



*KŪKULU KE EA A KANALOA*  
**KAHO'OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION**  
**KŌMIKINA MĀLAMA KAHO'OLAWE**

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**DRAFT PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, June 26, 2023**

1:00 pm

In person at 1151 Punchbowl St, Room 132

Honolulu, HI

Online via ZOOM and livestreamed via YouTube

**COMMISSION MEMBERS**

**PRESENT:** Josh Kaakua, E.D., Chairperson; Carmen Hulu Lindsey, Vice-Chair;  
Dawn Chang; 'Ānela Evans; Saumalu Mataafa (attending remotely)

**EXCUSED:** Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.; Michelle Pescaia

**KIRC STAFF:** Michael Nāho'opi'i, Executive Director (ED); Daniel Morris, Deputy  
Attorney General (DAG); Terri Gavagan, Commission Coordinator (CC);  
Margaret Pulver, Public Information Specialist (PIS); Dean Tokishi,  
Ocean Resources Program Manager (ORPM); Paul Higashino, Restoration  
Program Manager (RPM)

**IN PERSON**

**GUESTS:** Manuel Kuloloio; Chris Sabine, University of Hawai'i; Amy Markel,  
University of Hawai'i; Davianna McGregor, Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana;  
Kahale Saito

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm. Roll call was conducted, and quorum was established with five Commissioners.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. Minutes of February 27, 2023 Regular Commission Meeting**

**MOTION:** Vice-Chair Lindsey moved to approve the minutes of February 27, 2023. Commissioner Mataafa seconded the motion.

**ACTION:** The motion was approved unanimously via roll call: Commissioner Chang-aye; Commissioner Evans-aye; Commissioner Mataafa-aye; Vice-Chair Lindsey-aye; Chair Kaakua-aye

### III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Kaakua stated that the public was welcomed to make comments at any time during the meetings. No public comments were made at that time.

### IV. ACTION ITEMS

#### A. Review and Approve a Research Access Request from the University of Hawai'i to Conduct Sairdrones water quality testing

ORPM Tokishi asked that the Commission authorize the Executive Director to allow Dr. Christopher Sabine of the Department of Oceanography, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, to sample water quality from nearshore waters to 2.75 nautical miles out from Kaho'olawe using autonomous surface vehicles.

Ms. Merkel explained that the project's goal was to survey water quality all around the main Hawaiian Islands. Autonomous vehicles will be used in a zigzag pattern from nearshore to offshore. Nearshore measurements would be taken at 5 nautical miles inshore to avoid damage to corals and the nearshore environment.

ED Nāho'opi'i requested Ms. Merkel explain the sampling methodology. She responded that the sairdrones are autonomous vehicles which are monitored 24/7. They allow the researchers to bring sensors synoptically around the islands. They would travel in a zigzag pattern; giving transects from nearshore to offshore around the entire island. The sensors would measure temperature, salinity, pH levels, dissolved oxygen, and carbon dioxide in the water and in the air which would tell researchers more about how climate change might be affecting different areas of the island and if there are localized hot spots.

The project time period was projected to be one to five days in Reserve waters during a non-trolling period and the researchers provide advance notification. The researchers were hoping to conduct the research in the early part of July.

Vice-Chair Lindsey asked if they were intending to conduct research along all the islands. Dr. Sabine responded they had already conducted this research around Hawai'i Island and Maui and were now conducting the research around O'ahu and Kaua'i. Vice-Chair Lindsey asked if they would be doing a report. Ms. Merkel responded a fiscal report would be done and that the data would be available publicly via the PacIOOS website.

Commissioner Chang asked what the transects would be compared against. Dr. Sabine responded that the data would be the baseline and that they would be monitoring patterns in chemistry changes and looking at climate and local affects in contrast to the populated islands.

Commissioner Chang asked if they intended to monitor the water in the future. Dr. Sabine responded they hoped so, depending on funding.

Commissioner Chang asked if it would be helpful to the state and would the data be used for commercial purposes. Dr. Sabine responded that all published papers would be available to the public and that there would be no other commercial uses of the data.

Commissioner Mataafa asked if the researchers were covering all costs. Dr. Sabine affirmed that they would be covering all costs.

