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CARMEN HULU LINDSEY

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*Executive Director*

*KŪKULU KE EA A KANALOA*  
**KAHO'OLAWÉ ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION**

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**PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, March 22, 2016**

10:30 am

Department of Land and Natural Resources Boardroom  
Kalanimoku Building, 1151 Punchbowl St, Room 130  
Honolulu, Hawai'i

**COMMISSION MEMBERS**

**PRESENT:** Michele McLean, Chairperson; A. Nāmaka Whitehead, Vice Chair; C. Kaliko Baker, Ph.D.; Suzanne Case; Hōkūlani Holt; Joshua Kaakua, Ed.D; Carmen Hulu Lindsey

**KIRC STAFF:** Michael Nāho'opi'i, Executive Director (ED); Ka'ōnohi Lee, Administrative Officer (AO); Daniel Morris, Deputy Attorney General (DAG); Terri Gavagan, Commission Coordinator (CC)

**GUESTS:** Mary Segura, Alu Like, Inc.; Sterling Wong, Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA)

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:38 am. Quorum was established with seven Commissioners.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. Minutes of January 12, 2016 Regular Commission Meeting**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Lindsey moved to approve the minutes of January 12, 2016. Commissioner Holt seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** The Commissioners pointed out some misspellings; the motion was amended to include spelling corrections.

**ACTION:** The motion was approved by all Commissioners present.

**III. COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Sterling Wong (OHA) explained the reasons for OHA's opposition to HB2200, Relating to Native Hawaiian Resources. He provided the Commission with a copy of the bill and a copy of OHA testimony regarding HB2200 HD2 to the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs and Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture. He believed

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that wording in the bill lifts the KIRC Trust Fund above all the other Hawaiian programs. OHA also believed the bill was unconstitutional.

OHA would like the KIRC to come to its board and make a formal proposal. The Board of Trustees would vet the proposal against the many Hawaiian programs it funds. He also stated that OHA was awaiting more information from the KIRC about requested funding.

Chair McLean noted that the bill was deferred.

Commissioner Lindsey stated that she did support the KIRC receiving funding from general funds. She stated that ceded trust lands money was not an option from OHA's perspective.

Commissioner Case also stated that DLNR did not support the bill.

#### **IV. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

##### **A. Executive Director's Report**

ED Nāho'opi'i reported that there was a budget variance. Two items were unamended in the last budget. Funding for the Commission Coordinator's position for the rest of the fiscal year has been provided through a grant from the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) to manage a project to map archived items with web interface and a mobile application, and to add oral history video segments to the KIRC Living Library. Staff has found funding to continue the Base Camp maintenance contract through the rest of the fiscal year.

ED Nāho'opi'i reviewed the status of current and upcoming grant projects. The grant project funded by the Hawai'i Department of Health, Clean Water Branch in the Hakioawa Watershed will end in June 2016. There was a pending proposal for \$100,000 to extend this project for one more year. The Hui Kāpehe project funded through a grant by Alu Like is scheduled to end in August 2016. Ms. Segura (Alu Like) commented they were anticipating an extension of funding through August 2017 and possibly another year after that. The Biosecurity Implementation Plan for the Island of Kaho'olawe Project will end in August 2016. The KIRC was a sub grantee to Island Conservation for the Kaho'olawe Island Seabird Restoration Project.

Chair McLean reminded staff to notify Commissioners if letters of support would help grant proposals so that Commissioners could have an opportunity to submit letters of support to staff to include in the grant packets.

Commissioner Kaakua asked how staff was responding to grant writing in addition to their other activities. ED Nāho'opi'i responded that it had taken time to retrain staff's thinking about pursuing grants. AO Lee added it was a networking opportunity to connect with other professionals in their fields.

Commissioner Lindsey asked about request of funds from Congress. ED Nāho'opi'i responded staff has two federal appropriations requests that went to the Senate. One complication was that the Senate can only increase existing funding. No new money

could be requested. There was still a rehabilitation/environmental trust fund line item in the Department of the Navy's budget with a \$0 balance. That was the original funding source for the Navy cleanup. Staff submitted a request for \$3 million to transfer into trust accounts. Staff still would have to work with the Navy to receive the money since it would go directly to the Navy. The same request was made last year. Staff was also looking at EPA funding from the Clean Water Branch. Commissioner Lindsey asked about returning to the original agreement. ED Nāho'opi'i explained that Title X allows the KIRC to make an application directly to the Secretary of the Navy for more money. It also required that the Secretary of the Navy to consider the request. If the request was reasonable the money had to be awarded to the KIRC. There currently was no money in that trust account.

ED Nāho'opi'i reported that Commissioner Kaakua passed his confirmation hearing in the Senate. Vice Chair Whitehead's term will expire on June 30, 2016 and staff had reminded the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana to submit names to the Governor for her replacement. Staff was to check with Boards and Commissions on the current process of renewing Commissioner Holt's term.

