



*KŪKULU KE EA A KANALOA*  
**KAHO‘OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION**

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COMMISSION MEMBERS

MICHELE MCLEAN  
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JOSHUA KAAKUA, Ed.D  
*Vice-Chair*

C. KALIKO BAKER, Ph.D.  
SUZANNE CASE  
JONATHAN CHING, D.ARCH  
HŌKŪLANI HOLT  
CARMEN HULU LINDSEY

Michael K. Nāho‘opi‘i  
*Executive Director*

**PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, June 26, 2017**

1:30 pm

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

**COMMISSION MEMBERS**

**PRESENT:** Michele McLean, Chairperson; Josh Kaakua, Ed.D, Vice Chair; C. Kaliko Baker, Ph.D.; Suzanne Case (arrived at 1:49 pm); Hōkūlani Holt; Carmen Hulu Lindsey

**EXCUSED:** Jonathan Ching, D. Arch

**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:** None

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 pm. Quorum was established with five Commissioners.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. Minutes of April 4, 2017 Regular Commission Meeting**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Holt moved to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2017 Regular Commission Meeting. Commissioner Lindsey seconded the motion.

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

**III. COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Commissioner Baker stated he was asked by Dr. Davianna McGregor to read her statement at the meeting as she was unable to attend. He read her testimony, which is on file with the Commission and which relates to a private Facebook post about accesses by canoe clubs.

ED Nāho‘opi‘i explained that canoe club partnerships were an attempt to increase participation in restoration projects as well as a way to respond to logistics challenges due to the down time of the ‘Ōhua. He also explained that the specifics of this program were included in the November 2016 newsletter on pages 5-6. He clarified that the participants do not have volunteer status until they reach the island. The clubs are required to provide detailed float and safety plans.

Commissioner Lindsey asked if this program had been approved by the Commission. ED Nāho‘opi‘i stated it had been administratively approved as part of the Restoration Program.

Chair McLean stated she was bothered by the wording of the Facebook post. ED Nāho‘opi‘i pointed out that it was posted on a private Facebook page, not the office KIRC page.

DAG Morris cautioned that it was not completely accurate to say volunteer protection is equivalent to worker’s compensation.

#### **IV. ACTION ITEMS**

##### **A. Review and Approve Budget for FY18**

ED Nāho‘opi‘i explained that the Commission was being asked to A) accept \$1,065,147 as detailed in the proposed budget to fund KIRC staff positions and Administration Program expenses as approved in the State Administration’s budget and B) approve the expenditure of approximately \$266,168 from the Kaho‘olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund to fund two current reimbursable grants projects, start a third reimbursable grant project and to support volunteer accesses through FY18.

ED Nāho‘opi‘i explained that the state budget for FY18 was signed. The proposed KIRC budget was designed to support the continuation of two current grant projects, the Hui Kāpehe Program (funded by Alu Like) and KIRC Virtual Museum Project (funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services). The KIRC also received preliminary notification of a water security grant of approximately \$100,000 (funded by Commission on Water Resource Management). It should start in September 2017. The cost for that project was included in the proposed budget. Commissioner Baker asked for more details regarding the water security grant. Commissioner Case explained it concerns fresh water management. ED Nāho‘opi‘i explained it was to increase fresh water infiltration into the ground to raise water table levels. This grant would allow staff to increase irrigation which would increase planting which in turn would increase water penetration into the soil. Commissioner Baker asked about possible effects on the Pōkāneloa site. ED Nāho‘opi‘i responded there would be none from this grant project. The proposed budget included funding for Base Camp operations through December 2017. He also stated that additional funding would be necessary to continue volunteer accesses beyond December 2017 upon the award of two pending award announcements as well as the release of the Kaho‘olawe Native Dryland Forest CIP in the State Administration’s budget. An amended budget would then be submitted to the Commission for approval.

Commissioner Case noted that this was the first time Kaho‘olawe was included in a line item in DLNR’s budget. However, DLNR lost chief administrator positions and received no capital improvement project funding for watershed management. She cautioned the Commissioners to be mindful of this although there was no direct correlation.

