



KŪKULU KE EA A KANALOA

KAHO'OLawe ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION KŌMIKINA MĀLAMA KAHO'OLawe

811 Kolu Street, Suite 201, Wailuku, HI 96793
Telephone (808) 243-5020 Fax (808) 243-5885
Website: <http://kahoolawe.hawaii.gov>

DRAFT PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 23, 2025

9:00 am

In person at 1151 Punchbowl St, Room 132
Honolulu, HI

Meeting recording located at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ayaYMytpEbA>

PRESENT: Michelle Pescaia, Chair; Faith Kahale Saito, Vice-Chair; J. Kalama Chock; Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D; Justin Keoni Souza

EXCUSED: Commissioner Chang; Commissioner Mataafa

KIRC STAFF: Michael Nāho'opi'i, Executive Director (ED); Terri Gavagan, Commission Coordinator (CC); Ashley Razo, Public Information Specialist (PIS); Dean Tokishi (Ocean Resources Program Manager); Carmela Noneza (GIS Specialist)

PUBLIC: Kylee Mar (Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana [PKO]); Davianna McGregor (PKO) (attended remotely); Manuel Kuloloio

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 am by Chair Pescaia. Roll call was conducted, and quorum was established with five Commissioners.

II. ACTION ITEM

A. Approve Proclamation relating to the 50th Anniversary Kaho'olawe 'Ohana

ED Michael Nāho'opi'i stated that the recommended motion was to authorize the Executive Director to sign on behalf of the members of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission a proclamation relating to the 50th Anniversary of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana.

He explained that January 4, 2026, will mark the 50th anniversary of the first protest landing on Kaho'olawe that eventually lead to the birth of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana ('Ohana), stopping the bombing on Kaho'olawe, the return of the waters and the island of Kaho'olawe and the creation of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve and Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC).

The Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana was planning a year-long celebration in 2026 of their 50th anniversary and the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission and staff intend to join their 'Ohana counterparts as allowed by statute. The attached proclamation is being offered by the KIRC to document the 'Ohana's history and achievements relating to Kaho'olawe.

He also noted the proclamation included input from all KIRC Commissioners and their constituents. Staff was requesting that the Executive Director be authorized to sign this proclamation on behalf of the Commission as the most efficient way to convey this document timely prior to January 4, 2026.

Vice Chair Saito requested an amendment to the proclamation. She explained that some PKO members wanted to include the work of the ‘aha of Ka Ipu a Kāne, the rain ceremony, initially started by Aunty Hoku Holt Padilla in 1997 and stating that PKO continues to conduct this ceremony annually. She included the verbage in the chat so all attending the meeting could see it. Vice Chair Saito further explained that Aunty Hoku was a KIRC employee at the time this ceremony was initiated but had been a supporter from the 1980s. This project was a collaborative effort by the PKO and the KIRC and had recently been discussed in the Maui News with respect to the County of Maui’s interest in revitalizing this lei na ulu (lei of rain) which connects Maui, Kaho‘olawe, Lāna‘i and Moloka‘i.

Chair Pescaia asked if it would make sense to include it in paragraph six on page two. Vice Chair Saito agreed.

ED Nāho‘opi‘i stated that the proclamation could be redrafted to include the additional language and then he could sign it.

Chair Pescaia noted that Dr. Davianna McGregor wrote in the chat that the proclamation was well researched and thoughtfully worded.

MOTION: Commissioner Souza moved to authorize the Executive Director to sign on behalf of the members of the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission a proclamation as amended relating to the 50th Anniversary of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana. Vice-Chair Saito seconded the amendment.

ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously via roll call: Chair Pescaia-aye; Vice Chair Saito-aye; Commissioner Chock-aye; Commissioner Pang-aye; Commissioner Souza-aye

ED Nāho‘opi‘i stated that once he has signed the proclamation it will be placed in PDF format, copies will be forwarded to the PKO. KIRC staff will make an announcement in the KIRC’s social media accounts which will include a link to the proclamation. ED Nāho‘opi‘i also explained that he would be attending the press conference scheduled on January 4, 2026 at the Bailey House on Maui to read the proclamation.

III. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 am.