



# 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

November 19, 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)  
Alan Hilton (RAC Chair)  
Dr. Philip Bossert (RAC Secretary)  
Doug Adams (County of Hawaii)  
Dick Jones (Tenant Representative)  
Gregory Kim (HTDC)  
Dr. Vassilis Syrmos (University of Hawaii)  
Russell Tsuji (DLNR)  
Dane Wicker (DBEDT)

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

Gordon Bruce (Gov. Appointee)  
Nathan Tsao (Tenant Representative)

### **Guests/Staff Present**

Laurence Sombardier (NELHA)  
Alexander Leonard (NELHA)  
Keith Olson (NELHA)  
Pam Madden (NELHA)  
Jennifer Rasmussen (NELHA)  
Rae Nguyen (NELHA)  
Sherry Ortiz (NELHA)  
Faustine Edge (NELHA)  
John Cole (AG)  
Kaliko Chun (DHHL)  
Wayne Murphy (Hatch)  
Tom Fee (HHF)  
Gerald Heslinga (Indo-Pacific Sea Farms)  
Jim Parsons (Jamestown Point Whitney Shellfish)  
Hiroshi Arai (Kona Sablefish Co.)  
Don McQuarrie (Kona Sablefish Co.)  
Rocky Polito (Kona Sablefish Co.)  
Kekoa Keily (Member of the Public)  
Joan Salwen (Blue Ocean Barns)  
Neil Anthony Sims (Ocean Era)  
Gavin Key (Ocean Era)  
Jaime Masukawa (Shrimp Improvement Systems)  
Jeff Zimpher (National Park Service)

73-4460 Queen Kaahumanu Hwy., #101, Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i USA 96740-2637  
Phone: (808) 327-9585 Fax: (808) 327-9586 Email: [nelha@nelha.org](mailto:nelha@nelha.org) Website:  
<http://www.nelha.hawaii.gov>

Full Board meeting recording available at: [https://youtu.be/dqPw\\_1y5\\_tw](https://youtu.be/dqPw_1y5_tw)

- **Item 1. (10:02 a.m. video run time 00:14) Call to Order.**

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Cyd Miyashiro (Vice Chair Miyashiro) at 10:02 a.m. Vice Chair Miyashiro asked Interim Executive Director (ED) Sombardier for a roll call of Board members and NELHA staff. Reference to Act 220. Nine members present and two excused.

- **Item 2. (10:08 a.m. video run time 05:17) Approval October 15, 2024, NELHA Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes.**

Vice Chair Miyashiro opened this item for discussion. Director Wicker moved to approve the October 15, 2024, meeting minutes, and the motion was seconded by Director Hilton (10:09 a.m. video run time 06:22). The minutes were approved. (9-0) (10:10 a.m. video run time 06:52).

- **Item 3. (10:10 a.m. video run time 06:55) Public Testimony.**

Vice Chair Miyashiro opened the floor to any public testimony or any open items not on the agenda. No one came forward.

- **Item 4. Old Business. (10:11 a.m. video run time 07:24) Report from the Permitted Interactive Group (PIG) for the Hiring of the NELHA Executive Director Position – No Discussion or Decision making. \*\***

ED Sombardier presented the public portion of the PIG report. The board members and meeting attendees were provided with the opportunity to ask questions. Director Hilton moved to accept the delivery of the report. Director Tsuji seconded the motion (10:16 a.m. video run time 13:38). The motion carried (9-0) (10:17 a.m. video run time 14:00).

- **Item 5a. (10:17 a.m., video run time 14:10) New Business. Approval and Decision Making for Kona Limu Co. 2-acre Seaweed Project.**

ED Sombardier presented the staff summary and recommendations, and turned over to Mr. Neil Anthony Sims, Founder and CEO of Ocean Era to present an overview of the project. Director Hilton provided the Research Advisory Committee's review summary

of the project. The Board Members and meeting attendees were provided with the opportunity to ask questions. Director Tsuji moved to approve the Kona Limu sublease and Director Adams seconded the motion (10:34 a.m. video run time 30:49). The short-term sublease for Kona Limu was approved (9-0) (10:35 a.m. video run time 31:40).

- **Item 5b. (10:35 a.m., video run time 32:06). Approval and Decision Making for the Assignment of a Portion of Sublease K-32 from Shrimp Improvement Systems Hawaii LLC to Jamestown Point Whitney Venture, LLC.**

ED Sombardier presented a summary of the sublease assignment and introduced Mr. Jim Parsons of Jamestown Point Whitney Ventures (JPWV) to present the plans for expansion. The Board members and meeting attendees were provided with the opportunity to ask questions.