ED Nāho‘opi‘i stated that personnel costs and costs related to the operation of the KIRC Maui office would be funded by State General Funds, and the Trust Fund would fund those grant projects which are reimbursable—Hui Kāpehe, the Water Security Grant, and the Virtual Library.

ED Nāho‘opi‘i noted that the budget would have to be amended at least once pending grant awards and the release of State CIP funds, and he reviewed the possible changes to the budget. The contracts of more than \$50,000 would need Commission approval. Staff clarified that the current contract with Zapata runs through December 2017 after which the funding should come from the Dryland Forest CIP project. Chair McLean noted that it can take a while to get CIP funding released. Chair McLean added that the Commission would also need to approve budget changes due to HCF and OHA grants, if awarded.

Staff noted that it would need to research who needed to approve purchases for the CIP funded projects.

Vice Chair Kaakua asked what the KIRC was trying to achieve regarding its financial health. Staff explained that funding sources included Trust Fund, General Fund and grants. ED Nāho‘opi‘i responded that the ideal was explained in the KIRC Financial Sustainability Plan. The state funding was for staff and will cover the positions that were filled at the time of submittal to the legislature. Staff will also be pursuing additional grants. The Kīhei site was to be used to generate revenue.

Chair McLean asked about the balance of the Trust Fund. Staff responded it was \$365,000 as of May 31, 2017.

There was a discussion about the relationship between the department and its commissions. Commissioner Case noted that the Commission handles the governance and oversight for Kaho‘olawe and DLNR handles it fiscally. The KIRC was unusual in that it has a combination of General Funds and Trust Fund funding which need Commission approval before spending.

- MOTION:** Commissioner Lindsey moved to:
- A. Accept \$1,065,147 appropriation budget as detailed to fund KIRC staff positions and Administration Program expenses as approved in the State Administration’s budget.
  - B. Approve the expenditure of approximately \$266,168 from the Kaho‘olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund to fund two current reimbursable grants projects, start a third reimbursable grant project and to support volunteer accesses through FY18.
- Commissioner Holt seconded the motion.

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

## V. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

### A. Legislative Update

ED Nāho‘opi‘i provided updates on KIRC-related legislative bills:

- HB100 HD1 SD1 CD1, State Budget-was signed on June 22, 2017
- HB620 HD1 SB1, Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission; Appropriation-died in conference because funding for the KIRC was provided in the State Budget
- HB621, Desalinization; Photovoltaic Energy; Kaho‘olawe; Appropriation-was not picked up by the Senate
- HB1234, Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission; Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2016-(correction of an error in Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2016) the correction was included in the State Budget
- HB622, Kaho‘olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund, Public Land Trust, OHA-crossed over to the Senate but was not picked up for a hearing

ED Nāho‘opi‘i also reported that Commissioners Baker and Holt were confirmed by the Senate to serve additional terms on the KIRC.

### B. Executive Director’s Report

ED Nāho‘opi‘i reviewed the budget variance report. The variance within the Commission Program’s personnel costs occurred because the CC’s position was to be funded by General Funds but the KIRC was awarded another IMLS grant so that the CC’s position was shifted to the trust fund so that her salary could be reimbursed by that federal grant. The variance in the Operations Program was due to the cost of ‘Ōhua repairs, the cost of the ‘Ōhua trailer and the Base Camp Security Camera system, all of which were not in the original budget. The security camera’s cost was reimbursable under a Maui County OED grant. There was also a variance in the personnel cost within the Restoration Program due to the current Restoration Specialist II position remaining within the program. The person in that position will move to the Maintenance and Vessel Operator position in the Operations Program. Actual spending was not expected to exceed the overall FY17 budget.

ED Nāho‘opi‘i reviewed the grant status update. The ground water recharge project consists of planting in upper Hakioawa slope areas.

ED Nāho‘opi‘i reviewed the long range schedule in the Commission packet.

