



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 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)
Cyd Miyashiro (Gov. Appointee/Vice Chair)
Gordon Bruce (Gov. Appointee)
Alan Hilton (RAC Chair)
Jaclyn Kaina (HTDC)
Dennis Lin (County of Hawaii)
Dave Molinaro (DBEDT Director Office)
Neil Sims (Tenant Representative)
Nathan Tsao (Tenant Representative)
Dr. Chad Walton (University of Hawaii)
Dr. John Wiltshire (RAC Secretary)

Board Members Not Attending and Excused

Ian Hirokawa (DLNR)

Guests/Staff Present

Riley Saito (NELHA)
Laurence Sombardier (NELHA)
Keith Olson (NELHA)
Bryan Babbitt (NELHA)
Pam Madden (NELHA)
Rae Nguyen (NELHA)
Jennifer Rasmussen (NELHA)
John Cole (AG)
Adrian Barefield (Sea Dragon Energy, Inc.)
Tom Fee (HHF Planners)
Justin Sugiyama (Cades Schutte LLP)
Jeff Zimpher (National Park Services)
Sophia Morgan (Watanabe Ing LLP)
Joyce Tam-Sugiyama (Watanabe Ing LLP)
Ryan Kagimoto (Member of the Public)
Mark Ladao (HPR)

Full Board meeting recording available at:

Part A: <https://youtu.be/IYsUnV9Qpp8>

Part B : <https://youtu.be/j1gJRX9UG7c>

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- **Item 1. (1:00 p.m. video run time - Part A 0:0:06) Call to Order.**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Noelani Kalipi (Chair Kalipi) at 1:01 p.m. Chair Kalipi asked Deputy Director Laurence Sombardier (DD Sombardier) for a roll call of Board members, NELHA staff and other present at the meeting. Reference to Act 220. Eleven members present and one excused.

Vice Chair Miyashiro joined the meeting at 1:03 p.m.

- **Item 2. (1:04 p.m. video run time - Part A 0:04:28) Approval of NELHA Board Directors' September 16, 2025 Meeting Minutes.**

Chair Kalipi opened this item for discussion. Vice Chair Miyashiro moved to approve the September 16, 2025 Meeting Minutes, and the motion was seconded by Director Lin (1:04 p.m. video run time 0:04:48). The minutes were approved. (11-0) (1:05 p.m. video run time 0:05:09).

- **Item 3. (1:05 p.m. video run time - Part A 0:05:13) 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 (1:06 p.m. video run time - Part A 0:06:01). Update and discussion regarding the Amended Complaint Filed by Keahole Point Hatcheries LLC on October 28, 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 Sims made the motion to move to Executive Session, Director Tsao seconded the motion (1:07 p.m. Video Part A run time 0:06:34). The motion passed (11-0) and Directors went into Executive Session at 1:07 p.m. (video run time, Part A 0:07:04).

Director Hilton joined the meeting in Executive Session at 1:20 p.m.

Director Bruce left the meeting in Executive Session at 2:10 p.m.

The Board Directors returned from Executive Session at 2:13 p.m. (video run time - Part B, 00:00:02).

- **Item 5. New Business.**

None.

- **Item 6a. Financial Report. (2:13 p.m. video run time – Part B 0:00:48) Approval and Decision Making.**

Director Lin left the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

Quorum was confirmed with nine Directors present. Executive Director Riley Saito (ED Saito) presented this agenda item. Board and Public were given an opportunity to ask questions or discuss.

ED Saito finished the Financial Report at 2:29 p.m. video run time - Part B 0:15:43)

- **Item 7. Executive Director’s Informational Status Report on ongoing projects including: 2026 Legislative session, FY26 budget planning, 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; contracts and agreements including master plan and EIS update.***

The agenda item was not presented.

- **Item 8. (2:30 p.m. video run time – Part B 0:16:05) Announcements**

- a. Date of the next regularly scheduled meeting is Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.

- **Item 9. (2:30 p.m. video run time – Part B 0:17:09) Adjournment.**

Chair Kalipi adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m. (video runtime 0:17:09).

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