



KŪKULU KE EA A KANALOA
KAHO'OLAWÉ ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION

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PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

9:00 am

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

COMMISSION MEMBERS

PRESENT: Joshua Kaakua, E. D, Chairperson; Suzanne Case; Jonathan Ching, D. Arch; Hökūlani Holt; Saumalu Mataafa; Michelle Pescaia (arrived 9:30 am)

EXCUSED: Hulu Lindsey

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

GUESTS: Keoni Fairbanks; Manuel Kuloloio; Davianna McGregor

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 am by Chair Kaakua. Quorum was established with five Commissioners.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes of August 1, 2019 Regular Commission Meeting

MOTION: Commissioner Mataafa moved to approve the minutes of August 1, 2019 regular Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ching.

ACTION: The motion was approved by all Commissioners present.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. Review and Approve Legislative Positions 2020 Session

Approved 9/21/20

ED Nāho‘opi‘i provided the Commission with an update of the status of bills related to Kaho‘olawe as of the end of the last legislative session.

ED Nāho‘opi‘i explained that \$100,000 for the KIRC was budgeted in the last state budget. Staff initially requested an additional \$500,000 be allocated to the KIRC for operations and logistical support when the DLNR portion of the administration’s budget was submitted to Budget and Finance. Budget and Finance’s recommended budget did not include the additional \$500,000. Staff decided not to appeal the decision and to pursue the allocation through a separate legislative request.

Staff would also be requesting funding for two positions via a legislative request. The positions would be Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Specialists (KIR) to help provide support for all KIRC field staff.

Chair Kaakua recessed the meeting from 9:30 am to 9:45 am. Commissioner Pescaia was sworn in.

Chair Kaakua introduced Commissioner Pescaia from the ‘Ohana and invited her to introduce herself. Commissioner Pescaia stated that she was born and raised on Moloka‘i. Her grandmother was one of the first kūpuna to help create a path toward increased access to Kaho‘olawe and its stewardship. Her father shared mo‘olelo about traveling to Kaho‘olawe prior to the return of the island. Her ‘ohana always had a special connection to Kaho‘olawe. Her grandmother was four years old when she attended the last of the traditional Makahiki games in 1919. Her family has been passionate about perpetuating those traditions on Moloka‘i and how they relate to Kaho‘olawe. Her family continue to take their keiki to Kaho‘olawe every year for Makahiki ceremonies. She noted the history of the role the ceremonies played in the formation of the Commission. She really holds the kuleana of the ceremonies special to her community and would continue to build the capacity of access to Kaho‘olawe for Moloka‘i people. She is a ranger for Kalaupapa. Kalaupapa is similar to Kaho‘olawe specifically with regard to government oversight as well as the specialness it has to the Hawaiian community and the greater community, specifically its fragile environment and rich history. Both have need of remediation while moving forward. She likes to come from a place of asset building and appreciative inquiry to make things better. She brings the aloha of her island and of the ‘Ohana. She is a kua in training as well as her husband and brothers. She recently became an access guide. Commissioner Pescaia stated she was honored to serve on the Commission.

Chair Kaakua welcomed her to the Commission.

A. Review and Approve Legislative Positions 2020 Session (continued)

ED Nāho‘opi‘i reviewed a draft bill which focuses on funding for Base Camp and continuation of restoration projects. Staff will request the bill be introduced by Sen. Shimabukuro and Rep. Yamane.

Commissioner Mataafa asked if it included funding for the two KIR positions. ED Nāho‘opi‘i responded this version did not but if the legislators were interested in adding the positions, he has another version that includes the positions.

ED Nāho‘opi‘i reviewed the Legislative Supplemental CIP Request for FY20. Staff did not request CIP funding in the Administration’s supplemental budget. A request was written in case a legislator was willing to add it in. It would need to be a representative’s district request. In this case it would need to come from Rep. Wildberger so staff would need to speak with her to see if it could be part of her CIP request. The request could also come from Sen. Baker, Sen. English or another legislator. The request asks for funding for the planning and design of the Kīhei Education and Operations Center and the building of the Bio-Secure Nursery.

Staff was working on a marketing packet including the summary that describes the building and the justification for the building. This will be distributed to the Commission. It will also be posted on the KIRC website for public access.

Commissioner Case stated that the KIRC was attached to DLNR. DLNR submits its own budget. She was worried that in this transition of KIRC funding to state funding that it is not displacing DLNR funding. She recognized that the Commission shared that priority. The KIRC’s budget request goes through DLNR. When asked, Commissioner Case is very supportive of the KIRC. She noted that the KIRC budget request may or may not show up in the final administration budget request.