**MOTION:** Vice Chair Lindsey moved to authorize the Executive Director to allow Christopher Sabine PhD., Department of Oceanography, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, to sample water quality from nearshore waters around Kaho'olawe using autonomous surface vehicles. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion.

**ACTION:** The motion was approved unanimously via roll call: Commissioner Chang-aye; Commissioner Evans-aye; Commissioner Mataafa-aye; Vice-Chair Lindsey-aye; Chair Kaakua-aye.

**B. Approve the KIRC Budget for FY2024**

ED Nāho'opi'i reviewed a PowerPoint presentation of the proposed budget for FY2024. The recommended motion was to accept the general fund appropriation of \$1,828,660, approve the trust fund expenditure of \$409,076 and a total operating budget of \$2,237,736 for FY2024. This was \$172,088 more than last year. The budget does not include any non-reimbursable trust fund moneys to be used in FY2024. He explained that the operations budget was increased due to new positions.

ED Nāho'opi'i explained that general funds were unable to be spent until the second quarter in FY2023 resulting in the large carryover from last year's budget.

There would be a net zero effect on the trust fund.

Commissioner Chang asked how reimbursements work. ED Nāho'opi'i responded that it depended on the type of grant. For instance, with the state Department of Health (DOH) the KIRC needs to spend the money, bill the DOH and then the DOH cuts a check to the KIRC. If it is a federal grant the KIRC would need to use whatever federal grant program software that agency uses, such as grant.gov, ASAP, etc. Some allow for reimbursements or draw downs.

ED Nāho'opi'i noted that that trust fund balance at the end of FY2023 was \$486,445 and at the end of FY2024 it was projected to be \$586,445. He reviewed the handouts included in the Commission packet. He noted that prior to 2016 there was a net loss in the trust fund balance. From 2016-2021 there was an increase in the trust fund balance. The goal was to increase the trust fund balance.

Commissioner Mataafa thanked ED Nāho'opi'i for his presentation. He stated he liked to see staff trying to limit the amount that comes out of the non-reimbursable trust funds. When he went through the budget memo, he went back to see the impact to the trust fund and the balance of \$586,000 that was left in there. He looked at last year's presentation at what was the projected trust fund balance. It said that there would be a little over \$1 million by this point last year. He expressed concern about the base camp contract extension which was being spent out of the non-reimbursable trust fund, yet the Commission just approved almost \$500,000 in February for this

management contract. When looking at the projected balance at the end of this fiscal year which was a little over \$1 million and the actual number now which is about \$586,000—that's almost \$500,000 that was no longer in the trust fund. Staff would look to re-extend the base camp management contract and it was going to cost another \$500,000. He was concerned that it was going to empty the trust fund leaving little less than \$100,000. He stated when he looked at the amount of income and interest received it amounted to about \$100,000 every fiscal year which does not cover the \$500,000 expense. He asked if there was the expectation that in the future the state was going to give the KIRC the money to continue to operate this contract. If not, he was really concerned that the trust fund would be run into the ground if the KIRC does not do something almost immediately.

ED Nāho'opi'i responded the state funding of \$400,000 from the last legislative session was for the Base Camp contract.

ED Nāho'opi'i explained there was a loss in revenue due to the boat and reverse osmosis system being inoperable.

Commissioner Mataafa stated that he thought there was a problem with the way the ending and the starting cash balance was being reported. When he looked at last year's projected money and the money that was actually taken out does not add up to him. This was done last year as well; staff had already taken out the grant income and was projecting that even with that amount taken out there would be a little over one million dollars left in the trust fund at the end of FY2023. The grant income was taken out and already accounted for this year as well. He was trying to figure out where that extra money went since the balance at the end of FY2023 is \$486,000.

ED Nāho'opi'i responded that the \$486,000 was a very conservative, low-end estimate. At the beginning of the year, the KIRC could not encumber the base camp contract with the general funds given to the KIRC because the funds were not awarded until the second quarter so trust funds had to be expended. Staff was currently working with fiscal to get the money returned to the trust fund. Staff was unsure of how much would be returned. Hopefully at least \$150,000-\$200,000 will be returned and replaced with general funds this year. There was also a large carryover from last year. Staff was working with DLNR/Fiscal to resolve the end of year money issue. He hoped to by the next Commission meeting to have the amount that was returned to the trust fund and the exact amount of general fund carry over the KIRC would have. Staff did not anticipate using the trust fund except in reimbursable situations.

