \$243,000.

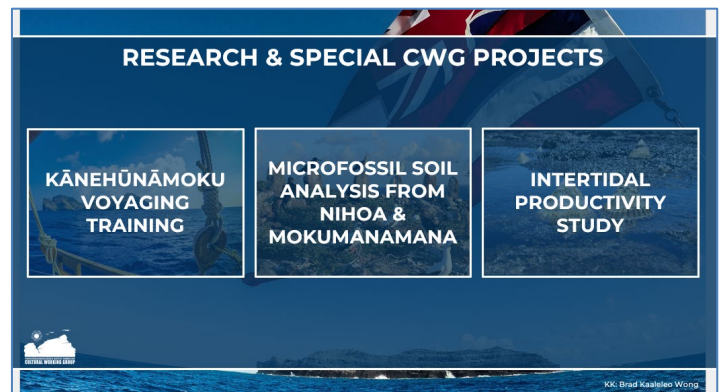


J. Hau'oli Lorenzo-Elarco: Administrative is the CWG convening, so having those 170 members come together and meet, as well as supporting a coordinator. Educational efforts include public engagement and the development of curriculum.



J. Hau'oli Lorenzo-Elarco: I really like the phrase that's being applied here, it's Janitorial Management or janitorial work in Papahānaumokuākea because that's really what it is. So, there's the invasive species removal on Nihoa, as well as the Field Crew Fellowship. Many of the times going to Papahānaumokuākea, our people that go they don't get paid or they get paid very little. They have to take off from their jobs or sometimes these field crews are out there for six months on complete volunteer time, so helping and supporting those members that are out there.

J. Hau'oli Lorenzo-Elarco: Some of the research projects that we want to do under this grant is the Kānehūnāmoku voyaging training, this is with the school on O'ahu doing voyaging training to Papahānaumokuākea. Microfossil soil analysis from Nihoa and Mokumanamana, which is Kekuewa's jam. And then we have an Intertidal Productivity study, so looking at things like the 'opihi and whatnot in Papahānaumokuākea.

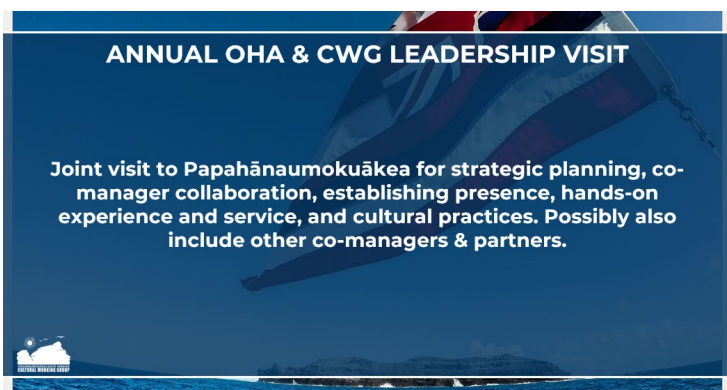


KE NOI KĀLĀ

Administrative & Fiscal	\$75,000
Education	\$30,000
Management	\$35,000
Research & Special Projects	\$81,000
Administrative Fee & Overhead (Fiscal Sponsor: Nā Maka Onaona)	\$221,000
TOTAL	\$243,000

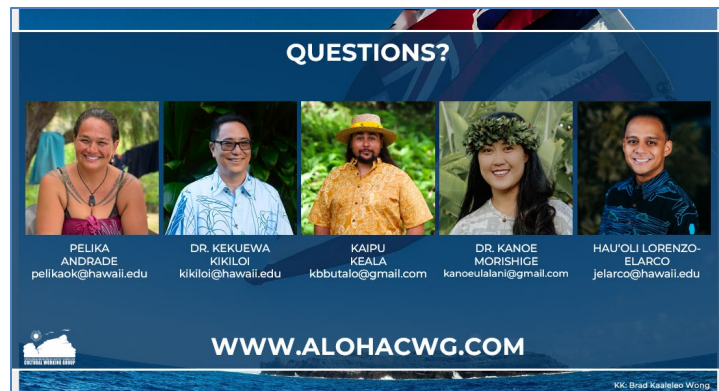


J. Hau'oli Lorenzo-Elarco: All of this is equaling up to \$243,000 and specific details are in that packet, this is just a reiteration of how we are going to execute this and also report back. This will be done through our Hui Manamana and our committee work as well as our partners, so this is including OHA with us. Leina'ala has been an amazing champion and we look forward to working more with the Ocean Policy Manager in terms of reporting of milestones and metrics.



J. Hau'oli Lorenzo-Elarco: One thing that didn't make it into this budget, but I do want to throw it out there for consideration for future is an annual OHA and CWG leadership visit to Papahānaumokuākea. I think it's important for all of us on this zoom call as well as other leadership who are not here to get hands-on collaborative planning work in Papahānaumokuākea.

This could possibly also include the co-managers and other partners, so NOAA, the Marine debris team, the Sanctuary teams and whatnot to actually go to Papahānaumokuākea, so that is just for further consideration for next time.



J. Hau'oli Lorenzo-Elarco: Lastly, if you do have any questions here or afterwards feel free to reach out to us. Our emails are here, you can reach out to any of us if you want. I would probably be the POC, but feel free to just email any of us. We also have a website, alohacwg.com. Mahalo nui to the Board for making time for us.