ED Nāho‘opi‘i added that the initial budget request has already been submitted to the governor and the governor was currently deciding what would be included in his budget request to the legislature.

Commissioner Ching asked if the project estimates included the cost of surveying. ED Nāho‘opi‘i responded it should be included in civil.

MOTION: Commissioner Mataafa moved to approve the legislative positions for the 2020 session. Commissioner Holt seconded the motion.

ACTION: The motion was approved by all Commissioners present.

It was noted that members of the Legislative Working Group needed to be updated. It was determined that the agenda would need to be amended.

MOTION: Commissioner Ching moved to amend the agenda to establish a Legislative Working Group. Commissioner Mataafa seconded the motion.

ACTION: The motion was approved by all Commissioners present.

MOTION: Commissioner Ching moved to appoint Chair Kaakua and Commissioner Mataafa as members to the Legislative Working Group. Commissioner Holt seconded the motion.

ACTION: The motion was approved by all Commissioners present.

B. Review and Approve Proposed CY 2019 Access Dates and Activities for the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana

ED Nāho‘opi‘i explained based on the Stewardship Agreement (‘Aelike) between the KIRC and the PKO, the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana (PKO) provides access dates and activities for Commission approval each calendar year. Per the current ‘Aelike, all accesses will be approved and authorized. The actual element of the activity being conducted during the access will be evaluated as being an authorized activity. It simplifies approval. If an incident occurs on island an evaluation and investigation will be conducted by the Department of the Attorney General (DAG) regarding what activity the injured person was doing at the time of the injury to determine the level of State representation.

KIRC staff and PKO members will hold its annual meeting in December to determine logistics for next year.

There were no changes in activities. ED Nāho‘opi‘i noted that Makahiki would occur during Thanksgiving next year. It would be the 40th anniversary of Makahiki on Kaho‘olawe. Ka Holokalani (Rain Ceremony) would be hosted at Honokanai‘a as a joint access. Staff was appreciative of PKO’s early submittal of dates.

Chair Kaakua recognized former Commissioner Baker’s work in coordinating efforts between the KIRC and the PKO regarding logistics.

MOTION: Commissioner Holt moved, pursuant to HAR §13-261-13 and Section 8 of the Palapala ‘Aelike Kahu‘āina, to approve the proposed access dates and activities for the 2020 calendar year requested by the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana as KIRC approved and authorized activities. Commissioner Ching seconded the motion.

ACTION: The motion was approved by all Commissioners present.

It was noted that with Commissioner Baker’s term expiration another Commissioner needed to be named to the Stewardship Working Group (SWG). DAG Morris stated that the agenda would need to be amended since the item was not on the agenda.

MOTION: Commissioner Ching moved to amend the agenda to include assign a Commissioner to the Stewardship Working Group. Commissioner Holt seconded the motion.

ACTION: The motion was approved through roll call: Chair Kaakua-aye; Commissioner Case-absent; Commissioner Ching-aye; Commissioner Holt-aye; Commissioner Mataafa-aye; Commissioner Pescaia-aye.

- Discussion:** There was a discussion on whether the stewardship meetings could be conducted remotely. Commissioner Pescaia inquired what the kuleana would be to serve on the SWG. ED Nāho‘opi‘i responded the person would represent the Commission in negotiations regarding the ‘Aelike. DD Lee also explained the SWG would ensure that the ‘Aelike was being followed. Commissioners Ching, Pescaia and Chair Kaakua volunteered to serve on SWG.
- MOTION:** Commissioner Ching moved to have Commissioner Pescaia assigned as the Commission representative to the Stewardship Working Group. Commissioner Holt seconded the motion.
- ACTION:** The motion was approved through roll call: Commissioner Case-absent; Commissioner Ching-aye; Commissioner Holt-aye; Commissioner Mataafa-aye; Commissioner Pescaia-aye.

Commissioner Ching stated based on counsel’s advice the Commission should plan ahead for items such as replacing Commission members on working groups so that the agenda does not have to be amended.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

A. Executive Director’s Report

ED Nāho‘opi‘i reported that the KIRC was 31% through its budget for FY20 and on track for spending. There were no major discrepancies in the budget.

ED Nāho‘opi‘i referred the Commission to the long-range schedule. Staff has tried to coordinate the KIRC access schedule with the PKO access schedule. He noted that June accesses were pending Pacific Island Festival schedule. Members of the Geophysics Department at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa will be on one of the March accesses. Members from the cleanup crew will be returning to Kaho‘olawe in April. Staff will begin working on a NOAA mini-grant with Maui High School during the July access.