Commissioner Mataafa thanked ED Nāho'opi'i. He thought the difference he was seeing was the \$500,000 base camp contract. He was having difficulty with the base camp contract amount of \$500,000 and the income generated without the state's help was \$100,000. He understood that the state would be paying for the base camp contract from this point on but wanted to know if this was a secure source for the KIRC

ED Nāho'opi'i confirmed the base camp contract was going to be paid by state funding and that it was a secure source of funding. He explained that one of the

justifications for making this a permanent addition to the KIRC's general fund allocation was that the base camp was a permanent cost that the KIRC would have to incur. The only other option would be to transfer the base camp operation to state employees and there may have been an analysis conducted previously which indicated it would actually cost more. Part of the increase was related to a union issue of prohibition of multi-skilled labor that crosses different unions such as a plumber doing electrical work.

Chair Kaakua stated he shared Commissioner Mataafa's concept of how the KIRC was managing its business. He knew that the trust fund was not only the money, but it was also what sets the Commission apart from other agencies. It has power in having those funds. Previously he wondered should the KIRC engage aggressively to increase the trust fund to \$2-3 million. He was advised by others if there was a lot of money in the trust fund the legislature would request those monies be spent first. One million dollars was his conception of being bare bones where the KIRC could seek operational money. The KIRC was using the trust fund money in reimbursement situations for many activities, not just sitting on it. He wanted the Commission to be aware of sticking to one million dollars. He thanked the KIRC staff as being one of the most entrepreneurial staffs around. He cautioned the Commission to be aware and not let the trust fund burn away.

Commissioner Chang appreciated Chair Kaakua's and Commissioner Mataafa's perspectives. She also stated it was her impression that the legislature feels it was the state's obligation to help pay for the operational cost so that the trust fund could be used more for the mission of Kaho'olawe. She felt it was a balance; the state should not get too involved in the KIRC's business, but the KIRC should want the state to assume some responsibility for some of the overall operations. The base camp was a necessary on-going safety expense, but the cultural, educational and stewardship projects were being viewed as the kuleana of the Commission and its staff. The state was providing at least the bare minimum for operations. She felt that in the past the legislature never felt it was their obligation to put any money into the KIRC. She therefore felt it was a compromise and that the Commission should think about increasing the trust fund through other sources but continue to pass on operational costs to the legislature.

ED Nāho'opi'i stated that the KIRC was looking at general funds to cover the base operations which included personnel and the island infrastructure, including the boat and anything which gets staff and volunteers to island and allows them to stay on island. Staff has been very successful with grants to pay for all the projects. He thought that staff had found a good balance. He also stated that it was difficult to have a time phase budget with the state because sometimes the reimbursement timing was inconsistent.

Commissioner Mataafa stated he was grateful that the state was giving the KIRC money for base camp operations, but that this source could be fickle; it was not necessarily promised every year. He wanted to make sure that the KIRC was financially sound. He wanted to take a close look at the Base Camp management contract at the next meeting.

Commissioner Chang stated that the staff needed to make the legislature understand that the Base Camp contract was crucial to the KIRC's operations as well as to the state's liability regarding safe access to the island.

**MOTION:** Vice-Chair Lindsey moved to accept \$1,828,660 general appropriation budget, as detailed, to fund KIRC staff positions and program expenses as approved in the State Administration's budget. Commissioner Mataafa seconded the motion.

**ACTION:** The motion was approved unanimously via roll call: Commissioner Chang-aye; Commissioner Evans-aye; Commissioner Mataafa-aye; Vice-Chair Lindsey-aye; Chair Kaakua-aye.

**MOTION:** Vice-Chair Lindsey moved to approve the expenditure of approximately \$409,076 from the Kaho'olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund to fund reimbursable grants projects and non-reimbursable operations.

**ACTION:** The motion was approved unanimously via roll call: Commissioner Chang-aye; Commissioner Evans-aye; Commissioner Mataafa-aye; Vice-Chair Lindsey-aye; Chair Kaakua-aye.