The State Auditor's office was preparing a final report on their audit of the KIRC. Their major findings were the trust fund was running out of money and that no estimate was given of the cost to restore the entire island. ED Nāho'opi'i noted that staff provided the State Auditor with the six year financial plan approved by the Commission in concept and I Ola Kanaloa.

ED Nāho'opi'i reported that the solicitation for the Honokanai'a Alternative Energy Project was posted last week. There was a preconference meeting scheduled for March 29 and a site visit for potential contractors scheduled on March 31. The selection committee members were ED Nāho'opi'i, Commissioner Kaakua and DLNR Engineering Division Project Manager Clyde Tomihara. The priorities for the project (in order of preference) were:

- 1) photovoltaic conversion
- 2) reverse osmosis
- 3) renovation of the galley
- 4) replacement of roofs

The bid was for design build. Staff was hopeful that a contract could be signed in August 2016.

ED Nāho'opi'i reported that the solicitation for the Marine Debris CIP Project was posted last week. The entire project would be contracted out.

ED Nāho'opi'i reported that staff was currently working with DLNR Engineering to release funds for the Kīhei Site CIP project. Staff was hoping to hire a contractor within the next fiscal year.

ED Nāho‘opi‘i reviewed the long range schedule and noted that volunteer trips have been scheduled through June only until funding projections can be made for the next fiscal year.

ED Nāho‘opi‘i reported that spending is on track and that there are three current contracts.

### **C. Legislative Update**

ED Nāho‘opi‘i reviewed the status of legislation concerning the KIRC. HB2034 HD1, Appropriation to Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve did cross over to the Senate for a hearing. The bill in its current form does not have a monetary amount or current effective date. The companion bill is SB2582 SD1 which will not be heard. There was a joint hearing of the Senate Water and Land Committee and Senate Hawaiian Affairs Committee during which the original amount of \$600,000 and the effective date July 1, 2016 were reinserted. This was the final form of the bill going into the Committee on Ways and Means (WAM). WAM needed to pass the bill so that it could go into conference. There are two and half more weeks of hearings and then conference starts. There was also HB438, Appropriation, which was still sitting at conference which has a funding amount of up to \$3 million from General Funds. ED Nāho‘opi‘i noted that only one bill would be approved; most likely HB2034. He also noted that WAM could change the amount in HB2034, depending on the amount of available money. Staff has given WAM a breakdown of how the \$600,000 would be utilized.

HB2035 HD1, Desalinization Pilot Project, did well going through the House. It had a triple committee hearing in the Senate which was difficult to schedule. A joint hearing was scheduled with Senator Shimabukuro’s help but decision making was deferred. Only the Committees on Water and Land and the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs passed the bill. There was concern from the Committee on Economic Development and Technology (EDT) which had not seen Kaho‘olawe projects. Their concern was that it was a pilot project and that the KIRC did not have any experience with this type of work. Staff explained that the KIRC did have a lot of experience with desalinization and photovoltaic. This project could help develop a system that could be used in areas like Waianae which do not have access to a lot of fresh water. It did pass EDT with reservations so it was moving to WAM. The amount being requested was \$500,000. Staff will create a budget for WAM which includes the construction of a desalinization plant to augment the CIP project. It will also include the renovation of the water distribution system which was not included in the CIP project. This would mean more storage, reconstruction of the piping as well as construction of holding tanks along the shoreline and water would be pumped to these tanks for irrigation. This funding was not included in the financial plan.

HB2200 HD2, Public Lands Trust Fund was deferred as was SB2761, Native Hawaiian Burials.

**V. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Authorize the Executive Director to Post a Solicitation for Base Camp Management Contract**

ED Nāho‘opi‘i provided the background and summary of the Base Camp management contract. The contract will expire June 30, 2016 and cannot be extended because the contract has already been extended three times. Staff recommended that a solicitation for FY17 Base Camp Management Services be issued in order to establish the Base Camp Management budget obligation for the FY17 Annual Budget and to ensure a contract is in place on July 1, 2016. Staff will ask for the camp to be run on a two week per month basis. This might be amended if more funds become available. It was estimated that the contract would run under \$200,000.

Chair McLean noted that the descriptions in the invitation for bids were outdated. The Commission requested that the staff update the descriptions and that Hawaiian names be used for locations and buildings.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Lindsey moved to authorize the Executive Director to solicit the Base Camp Management contract for the period July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. Vice Chair Whitehead seconded the motion.

**ACTION:** The motion was approved by all Commissioners.

**VI. PROGRAM STATUS UPDATES**

**A. Status Update on current and planned Restoration Program Projects: DOH III+ project; HCF II project; Island Conservation (IC) Grant: Wildlife Surveys; Hawai‘i Invasive Species Grant (HISC)-Bio-security Implementation Plan; Micro propagation of *Kanaloa kahoowawensis* at Lyon Arboretum**

ED Nāho‘opi‘i reported that the HCF II project was completed in December. Staff hoped to start implementing the Kaho‘olawe Island Seabird Recovery Project Business Plan funded by the sub grant from IC within the next two years.