ED Nāho‘opi‘i stated that with Chair Kaakua being named Chair by Governor Ige the Commission needed to elect a Vice Chair. The Commissioners asked what the kuleana of the Vice Chair is. Staff explained that it included acting in the place of the Chair when the Chair is absent from meetings. ED Nāho‘opi‘i suggested that it be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

ED Nāho‘opi‘i explained that the Administrative Officer (AO) position was currently vacant. Staff will start candidate interviews next Tuesday.

ED Nāho‘opi‘i referred the Commission to the perspective views of the KIRC Plant Nursery to be built at the Kīhei property. He noted that one Conex will be used as covered storage for planting material. Biosecurity measures included placing plants on concrete slabs. Staff is looking at utilizing a prefabricated building kit to minimize costs.

Commissioner Ching asked for the construction cost of the nursery. ED Nāho‘opi‘i estimated the cost at \$826,000.

ED Nāho‘opi‘i reported the KIRC received a NOAA grant of \$76,000 for marine debris cleanup. Staff was still working with NOAA on specifics. The KIRC was the beneficiary of a fundraiser at Pā‘ia Flatbread Company. There was also a possibility of a future fundraiser in cooperation with the Maui Brewing Company.

ED Nāho‘opi‘i reported that the Status of the Kaho‘olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund was filed with the legislature and copies were provided to the Commission.

VI. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES

A. Status Update on Current and Planned Restoration Projects: DOH Restoration Project; Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Dry Forest

ED Nāho‘opi‘i updated the Commission on the DOH Restoration Project which being conducted right above the south trail going down to Hakioawa. These areas are only surface cleared. Staff started with rock mounds, allowing the wind to blow dust into the holes. The rock mounds have been extended to rock corridors. Staff and volunteers were currently using wattles (long burlap strips filled with rocks or wood chips) across the hardpan. Soil has been added behind the wattle. Plants were being planted in depressions. Wattles were built to help native plants such as a‘ali‘i survive. ED Nāho‘opi‘i reported there were naio growing up to 6 feet tall on hardpan on way to Hakioawa.

Commissioner Case asked if there were any signs for naio thrips on Kaho‘olawe. ED Nāho‘opi‘i responded he would have staff check on the naio on the next access.

B. Status Update on Current Ocean Program Projects: NOAA Bay Watershed Educational Training (B-WET) Grant; Learning ‘Āina Through Kaho‘olawe and Arts Integration; Outreach and Education; Coastal Planting Project

ED Nāho‘opi‘i explained he had asked ORPM Tokishi how the B-WET training impacted Pōmaika‘i students. ORPM reported that it helped over 100 students. A musical was created based on what the students learned from the curriculum. The musical was taken to other schools and was seen by over 1000 students. It was an example how small accesses affect larger numbers of people.

ED Nāho‘opi‘i updated the Commissioners on the two sailboats that had entered Reserve waters. The first sailboat landed at Ahupū. The captain was sailing from California and was headed to Hawai‘i Island. The boat was taking on water in the channel and the captain abandoned ship. The Coast Guard picked him up and removed all the fuel. Oils and contaminants. Parker Salvage tried to salvage the boat. They were notified that there was ordnance in the area. As they were trying to tow it off the middle of the beach one of the divers saw a potential UXO. Both the company and KIRC staff agreed that they should abandon the tow. The boat has since moved down the beach and was breaking apart. There was a request to

salvage parts to build a shelter and is available for salvage. KIRC staff will help to remove the metal. KIRC staff would later return to clean up what was not salvaged. The other sailboat landed during the middle of Makahiki. The boat was from Ma‘alaea and its anchor line broke. Staff thanked the PKO for helping to salvage as much as possible from the boat. The items were brought to the KIRC Boat House and the owner retrieved his sails, etc. Parker Salvage did go and towed it out of the Reserve.

- C. Status Update on Current Commission Projects: Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) Virtual Museum Web Interface and Mobile App; Kahoolawe Virtual Museum Stage 3: Collaborations & Special Collections**
CC Gavagan reported that KIRC Virtual Museum-Stage 2: Digital Expansion-Living Library & Kaho‘olawe Island Guide mobile app project funded by Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) was completed on July 31, 2019. Staff was now working on another grant from IMLS for \$75,000—KIRC Virtual Museum-Stage 3: Collaborations & Special Collections which will focus on reorganization of the KIRC Archive room and rehousing and cataloging of a sample of the Navy Collection of artifacts as well as utilizing an improved database and Living Library website design.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FOLLOW UPS

Commissioner Ching discussed the new electric vehicles coming out from Tesla and Ford in the next couple of years.

VIII. NEXT MEETINGS AND FOLLOW UPS

The Commission discussed the possibility of having the next Commission meeting in February. CC Gavagan will poll the Commissioners regarding their availability.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.