**C. Adopt Resolution for Hulu Lindsey-In Recognition Of Her Contributions  
Toward the Healing of Kanaloa, Kaho'olawe**

ED Nāho'opi'i read the resolution into the record:

WHEREAS, the term of Carmen Hulu Lindsey as a Commissioner and the representative of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) on the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) will come to an end on June 30, 2023, after eight noteworthy years; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Lindsey has represented Maui as an OHA Trustee since 2012 and is the current chair of the OHA Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Lindsey is a former properties administrator for Maui Land & Pineapple Company as well as the former administrator for the County of Maui's Land Use and Code Division.; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Lindsey has also owned her own real estate company for more than 40 years, is a long-time member of 'Ahahui Ka'ahumanu, an active member of the Central Maui Hawaiian Civic Club and an award-winning recording artist; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Lindsey was first appointed to the KIRC on March 23, 2015, by the Honorable David Y. Ige, Governor of the State of Hawai'i; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Lindsey was reappointed to the KIRC to serve a second term on March 23, 2020 by the Honorable David Y. Ige, Governor of the State of Hawaii; and



WHEREAS, Commission Lindsey provided a direct conduit to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, allowing the KIRC to work closely with trustees and staff to further the KIRC's mission objectives; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Lindsey's long connection to Maui and its communities as well as her tireless service to improve the lives of Native Hawaiians has been a benefit that has strengthened the KIRC's reach and ability in restoring Kaho'olawe; and

WHEREAS, while serving as a KIRC Commissioner, Commissioner Lindsey's extensive background in legislative affairs provided experience and sound advice in helping the KIRC navigate through the legislative process as well as provided a second advocate that helped championed KIRC's needs directly to our legislative leaders; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Lindsey has served faithfully for eight years as a commissioner, with passion, commitment; and

WHEREAS, with the completion of Commissioner Lindsey's term of service, the KIRC will lose a visionary commission and vocal advocate with deep knowledge and expertise; and

WHEREAS, though Commissioner Lindsey will leave her seat on the KIRC, it is clear that her support for Kaho'olawe is not over and that she will continue as an advisor and supporter of the rebirth, healing and restoration of Kaho'olawe for years to come; and

NOW THEREFORE, on this day, the twenty-six day of June in the year 2023, on the island of Oahu,

BE IT RESOLVED by the KIRC that a significant record of achievement has been accomplished by Carmen Hulu Lindsey in the areas of leadership, community relations and legislative engagement of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission, all in the spirit of healing Kaho'olawe; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, through the leadership of Carmen Hulu Lindsey, Kaho'olawe will be restored as a rich cultural and environmental resource for Hawai'i's people, and through her actions and support, Kaho'olawe has become a model of native Hawaiian stewardship and management; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Carmen Hulu Lindsey has served the KIRC with dignity and dedication; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to Hawai'i's congressional delegation, the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana, the Mayor of the County of Maui, and the Chairperson and Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

Vice-Chair Lindsey stated that she enjoyed her time on the Commission and that she felt protective and passionate towards Kaho‘olawe. She thanked staff, the Commissioners and ED Nāho‘opi‘i.

Chair Kaakua stated that he saw a lot of role models on the Commission and that they put ego aside. He felt they were good leaders, and he had a prime seat to serve with Hōkūlani Holt and Vice-Chair Lindsey.

Vice-Chair Lindsey responded that it was heartwarming to see people like Chair Kaakua.

Commissioner Evans thanked Vice-Chair Lindsey for that she does for the lāhui and for Kaho‘olawe as well as being a role model on how to lead and be a humble servant.

Commissioner Mataafa thanked Vice-Chair Lindsey for her leadership.

ED Nāho‘opi‘i personally thanked her for playing tag team with him in working with the legislature and her understanding of the KIRC’s requirements when approaching the legislature.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Mataafa moved to adopt Resolution for Hulu Lindsey-In Recognition Of Her Contributions Toward the Healing of Kanaloa, Kaho‘olawe. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion.

**ACTION:** The motion was approved by unanimously via roll call: Commissioner Chang-aye; Commissioner Evans-aye; Commissioner Mataafa-aye; Vice-Chair Lindsey-aye; Chair Kaakua-aye.