Vice Chair Kaakua asked if the Kaho‘olawe Island Seabird Restoration Project had a component related to mice removal. ED Nāho‘opi‘i explained that staff was limited by the type of available bait for controlling mice only in populated areas. Staff was researching information such as the potential effects on the pueo population for an EIS regarding the entire island. Vice Chair Kaakua and Commissioner Baker commented that something needed to be done about the mice on the island for health and safety reasons and that there should be a long term goal of getting rid of all mice.

Commissioner Baker asked how staff was filling the void with no Cultural Resources Project Coordinator (CRPC) in infusing culture into KIRC activities. ED Nāho‘opi‘i responded that it was a combination of staff, particularly GIS/LAN Specialist Noneza, AO Lee and ED Nāho‘opi‘i helping with the training program. ED Nāho‘opi‘i was providing SHPD oversight. GIS/LAN Specialist Noneza was working with cultural practitioners from Maui for the training of Hui Kāpehe interns. KIRC staff were also included in that training. ED Nāho‘opi‘i also included in his updates to the Commission how the staff was incorporating culture into their activities.

Commissioner Case was excused from 3:15 pm to 3:37 pm

There was additional discussion about incorporating culture into KIRC activities. Commissioners Baker and Holt volunteered to field cultural questions from staff.

Commissioner Lindsey was excused at 3:40 pm.

ED Nāho‘opi‘i reported that the UXO/Safety Officer position was funded by the legislature because it was filled at the time the legislation was submitted. Most of the duties are being covered by Zapata because Eric Brundage is a UXO technician.

ED Nāho‘opi‘i reported that Hōkūle‘a, Hikianalia and Fa‘afaite visited Kaho‘olawe on June 10 and spent the night. There was an ‘awa ceremony in cooperation with the PKO.

ED Nāho‘opi‘i reported that the repairs on the ‘Ōhua were completed.

ED Nāho‘opi‘i reported that the PVC project at Base Camp needed more batteries than originally anticipated based on data from data logger. The plan was to stockpile equipment in Honolulu, place the equipment on a barge and ship the barge to Kaho‘olawe in January. The equipment would be airlifted by helicopter off the barge to Base Camp. The different projects should be built over a couple of months.

ED Nāho‘opi‘i reported that staff would start seeking a contractor to do the design for the Kīhei Education and Operations Center once the funding is released. The objective was to come up with the design, cost-estimates and drawings for the construction.

ED Nāho‘opi‘i reported that the photovoltaic security cameras have been installed and are operational. He reported there would be an installation of a Wi-Fi hub throughout Base Camp in order to secure higher speed Wi-Fi for staff. It would cover the buildings associated with the board walks.

DAG Morris reported that the small claims suit made against the KIRC was resolved with the Maui District judge who dismissed the case with prejudice.

DAG Morris was excused at 3:47 pm.

### **C. Review Current Month’s Expenditure Report**

ED Nāho‘opi‘i stated that the variances were already covered earlier in the Executive Director’s report.

**VI. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES**

Vice Chair Kaakua asked when the last time a survey of burial sites was conducted. Staff responded approximately four years ago. It was agreed one needed to be done.

Vice Chair Kaakua stated that some PKO members wanted to know how they could coordinate with the KIRC regarding fundraising. ED Nāho‘opi‘i responded fundraising efforts should be coordinated with PIS McHugh.

There was a discussion about coral bleaching within the Reserve. ED Nāho‘opi‘i commented that Ocean Program staff anticipated that the bleaching would be worse this summer.

There was a discussion of the apparent success of the erosion abatement project by the KIRC and the PKO for the Lāna‘i side lua in Hakioawa. Vice Chair Kaakua stated that the member on the last PKO access wanted to mahalo KIRC staff for all of their support.

**VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS/FYI**

There were no announcements by the Commissioners. There were no questions about the FYI items listed in the Commission packet.

**VIII. NEXT MEETING AND FOLLOW UPS**

CC Gavagan to poll Commissioners for a possible meeting in December.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 pm.