



# NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII AUTHORITY

*An Authority of the State of Hawaii attached to the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism*



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

July 16, 2024  
10:00 a.m.

**An Interactive Conference Technology Meeting was held at  
NELHA OceanView Conference Room  
Hale Iako Building  
73-970 Makako Bay Drive  
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740  
and via Zoom Video Conferencing Software.**

### **Members/Designees in Attendance**

Noelani Kalipi (Gov. Appointee/Chair)  
Cyd Miyashiro (Gov. Appointee/Vice Chair)  
Gordon Bruce (Gov. Appointee)  
Dr. Philip Bossert (RAC Secretary)  
Alan Hilton (RAC Chair)  
Dick Jones (Tenant Representative)  
Gregory Kim (HTDC)  
Nathan Tsao (Tenant Representative)  
Russell Tsuji (DLNR)  
Bobby Command (County of Hawaii)

### **Board Members Not Attending and Excused**

Doug Adams (County of Hawaii)  
Dr. Vassilis Syrmos (University of Hawaii)  
Dane Wicker (DBEDT)

### **Guests/Staff Present**

Greg Barbour (NELHA)  
Laurence Sombardier (NELHA)  
Alexander Leonard (NELHA)  
Faustine Edge (NELHA)  
Alex Leonard (NELHA)  
Pam Madden (NELHA)  
Rae Nguyen (NELHA)  
Keith Olson (NELHA)  
Jennifer Rasmussen (NELHA)  
John Cole (AG)  
Micah Brodsky (Hawaii Dept of Agriculture)  
Chuck Call (Integrated Offgrid)  
KB Chun (DHHL)  
Monica Duntz  
Gerald Heslinga (Indo-Pacific Sea Farms)  
Mark Ladao (Hawaii Public Radio)  
Jaime Matsukawa (Shrimp Improvement Systems)  
Bill Morton (Pacific Filtration Systems)  
Phil Morton (Pacific Filtration Systems)  
Ashley Von Jetzer (KOWA)  
James Wyban (Consultant)  
Jeff Zimpher (National Park Service)

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- **Item 1. (10:01am; video run time 0:00.12) Call to Order.**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Noelani Kalipi at 10:01 a.m. and asked Executive Director (ED) Barbour for a roll call of Board members and NELHA staff. Reference to Act 220. 10 members present and 2 excused.

- **Item 2. (10:07 a.m. video run time 0:05.53) Approval May 21, 2024, NELHA Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes.**

Chair Kalipi entertained a motion to approve the May 21, 2024, minutes. The motion was made by Director Bruce and seconded by Director Jones (10:07 a.m, video run time 0:06:11). The minutes were approved at (10-0) (10:08 a.m. video run time 0:07:11).

- **Item 3. (10:08 a.m. video run time 0:07:15) Approval April 9, 2024, NELHA Board of Directors' Executive Session Meeting Minutes.**

Chair Kalipi entertained a motion to approve the April 9, 2024 Executive Session Meeting minutes which were distributed by Deputy Attorney General John Cole (AG). The motion was made by Director Bruce and seconded by Director Tsao (10:08 a.m. video run time 0:07:34). The minutes were approved (8-0) with Directors Hilton and Tsuji abstaining because they were not present at the Executive Session (10:09 a.m. video run time 0:08:10).

- **Item 4. (10:09 a.m. video run time 0:08:21) Public Testimony.**

Chair Kalipi opened the floor to any public testimony or any open items not on the agenda. Chair Kalipi reminded the public there is a 5-minute time limit for each testimony. No one came forward.

- **Item 5. (10:10 a.m. video run time 0:09:12) Old Business. Seawater Quality Analysis Report Presentation by Dr. Jim Wyban.**

Dr. Wyban presented his final report of his Investigation of Seawater Quality Issue Relating to Larval Survival Rates for Hawaii Ocean Science and Technology (HOST) Park. The Board members and meeting attendees were provided with the opportunity to ask questions.

- **Item 6a. (11:16 a.m. video run time 1:15:23) New Business. Create a Permitted Interaction Group, pursuant to HRS §92-2.5(b), for the purpose of recruiting and making a recommendation to the NELHA Board of Directors for hiring of the NELHA Executive Director position – Discussion and Decision.**

Chair Kalipi introduced the agenda item and asked if there were any comments or additions for the Permitted Action Group (PIG). Director Bruce asked if the Board recommendation requires Legislative approval. AG Cole answered no, and ED Barbour added it will require DBEDT approval. Director Kim moved to Create the Permitted Action Group, and Director Tsuji seconded the motion. AG Cole explained up to six Board Directors can be appointed as members of the PIG. They are: Chair Kalipi, Vice Chair Miyashiro, Director Bruce, Director Jones, Director Tsao, Director Wicker. AG Cole confirmed NELHA staff can be members of the PIG. They are DD Sombardier and one other NELHA staff to be named later.

**Director Bossert exited the meeting at 11:20 a.m.**

Director Hilton moved to approve the PIG and its members. Director Bruce seconded the motion (11:23 a.m. video run time 1:23:21). The motion was approved (9-0). 11:25 a.m. video run time 1:24:47)

- **Item 7 (11:26 a.m. video run time 1:24:54 – a break was requested and reconvened at 11:32 a.m. video run time 1:31:01). Financial Report: Approval and Decision Making.**

ED Barbour presented a financial overview for July 2023 through June 2024.

Director Bruce moved to approve the Financial Report and Director Tsao seconded (11:47 a.m. video run time 1:47:31). The Financial Report was approved (9-0) (11:48 a.m. video run time 1:47:51).

- **Item 8. (11:48 a.m. video run time 1:47:56) Proposed Budget FY 2025: Approval and Decision Making.**

ED Barbour provided a summary for a proposed budget including CIP projects, grant projects, proposed revenue and expenditures. Total estimated revenue for FY2025 is \$5.6M. Total expenditures are proposed to increase by 12 percent overall or \$650,000 in FY2025 compared to FY2024.

Director Bruce moved to approve the FY2025 Budget, Director Hilton seconded the motion (12:07 p.m. video run time 2:06:38). The Proposed Budget for FY2025 was approved as amended to include Community Outreach. (9-0) (12:08 p.m. video run time 2:07:03).

- **Item 9. (12:09 p.m. video run time 2:07:53) Executive Director's Informational Status Report on ongoing projects including: new leases; seawater system maintenance; offshore deep seawater pipe removal planning and design; regional seawater air conditioning planning and design; new potable water supply update; aquaculture**

**accelerator and investment fund initiative; design of expansion of research campus and visitor center; renewable distributed energy resources initiative for microgrid; and, solar desalination.\***

ED Barbour presented this agenda item starting 12:09 p.m. (video run time 2:07:55).

- **Item 10. (12:15 p.m. video run time 2:14:18) Announcements.**

NELHA Board of Directors will meet monthly until the NELHA Executive Director position is filled. Next meeting is scheduled for August 20, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

- **Item 11. (12:17 p.m. video runtime 2:15:21) Adjournment.**

Chair Kalipi adjourned the meeting at 12:17 p.m. (video runtime 2:15:38).

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