**C. Adopt Resolution for Joshua Kaakua-In Recognition Of His Contributions Toward the Healing of Kanaloa, Kaho‘olawe**

ED Nāho‘opi‘i read the resolution into the record:

WHEREAS, the term of Joshua Kaakua as a Commissioner and the representative of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana on the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) will come to an end on June 30, 2023 after eight noteworthy years; and

WHEREAS, Commission Kaakua graduated from Punahou Schools and received his undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Notre Dame, masters in Business Administration from the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (UHM) and a doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of Southern California; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Kaakua is currently a Diversity Specialist for the University of Hawai‘i Office of STEM Education charged with providing UH system-wide leadership and support for STEM activities at UH and in Hawai‘i; and



WHEREAS, Commissioner Kaakua's relationship with Kaho'olawe began over 21 years ago as a member of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana where he serves as a Kua and trained as a KIRC Access Guide with kuleana to guide safe and meaningful accesses to Kaho'olawe; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Kaakua was first appointed to the KIRC on July 1, 2015, by the Honorable David Y. Ige, Governor of the State of Hawai'i and was elected to serve as Vice Chairperson starting December 1, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Kaakua was reappointed to the KIRC for a term starting June 30, 2019 where he was appointed by the Honorable David Y. Ige, Governor of Hawai'i as Chairperson of the KIRC on August 8, 2019; and

WHEREAS, while serving as a KIRC Commissioner, Commissioner Kaakua's background in engineer has been critical in supporting the commission's capital improvement projects including the design, selection and construction of the Honokanai'a Renewable Energy project and the conceptional designs for the Kaho'olawe Operations and Education Center at Kihei; and

WHEREAS, while serving as the KIRC Chairperson, Commissioner Kaakua was vital in the KIRC's legislative successes through his personal testimonies in the various House and Senate committee hearings; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Kaakua has served faithfully for eight years as a commissioner, with passion, commitment; and

WHEREAS, with the completion of Commissioner Kaakua's term of service, the KIRC will lose a visionary commissioner and engineer with deep knowledge and expertise; and

WHEREAS, though Commissioner Kaakua will leave his seat on the KIRC, it is clear that his work on Kaho'olawe is not over and that he will continue as an advisor and supporter of the rebirth, healing and restoration of Kaho'olawe for years to come; and

NOW THEREFORE, on this day, the twenty-six day of June in the year 2023, on the island of Oahu,

BE IT RESOLVED by the KIRC that a significant record of achievement has been accomplished by Joshua Kaakua in the areas of leadership, community engagement and expanding the infrastructure of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve, all in the spirit of healing Kaho'olawe; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, through the leadership of Joshua Kaakua, Kaho'olawe will be restored as a rich cultural and environmental resource for Hawai'i's people, and through his actions and support, Kaho'olawe has become a model of native Hawaiian stewardship and management; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Joshua Kaakua has served the KIRC with dignity and dedication; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to Hawai'i's congressional delegation, the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana, the Mayor of the County of Maui, and the Chairperson and Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

Chair Kaakua announced that PKO had chosen Kahale Saito as the new PKO representative on the Commission, pending Senate approval. He thanked his mentors including Auntie Davie McGregor and especially Uncle Emmett Aluli. He stated that he tried to give his best and got a lot out of his time on the Commission. He thought of himself as a Kaho'olawe guy, but he is also a big champion of the KIRC, PKO and Kaho'olawe. He stated it was a pleasure working with the other Commissioners. He expressed confidence in ED Nāho'opi'i and the team he has created and that the KIRC needed to look at building long-term island management for when ED Nāho'opi'i leaves. He was looking forward to supporting Kaho'olawe and the KIRC's work. He stated that in his role as Commissioner he very much wanted to do his very best in that role and he wanted to continue supporting the work of the island. He felt that when not on the Commission he can get into more trouble and really push the effort from a different angle.

Commissioner Chang commented that the first Commissioners were ardent advocates and noted that it was easy to advocate from the outside. However, as Commissioners it was hard to balance interests. She thanked Chair Kaakua for his good work.

Vice-Chair Lindsey stated she was impressed with Chair Kaakua and felt that the PKO and the Commission have become one in protecting the island. She hoped that Kaho'olawe would be cleaned up for the lahui and would continue fighting for the cleanup. She thanked Chair Kaakua for his service.

