



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

DRAFT

**May 20, 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)
Ian Hirokawa (DLNR)
Jaclyn Kaina (HTDC)
Dennis Lin (County of Hawaii)
Dave Molinaro (DBEDT)
Dr. Vassilis Syrmos (University of Hawaii)
Nathan Tsao (Tenant Representative)

Board Members Not Attending and Excused

John Wiltshire (RAC Secretary)
Cyd Miyashiro (Gov. Appointee/Vice Chair)

Guests/Staff Present

Riley Saito (NELHA)
Laurence Sombardier (NELHA)
Keith Olson (NELHA)
Pam Madden (NELHA)
Faustine Edge (NELHA)
John Cole (AG)
Alex Leonard (NELHA)
Jennifer Rasmussen (NELHA)
Bryan Babbitt (NELHA)
Tom Fee (HHF)
Donald Grant (Member of the Public)
Sarah Kramer (Hatch)
Jamie Matsukawa (Shrimp Improvement Systems)
Sophia Morgan (Member of the Public)
Nick Poleshaj (Makai Ocean Engineering)
Ian Sandison (Watanabe Ing LLC)
Joyce Tam-Sugiyama (Watanabe Ing LLC)
Neil Sims (Ocean Era)
(2) Members of the Public
Jeff Zimpher

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Full Board meeting recording available at: Video Part A <https://youtu.be/cJ40UI84HNA> and Video Part B <https://youtu.be/G075AxjZMT0>

- **Item 1. (1:01 p.m. video run time 0:00:21) Call to Order.**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Noe Kalipi (Chair Kalipi) at 1:01 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 two excused.

- **Item 2. (1:06 p.m. Video Part A run time 0:04:37) Approval of NELHA Board Directors' January 21, 2025 Executive Session Minutes.**

Chair Kalipi opened this item for discussion. Director Hilton moved to approve the January 21, 2025 Executive Session Minutes, and the motion was seconded by Director Syrmos (1:06 p.m. Video Part A run time 0:04:53). The minutes were approved. (9-0) (1:07 p.m. video run time 0:05:22).

- **Item 3. (1:07 p.m. Video Part A run time 0:05:31) Approval of NELHA Board of Directors' March 18, 2025 Meeting Minutes.**

Director Lin joined the meeting at 1:07 p.m.

Chair Kalipi opened this item for discussion. Director Kaina moved to approve the March 18, 2025 meeting minutes, and the motion was seconded by Director Lin (1:08 p.m. video run time 0:06:05). The minutes were approved. (10-0) (1:08 p.m. video run time 0:06:31).

- **Item 4. (1:08 p.m. Video Part A run time 0:06:38) Public Testimony.**

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

- **Item 5a. Old Business (1:08 p.m. Video Part A run time 0:07:43) Update regarding the NELHA Seawater System.**

Mr. Keith Olson, NELHA Chief Science Officer presented this item. The Board members and meeting attendees were provided with the opportunity to ask questions.

- **Item 5b. Old Business (1:20 p.m. Video Part A run time 0:19:37) Update regarding the Sea Water Quality Analysis Report by Dr. Jim Wyban.**

Ms. Pam Madden, NELHA Water Quality Laboratory Manager presented this item. The Board members and meeting attendees were provided with the opportunity to ask questions.

- **Item 6a. New Business. Discussion and Decision Making regarding Symbrosia, Inc. Request for Rent Adjustment (1:30 p.m. video run time 0:29:14): Approval and Decision Making.**

This item was deferred.

- **Item 6a. New Business. Discussion regarding Complaint filed by Keahole Point Hatcheries LLC on May 7, 2025* (1:30 p.m. video run time 0:29:31): Approval and Decision Making.**

Chair Kalipi stated they will be discussing this item in Executive Session to consult with the Board's Deputy Attorney General (AG) Cole on issues pertaining to the Board's powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities pursuant to HRS § 92-5, subsection (a)(4). Director Tsao made the motion to move to Executive Session, Director Syrmos seconded the motion (1:30 p.m. Video Part A run time 0:30:02). The motion passed (10-0) and Directors went into Executive Session at 1:31 p.m. (video run time, Part A 0:30:15).

The Board Directors returned from Executive Session at 1:58pm (video run time Part B, 00:00:05).

- **Item 7. Financial Report (1:58 p.m. Video Part B run time 0:00:30): 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 Tsao motioned to approve the Financial Report and Director Lin seconded the motion (2:37 p.m. Video Part B run time 0:10:31). The motion was approved (10-0) (2:37 p.m. video run time 0:10:51).

- **Item 8. (2:37 p.m. Video Part B run time 0:10:58) 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 9. (2:48 p.m. Video Part B run time 0:22:51) Announcements**

- a. Date of the next regularly scheduled meeting is Tuesday, July 15, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

- **Item 9. (2:49 p.m. Video Part B run time 0:22:59) Adjournment.**

Chair Kalipi adjourned the meeting at 2:49 p.m. (video part B runtime 0:22:59).

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