



# 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 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

August 19, 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**

Cyd Miyashiro (Gov. Appointee/Vice Chair)  
Gordon Bruce (Gov. Appointee)  
Alan Hilton (RAC Chair)  
Ian Hirokawa (DLNR)  
Dennis Lin (County of Hawaii)  
Neil Sims (Tenant Representative)  
Nathan Tsao (Tenant Representative)  
Dane Wicker (DBEDT)  
Dr. John Wiltshire (RAC Secretary)

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

Noelani Kalipi (Gov. Appointee/Chair)  
Jaclyn Kaina (HTDC)  
Dr. Chad Walton (University of Hawaii)

### **Guests/Staff Present**

Riley Saito (NELHA)  
Laurence Sombardier (NELHA)  
Alex Leonard (NELHA)  
Keith Olson (NELHA)  
Faustine Edge (NELHA)  
Pam Madden (NELHA)  
Rae Nguyen (NELHA)  
John Cole (AG)  
Alexia Akbay (Symbrosia)  
Naoki Ando (Kowa Premium Foods)  
Taishi Kurihara (Kowa Premium Foods)  
Cecilia Vijojoen (Kowa Premium Foods)  
Taiki Hayakawa (Akatsuki)  
Kazuki Itoh (Akatsuki)  
Kazunari Kubohara (Akatsuki)  
Megumi Shimoeda (Akatsuki)  
Go Kobayashi (Go Law)  
Hiroshi Arai (Kona Sablefish)  
Su Nguyen (Kona Sablefish)  
Mitch Ewan (HNEI)  
Mark Ladao (Hawaii Public Radio)  
Jeff Zimpher (National Park Services)  
Rocky HI (Member of the Public)

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

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

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Cyd Miyashiro (Vice Chair Miyashiro) at 1:01 p.m. Vice Chair Miyashiro asked Deputy Director (DD) Sombardier for a roll call of Board members and NELHA staff. Reference to Act 220. Eight members present and three excused.

- **Item 2. (1:06 p.m. video run time 0:05:17) Approval of NELHA Board Directors' July 15, 2025 Minutes.**

Vice Chair Miyashiro opened this item for discussion. Director Wiltshire moved to approve the July 15, 2025 Meeting Minutes, and the motion was seconded by Director Gordon (1:06 p.m. video run time 0:05:23). The minutes were approved. (8-0) (1:07 p.m. video run time 0:05:48).

- **Item 3. (1:07 p.m. video run time 0:05:53) Approval of NELHA Board of Directors' July 15, 2025 Executive Session Meeting Minutes.**

Vice Chair Miyashiro opened this item for discussion. Director Gordon moved to approve the July 15, 2025 Executive Session meeting minutes, and the motion was seconded by Director Tsao (1:07 p.m. video run time 0:06:05). The minutes were approved. (8-0) (1:08 p.m. video run time 0: 0:06:35).

- **Item 4. (1:08 p.m. run time 0:06:43) 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 5a. Old Business (1:08 p.m. video run time 0:07:14) Discussion and Decision Making regarding Request for Rent Adjustment for Symbrosia, Inc. Sublease K-14.**

**Director Wicker joined the meeting at 1:10 p.m.**

DD Sombardier presented this agenda item and Ms. Alexia Akbay, CEO of Symbrosia provided more details to her Request for Rent Adjustment. The Board and Public were given opportunity to ask and comment. Director Bruce made the motion to approve Symbrosia's request for rent adjustment with broader language from specific "obtain a county permit" to "obtain the necessary permits to commence construction". Director

Wiltshire seconded the motion (1:22 video run time 0:20:52). The motion was approved with amendments (9-0) (1:25 p.m. video run time 0:23:48).

- **Item 6a. New Business. (1:27 p.m. video run time 0:24:02) Discussion and Decision Making regarding Assignment of Kowa Premium Foods Hawaii Corporation dba Big Island Abalone Sublease K-6 to Akatsuki International Corporation.**

DD Sombardier presented this agenda item. Board Directors asked questions throughout. Director Hilton made a motion to approve the Assignment of Kowa Premium Foods Sublease K-6 to Akatsuki International Corporation. Director Wiltshire seconded the motion (1:55 p.m. 00:54:20). Vice Chair asked for a roll call vote: 7 ayes (1 with reservations), 1 nay (Director Wicker). Director Sims recused himself from the vote. Motion carried 7-1 (1:55 p.m. video run time 1:00:05)

- **Item 7. (2:04 p.m. video run time 0:01:10) Executive Director's Informational Status Report on ongoing projects including: Water Quality, OTA Well and Tsunami Event.\***

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

**Director Wicker left the meeting at 2:30 p.m.**

**Director Lin left the meeting at 2:33 p.m.**

- **Item 8. (2:39 p.m. video run time 1:37:34) Announcements**

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

- **Item 9. (2:39 p.m. video run time 1:37:40) Adjournment.**

Vice Chair Miyashiro adjourned the meeting at 2:39 p.m. (video runtime 1:37:40).

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