Commissioner Mataafa also thanked Chair Kaakua, appreciated his perspective and congratulated him on his achievements.

Commissioner Evans echoed all the previous statements and thanked Chair Kaakua for his service to the KIRC, PKO and Kaho'olawe and for making a commitment to the Island for his and his keiki's lifetime. She stated one of her best experiences with him was going with him and Uncle Emmett to the capitol rotunda and talking to all the senators. It helped her to understand that side of things regarding Kaho'olawe. She thanked him for his service and leadership.

ED Nāho'opi'i thanked Chair Kaakua for his help on all the construction projects, specifically with the state's first design build project.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Mataafa moved to adopt Resolution for Joshua Kaakua-In Recognition Of His Contributions Toward the Healing of Kanaloa, Kaho'olawe. Vice-Chair Lindsey seconded the motion.

**ACTION:** The motion was approved by unanimously via roll call: Commissioner Chang-aye; Commissioner Evans-aye; Commissioner Mataafa-aye; Vice-Chair Lindsey-aye; Chair Kaakua-aye

Dr. McGregor (PKO) thanked Chair Kaakua and Vice-Chair Lindsey for their service on the Commission. She appreciated the progress on the island and the accomplishment of getting the Base Camp operations cost and staff's salaries funded via legislative general funds. She stated that the Chair and Vice-Chair were key to this success. She stated that she thought the Base Camp contract was very important with regard to liability and that UXO training was critical to island operations. She also thanked the Commission for keeping commercial development out of the Reserve. She thanked the Chair and Vice-Chair for protecting the island. Mahalo nui loa.

### C. Election of Vice Chair

ED Nāho'opi'i explained that after this meeting the current Chair and Vice-Chair will no longer be on the Commission. The Commission will need to elect a temporary acting Vice-Chair who would conduct the next meeting. Once the Commission is at full strength it could make a recommendation for the next KIRC Chair to the governor.

**MOTION:** Vice-Chair Lindsey nominated Commissioner Mataafa as acting Vice-Chair. Commissioner Chang seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** Commissioner Mataafa asked if any other Commissioners was interested in serving as Vice-Chair.

Chair Kaakua commented today's action was for a temporary acting chair. He would like the Commission to submit a recommendation for Chair at the next meeting and elect a Vice-Chair who would conduct meetings until the governor appoints a chair. He noted that Commissioner Mataafa would still be on the Commission (pending the Maui County Mayor's request), Commissioner Evans would also still be on the Commission as well as Commissioner Pescaia with whom he had a conversation during which he explained that with he and Vice-Chair Lindsey vacating, the DLNR Chair helped the KIRC navigating the legislature but in the past did not serve as KIRC Chair, and OHA was still determining its choice that someone would need to step up as Chair or Vice-Chair. Commissioner Pescaia shared with Chair Kaakua that she was not interested in serving as Chair but would be willing to serve as Vice-Chair. Chair Kaakua also stated that Commissioner Evans was willing to do whatever was needed on the Commission so he said that he would nominate both of them. Chair Kaakua also stated that Commissioner Mataafa was capable of moving the KIRC to the next level. He stated that this was just an intermediate step and when the Commission is at full strength it should have this discussion again. He wanted to make sure the Commission was set up to continue its work.

Vice-Chair Lindsey stated that there was a seconded motion for Commissioner Mataafa to be acting Vice-Chair. Chair Kaakua and Commissioner Chang stated they were okay with that.

Commissioner Chang stated that in her opinion that the leadership should be from the PKO and that group and the rest of the Commissioners were there to support. In the brief time she had been on the Commission Commissioner Mataafa has really demonstrated his ability to ask the right questions. She thought he did not mind stepping in and getting the Commission ready and bringing a slate together, maybe Commissioner Evans and Commissioner Pescaia.

Commissioner Mataafa stated he did not mind stepping up so that the Commission can get through its next meeting and letting the new Commission select its leadership. He was more than happy to support Commissioner Pescaia and Commissioner Evans if they choose to be the new Chair and Vice-Chair and accepted the nomination.