Chair Waihe'e: Thank you guys, before I take questions, Leina'ala, can we can you just clarify for the members what the changes were to in the motion I made, to what the motion was that they received in their materials.

Chief Advocate Ley: Yes, the reason the motion was amended was because we actually got an additional \$8,000 from NOAA in February to go specifically to a book project to highlight some of the new species that have been discovered and they're named in 'Ōlelo Hawaii, so that money needed, it's the first sub-bullet of the budget

Summary, it's called undesignate, it's basically the money that's sitting out there, but wasn't moved into our budget. So it's just the addition essentially of this \$8,000 to the total of the undesignated amount that would be moving into our budget.

Chair Waihe'e: Okay, thank you for that. Are there any other questions from anyone on this?

Chair Waihe'e recognizes Trustee Galuteria.

Trustee Galuteria: Yeah, where did the 8,000 come from?

Chief Advocate Ley: That was an additional grant from NOAA that they designated, like I mentioned specifically for this book project. So, it came in February and it was just an additional project that they wanted us to execute that we're actually also working on with the cultural working group, but we're actually going to retain that money. That's why it's going to services on a fee because we as OHA are actually going to help get it published. So, we're not actually going to transfer out that 8,000.

Trustee Galuteria: Okay, the Nomenclature book.

Chief Advocate Ley: Yes.

Trustee Galuteria: Okay. Thank you.

Chair Waihe'e recognizes Trustee Akaka.

Trustee Akaka: Mahalo for joining us today and sharing your mana'o and some of the educational information on here. I wanted to ask specifically how this work is going to help manage and what more we have to look at within the near future when it comes to what the federal administration is doing, when it comes to conservation and making all these major changes. What should be on our radar right now and in the near future for us to plan ahead on?

Chief Advocate Ley: So, I'll answer that question as best I can as related to this action item because there's a lot of ways that question could be answered.

Trustee Akaka: Yes.

Chief Advocate Ley: This current grant and MOA expires at the end of September 2026 and as mentioned, this money needs to be expended by then. Locally, our NOAA partners have expressed interest in entering into a new five-year MOA this coming September, but likely there wouldn't be any funding attached, at least for the first year. But I would say we continue to have very strong partnerships with all the co-trustee agencies at the local level, they've clearly been very supportive. The NOAA funding is directly through the Office of National Marine Sanctuary and those are the co-managers that on the OHA side we have monthly meetings with, then we have quarterly co-trustee meetings, so we're all very much in constant communication and alignment. We do plan to have further discussions and I flag this for Hau'oli and the rest of the CWG team, but when we actually grant out the money as Hau'oli mentioned we're going to discuss with NOAA the report back metrics that we want to be sure that we're able to provide to our federal partners. So, when it does come back around to the next potential MOA and grant cycle that we have the reporting back information that they would be interested to see. We've had initial conversations and that report back information should be relatively easy. Again we're in very close communication with ONMS who's the local fiscal manager of these monies and they're very supportive of this transfer out to the cultural working group.

Trustee Akaka: Thank you, and I think another point of focus for us to look at as well is having that communication with the federal delegation from NOAA and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and all the partners here so that they're kept abreast on how they can constantly advocate when it comes to this co-stewardship.

Chief Advocate Ley: Yes, most recently as part of a coalition meeting met last week with Rep. Tokuda's office and we gave them the update about efforts to roll back the fishing protections in Papahānaumokuākea which we have been partnering with the CWG and advocating against that. So we are in pretty regular communication, us and our partners with the congressional delegation, just about the status of threats as well as all the good on the ground work that's being done to manage the monument and sanctuary. It's also a sanctuary, I say monument because this MOA is for the monument but of course it's also a sanctuary now.

Trustee Akaka: Mahalo

Chair Waihe'e asks if there is any further discussion or questions?

There is no further discussion or questions.

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

11:40 a.m.						55:15 / 57:04
TRUSTEE	1	2	'AE (YES)	A'OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
VICE-CHAIR DAN AHUNA						EXCUSED
KALEIHIKINA AKAKA			X			
KELI'I AKINA			X			
LUANA ALAPA						Departed mtg. early
BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA			X			
KAIALI'I KAHELE			X			
CARMEN HULU LINDSEY						EXCUSED
J. KEONI SOUZA			X			
CHAIR JOHN WAIHE'E	1		X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT			6	0	0	3

Chair Waihe'e notes for the record that ALL (6) members present vote 'AE (YES), THREE (3) are EXCUSED and the **MOTION PASSES**.

VOTE: ☒ UNANIMOUS ☐ PASSED ☐ DEFERRED ☐ FAILED

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Souza moves to adjourn the BF meeting.

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

11:41 a.m.						55:50 / 57:04
TRUSTEE	1	2	'AE (YES)	A'OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
VICE-CHAIR DAN AHUNA						EXCUSED
KALEIHIKINA AKAKA			X			
KELI'I AKINA			X			
LUANA ALAPA						Departed mtg. early
BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA			X			
KAIALI'I KAHELE			X			
CARMEN HULU LINDSEY						EXCUSED
J. KEONI SOUZA			X			
CHAIR JOHN WAIHE'E	1		X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT			6	0	0	3

VOTE: ☒ UNANIMOUS ☐ PASSED ☐ DEFERRED ☐ FAILED

Chair Waihe'e adjourns the BF meeting at 11:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Melissa Wennihan
Trustee Aide
Committee on Budget and Finance

As approved by the Committee on Budget and Finance (BF) on June 24, 2026



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