



# 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

March 18, 2025  
1:00 p.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)  
Gordon Bruce (Gov. Appointee)  
Alan Hilton (RAC Chair)  
Jaclyn Kaina (HTDC)  
Benson Medina (County of Hawaii)  
Dave Molinaro (DBEDT)  
Nathan Tsao (Tenant Representative)  
Russell Tsuji (DLNR)  
John Wiltshire (RAC Secretary)

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

Cyd Miyashiro (Gov. Appointee/Vice Chair)  
Dr. Vassilis Syrmos (University of Hawaii)  
Dick Jones (Tenant Representative)

### **Guests/Staff Present**

Riley Saito (NELHA)  
Laurence Sombardier (NELHA)  
Faustine Edge (NELHA)  
Jennifer Rasmussen (NELHA)  
Sherry Ortiz (NELHA)  
Bryan Babbitt (NELHA)  
John Cole (AG)  
Kaliko Chun (DHHL)  
Jeff Zimpher (National Park Services)  
Emily Murai (Munekiyo Hiraga)

Full Board meeting recording available at: <https://youtu.be/P6LSueO5GuI>

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<http://www.nelha.hawaii.gov>

- **Item 1. (1:00 p.m. video run time 0:00:00) Call to Order.**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Noe Kalipi (Chair Kalipi) at 1:00 p.m. Chair Kalipi asked Deputy Director (DD) Sombardier for a roll call of Board members and NELHA staff. Reference to Act 220. Nine members present and three excused.

- **Item 2. (1:04 p.m. video run time 0:03:17) Approval of NELHA Board of Directors' January 21, 2025 Meeting Minutes.**

Chair Kalipi opened this item for discussion. Director Tsao moved to approve the January 21, 2025 meeting minutes, and the motion was seconded by Director Wiltshire (1:04 p.m. video run time 0:03:26). The minutes were approved. (8-0) (1:04 p.m. video run time 0:04:00).

- **Item 3. (1:04 p.m. video run time 0:04:04) Public Testimony.**

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

- **Item 4a. Old Business (1:05 p.m. video run time 0:04:39) Discussion and Decision Making regarding nomination of Dr. Terry Surles to be appointed to the Research Advisory Committee.**

Chair Kalipi opened this item for discussion. Director Hilton provided background regarding Dr. Surles' nomination and explained he would be a great addition to the RAC. Director and RAC Secretary Wiltshire shared his experience working with Dr. Surles. DD Sombardier explained Dr. Surles recently completed a report reviewing NELHA's energy activities. Director Hilton motioned to appoint Dr. Surles to the Research Advisory Committee, Director Wiltshire seconded the motion (1:08 a.m. video run time 0:07:52) The motion was approved (8-0) (1:08 p.m. video run time 0:08:12).

- **Item 6. Financial Report (1:09 p.m. video run time 0:08:24): Approval and Decision Making.**

DD Sombardier provided the Financial Report, and Board Directors asked questions throughout. After the report, the Public was given an opportunity to ask questions or discuss.

**Director Medina joined the meeting at 1:26 p.m.**

Director Wiltshire motioned to approve the Financial Report and Director Tsao seconded the motion (1:27 p.m. video run time 0:27:11). The motion was approved (9-0) (1:28 p.m. video run time 0:27:21).

- **Item 7. (1:29 p.m.) video run time 0:27:41) 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.\***

Executive Director (ED) Riley Saito provided his summary, and the Board and public were given an opportunity to ask questions or discuss.

- **Item 8. (1:45 p.m. video run time 0:45:32) Announcements**

a. Date of the next regularly scheduled meeting is Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

- **Item 9. (1:46 p.m. video run time 0:45:44) Adjournment.**

Chair Kalipi adjourned the meeting at 1:46 p.m. (video runtime 0:45:44).

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