**Chair Kalipi joined the meeting at 10:44 a.m.**

Director Hilton moved to approve the assignment, and Director Tsuji seconded the motion (10:46 a.m. video run time 47:15). The motion was approved (10-0) (10:50 a.m. video run time 47:46).

- **Item 5c. (10:51 a.m., video run time 47:54). Approval and Decision Making for the Assignment of Sublease K-40 from Blue Ocean Barns, Inc. to Kona Sablefish Company Ltd.**

ED Sombardier presented an overview of this agenda item and introduced Mr. Don MacQuarrie, President and CEO of Kona Sablefish who presented their plans for the site. The Board members and meeting attendees were provided with the opportunity to ask questions. Vice Chair Miyashiro moved to approve the assignment of sublease K-40 and Director Adams seconded the motion (11:05 a.m. video run time 01:02:51). The Assignment of Sublease K-40 from Blue Ocean Barns to Kona Sablefish Company was approved (10-0) (11:06 a.m., video run time 01:03:28).

- **Item 5d. (11:07 a.m., video run time 01:03:56). Discussion and Decision Making regarding NELHA CIP Needs, and Approval for the Removal of the 24" Shallow Water Kau Pipeline and a portion of the 18" Deep Water Kau Pipeline.**

ED Sombardier presented the preliminary summary for NELHA CIP immediate and longer-term needs and Dr. Alex Leonard, NELHA's Administrative and Projects Manager, presented for the approval for the removal of the 24" Shallow Water Kau Pipeline and

a portion of the 18” Deep Water Kau Pipeline. The Board members and meeting attendees were provided with the opportunity to ask questions.

**Director Gregory Kim exited the meeting at 11:15 a.m.**

**Director Jones exited the meeting at 11:24 a.m.**

**Director Syrmos exited the meeting at 11:30 a.m.**

**Vice Chair exited the meeting at 11:32 a.m.**

Because NELHA’s Board of Directors Meeting did not have quorum, Chair Kalipi moved to the next agenda item, an information presentation that does not require quorum, until Director Adams and Vice Chair Miyashiro could rejoin the meeting. (11:32 a.m. video run time 1:28:57).

**Vice Chair Miyashiro rejoined the meeting at 11:35 a.m.**

**Director Adams rejoined the meeting at 11:45 a.m.**

Director Hilton moved to approve the removal of the 24” Shallow Water Kau pipeline and a portion of the 18” deep water Kau pipeline and Director Bossert seconded the motion (11:47 a.m. video run time 1:44:28). The motion carried (7-0) (11:48 a.m. video run time 11:45:42).

**Item 6a. (11:33 a.m., video run time 1:29:47) Informational Presentation. Overview of NELHA Distributed Energy Resources Activities and Recommendations presented by Dr. Terry Surles from Hawaii Natural Energy Institute.**

ED Sombardier introduced Dr. Terry Surles, Hawaii Natural Energy Institute who started his presentation. However, because quorum was reached at 11:45 a.m. his presentation was interrupted, and he resumed presenting at 11:50 a.m. (video run time 1:45:56).

**Vice Chair Miyashiro and Director Bossert exited the meeting at 11:58 a.m.**

- **Item 6b. (11:58 a.m. video run time 11:55:38) Update on HATCH Aquaculture Accelerator, Venture Building and Ocean Foundry programs presented by Wayne Murphy from HATCH.**

Due to most of the Board of Directors leaving the meeting for other meeting commitments, Item 6b. was postponed.

- **Item 7. Executive Director’s Informational Status Report on ongoing projects including: 2025 Legislative session, research campus leases, new leases under discussion; water quality and 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; grant applications; new Mauka Research Campus; renewable distributed energy resources initiative for microgrid; and, solar desalination; Executive Director Search; contracts and agreements including master plan and EIS update.\***

Due to Board of Directors leaving the meeting for other meeting commitments, Item 7. was postponed to the next NELHA Board of Directors Meeting.

- **Item 8. (12:00 p.m. video run time 11:58:06) Announcements**
  - a. Date of the next regularly scheduled meeting is Tuesday, January 21, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.
  - b. A NELHA Special Board of Directors Meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 3, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.
- **Item 9. (12:03 p.m. video runtime 12:00:41) Adjournment.**

Chair Kalipi adjourned the meeting at 12:03 p.m. (video runtime 12:00:41).

###