



# 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 15, 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)  
Cyd Miyashiro (Gov. Appointee/Vice Chair)  
Gordon Bruce (Gov. Appointee)  
Ian Hirokawa (DLNR)  
Benson Medina (County of Hawaii)  
Neil Sims (Tenant Representative)  
Nathan Tsao (Tenant Representative)  
Dr. Chad Walton (University of Hawaii)  
Dane Wicker (DBEDT)  
Dr. John Wiltshire (RAC Secretary)

### Board Members Not Attending and Excused

Jaclyn Kaina (HTDC)  
Alan Hilton (RAC Chair)

### Guests/Staff Present

Riley Saito (NELHA)  
Laurence Sombardier (NELHA)  
Keith Olson (NELHA)  
Alex Leonard (NELHA)  
Jennifer Rasmussen (NELHA)  
Faustine Edge (NELHA)  
Bryan Babbitt (NELHA)  
Rae Nguyen (NELHA)  
Sherry Ortiz (NELHA)  
John Cole (AG)  
Mitch Ewan (HNEI)  
Aaron McCall (HNEI)  
Tom Fee (HHF)  
Mark Ladao (Hawaii Public Radio)  
Jamie Matsukawa (Shrimp Improvement Systems)  
Ian Sandison (Watanabe Ing LLC)  
Joyce Tam-Sugiyama (Watanabe Ing LLC)  
Dr. Jim Wyban  
Jeff Zimpher  
Member of the Public (Go Law)

Full Board meeting recording available at: Video Part A <https://youtu.be/e-rls8Yvw2I>  
and Video Part B [https://youtu.be/dztB\\_zVzmw4](https://youtu.be/dztB_zVzmw4)

- **Item 1. (1:00 p.m. video run time 0:01:38) 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. Ten members present and two excused.

- **Item 2. (1:07 p.m. Video Part A run time 0:06:35) Approval of NELHA Board Directors' May 20, 2025 Minutes.**

Chair Kalipi opened this item for discussion. Director Bruce moved to approve the May 20, 2025 Meeting Minutes, and the motion was seconded by Director Medina (1:07 p.m. Video Part A run time 0:06:56). The minutes were approved. (10-0) (1:07 p.m. video run time 0:07:09).

- **Item 3. (1:07 p.m. Video Part A run time 0:07:14) Approval of NELHA Board of Directors' May 20, 2025 Executive Session Meeting Minutes.**

Chair Kalipi opened this item for discussion. Director Wicker moved to approve the May 20, 2025 Executive Session meeting minutes, and the motion was seconded by Director Medina (1:08 p.m. video run time 0:07:34). The minutes were approved. (10-0) (1:08 p.m. video run time 0:07:55).

- **Item 4. (1:08 p.m. Video Part A run time 0:08:02) 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 (1:09 p.m. Video Part A run time 0:09:04) Update and Discussion regarding Complaint filed by Keahole Point Hatcheries LLC on May 7, 2025\***

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 Wicker made the motion to move to Executive Session, Vice Chair Miyashiro seconded the motion (1:10 p.m. Video Part A run time 0:09:43). The motion passed (10-0) and Directors went into Executive Session at 1:10 p.m. (video run time, Part A 0:10:03).

**Director Wicker left Executive Session and the Board Meeting at 1:45 p.m.**

The Board Directors returned from Executive Session at 1:53pm (video run time Part B, 00:00:09).

Chair Kalipi asked AG Cole to provide a brief summary. AG Cole stated that the Directors were in Executive Session pursuant to Section 92-5(a)(4) to consult on issues pertaining to Board powers, duties and liabilities. An update was provided on a complaint that was filed in May but not served meaning there is no active litigation yet.

- **Item 6a. New Business. Discussion and Decision Making regarding Fiscal Year 2027 Supplemental CIP Request. (1:54 p.m. video run time 0:01:22): Approval and Decision Making.**

ED Saito presented this agenda item, and Board Directors asked questions throughout. After the report, the Public was given an opportunity to ask questions or discuss.

Director Sims moved to approve the requests, and the motion was seconded by Director Medina (2:14 p.m. video run time 0:21:04). The request was approved. (9-0) (2:15 p.m. video run time 0:21:44).

- **Item 7. Financial Report (2:15 p.m. Video Part B run time 0:21:53): Approval and Decision Making.**

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

Director Wiltshire motioned to approve the Financial Report and Director Tsao seconded the motion (2:24 p.m. Video Part B run time **0:21:53**). The motion was approved (9-0) (2:24 p.m. video run time **0:31:02**).

- **Item 8. (2:24 p.m. Video Part B run time 0:31:04) 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.\***

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

- **Item 9. (2:42 p.m. Video Part B run time 0:48:53) Announcements**

- a. Date of the next regularly scheduled meeting is Tuesday, September 16, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

- **Item 9. (2:42 p.m. Video Part B run time 0:49:05) Adjournment.**

Chair Kalipi adjourned the meeting at 2:42 p.m. (video part B runtime **0:49:05**).

###