The draft of the first quarterly report to the Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council (HISC) of the Biosecurity Implementation Plan for the Island of Kaho‘olawe (October 2015-December 2015) was reviewed. This will be incorporated into the Access Guide training. ED Nāho‘opi‘i also reported that there has been an increase in the amount of fountain grass found on the island. The mouse bloom was not as large as expected.

Chair McLean stated the overgrowth of glycine at LZ One should be corrected in case there was an emergency and helicopter services were needed.

ED Nāho‘opi‘i explained that staff had not been back to island to check on the kanaloa plant. KIRC and Lyon Arboretum staff were still trying to figure out the contamination issue regarding its micropropagation. The plant at Maui Nui Botanical Gardens produced a seed pod for the first time.

ED Nāho‘opi‘i referred the Commission to the Christmas Bird Survey. Staff was to let the Commission know what “cw” meant on the survey. The Commission noted that the native birds seemed to have decreased.

ED Nāho‘opi‘i noted that there was a nursery now at the Kīhei property. Students from Kīhei Charter School have been working at the site. Eventually the plants grown there will be taken to island. Pōhuehue was currently being grown to help stabilize the hillside by the boat house. There were also trellises with ipu plants growing along the fence line. The hale frame was up but thatching still needed to be done.

There was a discussion about the status of the Hakilo. It was still in the process of being repaired. The Ocean Program would like to use the boat for diving operations.

**B. Status Update on current Ocean Program Projects: DLNR/JTMD Grant-Kanapou Marine Debris Clean Up; On Island Surveys-HCF Grant; Coastal Monitoring; Mooring Installation/Removal & R.O. (Reverse Osmosis) Intake Maintenance; Permitted Trolling Registration**

ED Nāho‘opi‘i discussed the marine debris cleanup at Kanapou. Staff and volunteers picked up 2.75 tons of debris. The last debris cleanup was in December 2014. An average of 1.5 tons per year accumulates at Kanapou. Dives were done to repair the intake line for the RO system and to set moorings.

**C. Status Update on current and planned Cultural Program Projects: Hui Kāpehe Program; Site 110BU Stabilization Plan; Kīhei Property; Ala Loa and Kahualele Honokanai‘a**

ED Nāho‘opi‘i explained that interns from the Hui Kāpehe are on island today. They will be helping to establish an overnight camp site at Luamakika so that interns can stay up there while planting crops in the crater. Staff may look into receiving agricultural grants to fund this project.

ED Nāho‘opi‘i stated that staff was looking to purchase Hesco baskets for use in the stabilization of Site 110BU since the people who have expertise with dry stack were no longer available. The baskets would be placed at the base of the hillside. They would be filled with rocks and stitched closed and stair step up. Volunteers have stockpiled rocks at the site. The National Guard may help in the transport portion of the plan. Dr. Francis and her engineering doctoral candidates set up a weather station near the site and a flow meter upstream of Pōkāneloa. These will be pulled out this summer and data analyzed to develop a water and erosion model. The collected data will be shared with the KIRC at a later date. The erosion control methods included erosion socks across the hardpan. Staff was trying to divert the water flow away from the head of that area.

ED Nāho‘opi‘i reported that Kline's Gulch was now passable. There was discussion about using FEMA or other federal funding to work on the road in that area to make it ready for flooding.

Vice Chair Whitehead asked about the status of the relocation of Pōkāneloa. Staff responded that the PKO was in the process of building a model of it so that the model could be used at different locations to determine a relocation spot. Vice Chair Whitehead stated that she did not think the relocation was contingent on using the model. She recommended revisiting the approved motion or coming up with a new plan. Staff explained that the first part of the site stabilization plan was finished and staff was waiting for the model to be completed so that a relocation plan could be completed. This would be done once the model was completed and the site picked. Staff needed to shore up the site but was still staging the materials. ED Nāho‘opi‘i added that there may be a way to move it 10 feet back. The model was also going to help to determine the density and the weight of the stone. Commissioner Baker said that he thought that data had been done. ED Nāho‘opi‘i commented it may weigh more than 4000 lbs. which would too heavy for a huey to lift. It would require a CH-47. Staff will speak to the Air National Guard about help moving the pōhaku. The current priority was building the retaining walls for the site. Vice Chair Whitehead asked if there was a timeline for completion. Staff responded that there was no established timeline; work on the site was being done opportunistically.

ED Nāho‘opi‘i reported that work was still continuing on Kahualele Honokanai‘a and access support was still needed.

**VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS/FYI**

There were no announcements from Commissioners.

**VIII. NEXT MEETING AND FOLLOW-UPS**

The Commission decided the next meeting would be held in Honolulu on Monday, May 16 at 9:00 am.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 pm.