**ACTION:** The motion was approved by unanimously via roll call: Commissioner Chang-aye; Commissioner Evans-aye; Commissioner Mataafa-aye; Vice-Chair Lindsey-aye; Chair Kaakua-aye

Vice-Chair Lindsey was excused at 2:33 pm.

## V. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

### A. Legislative Update

ED Nāho‘opi‘i reviewed the bills which were introduced during the legislative session relating to Kaho‘olawe as listed in the handout provided in the Commission packet. He noted that the KIRC’s actions on these measures were underlined in the document. Elements of a house bill and senate bill providing funding for the KIRC was integrated into HB300 which was the proposed state budget. When the bill was sent to Ways and Means (WAM) the KIRC funding request was not included so the KIRC submitted testimony in opposition to the bill. Staff corresponded with the members of WAM to explain that the KIRC opposition was based on the exclusion of KIRC funding. When the bill was submitted to the conference committee it passed with amendments to provide funding of \$400,000 for both FY24 and FY25 as well as second year funding for two new positions and was transmitted to the Governor.

ED Nāho‘opi‘i explained that this was a unique year with a new administration and a new program identification number for the KIRC in the state’s budget to make KIRC distinct. The target for next year’s session was adding a couple of more positions. Senator McKelvey and other Maui legislators recommended that the KIRC submit a financing request for the construction of the Kihei Operations and Education Center.

ED Nāho‘opi‘i reported that an island access was scheduled in September for the House Water and Land Committee.

There was a recess from 2:42 pm to 2:50 pm.

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

ED Nāho'opi'i reported that the KIRC was project to be 15%-18% under budget by at the end of FY2023.

ED Nāho'opi'i noted that the long-range schedule was included in the Commission packet, but that the KIRC was awaiting PKO dates. He also stated that planning would need to begin for the Pacific Canoe Festival next June.

Commissioner Mataafa stated that Mayor Bissen sent a letter to the Governor requesting that Commissioner Mataafa continue on the Commission and that he had submitted his application to Board & Commissions but had not yet heard anything.

ED Nāho'opi'i reported that staff was still working on reorganization.

## **VI. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES**

### **A. Status Update on Current Commission/Administration Projects**

The Commission decided to review the grant project updates on their own due to time constraints except for the update on the Maui Ocean Center (MOC) exhibit as requested by Commissioner Mataafa.

PIS Pulver explained the exhibit was installed in 2018 and opened in early 2019. The Maui Ocean Center was shut down during the pandemic, so the exhibit was only offered virtually. The MOC reopened in 2021. The exhibit consists of old photographs and the installations from both the Smithsonian and Bishop Museum exhibits from the 1990s and early 2000s. It was functioning well until a year and half ago when the wear and tear from visitors took its toll. The MOC made some slight changes to the videos, some have been reformatted. Some are longer and more informative. The topographical map that was created for the Smithsonian and Bishop Museum exhibits has fallen into significant disrepair. Staff has asked the MOC to have their electrician look at it to see if they could repair it. The MOC did say they could look at it and that it was just a simple fuse. PIS Pulver was just there, and all the pictures are out and only two lights are working. The MOC requested that the KIRC add more digital resources such as QR codes on some of the posters. Staff has submitted a proposal request to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority's (HTA) Kukulu Ola program for \$40,000 to help fund some of these repairs and some reinstallations as well as revamping in terms of expanding the content to include more recent and current restoration efforts which are not necessarily currently featured in the exhibit per Commissioner Mataafa's suggestion. A poster requesting donations was recently installed. One donation was received utilizing the QR code. Hopefully it will become a small revenue generator.

ED Nāho'opi'i added that the MOC approached the KIRC regarding the exhibit components which had been in storage for more than 20 years and offered to build an exhibit with those items at the MOC at no cost to the KIRC. The KIRC entered into a long-term loan agreement with the MOC. The MOC also donated \$10,000 to both the KIRC and the PKO. The MOC has also offered larger spaces for fundraisers. There was a good working relationship between the KIRC and the MOC.

**VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS/FYI**

There were no announcements from the Commission.

**VIII. NEXT MEETING AND FOLLOW UPS**

The Commission decided to review I Ola Kanaloa and analyzing what progress has been made to determine what modifications may be needed for the next strategic plan.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm.

**DRAFT**