Due to the threat of COVID-19, Governor Ige issued the most recent Emergency Thirteenth Supplementary Proclamation dated September 22, 2020 that suspends parts of Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter 92, Public Agency Meetings and Records to, among other things, enable boards to conduct business without any board members or members of the public physically present at the same location.

The OHA Board of Trustees will hold virtual meetings until further notice. The virtual meetings can be viewed and observed via livestream on OHA’s website at www.oha.org/livestream or listen by phone: (213) 338-8477, Webinar ID: 944-5127-0032

Minutes of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs Board of Trustees and Moloka'i Island Community Meeting
Tuesday, October 8, 2020
5:30 pm

ATTENDANCE:
TRUSTEE COLETTE MACHADO
TRUSTEE BRENDON KALEI'A'INA LEE
TRUSTEE LEINA'ALA AHU ISA
TRUSTEE DAN AHUNA
TRUSTEE KALEI AKAKA
TRUSTEE W. KELI'I AKINA
TRUSTEE CARMEN HULU LINDSEY
TRUSTEE ROBERT K. LINDSEY
TRUSTEE JOHN WAIHE'E IV

BOT STAFF:
CAROL HO'OUMANAWANUI
LÖPAKA BAPTISTE
DAYNA PA
LAURENE KALUAU-KEALOHA

GUESTS:
KAUI MANERA
MERCY RITTE
WALTER RITTE
LORI BUCHANAN

ADMINISTRATION STAFF:
SYLVIA HUSSEY, CEO
RAINAGUSHIKEN, CC
EVERETTOHTA, CC
KEVIN CHAK, IT
MEHANAHIND, CE
MARCBANTOLINA, IT

I. CALL TO ORDER

Trustee Colette Machado Calls the Board of Trustees and Moloka'i Island Community meeting to order at 5:30 pm. She states that no excused absences were received. Roll call is taken to identify the Trustees that are participating; Trustees Ahu Isa, Ahuna, Akaka, Lee, Carmen Hulu Lindsey, and Machado are present, constituting a quorum of seven Trustees. Trustee Keli'i Akina and Trustee Robert Lindsey are expected to join shortly. She announces the following:

5:31 pm Trustee Keli'i Akina joins the meeting.

Welcome to the Board of Trustees Maui Island Meeting. As a reminder, please mute your mic until you need to speak to eliminate any background noise, which make it difficult to hear and affects the quality of the sound on the livestream.
Trustees and the OHA CEO who are joining by videoconference, please enable your camera if you are able to do so. All other OHA staff please enable your camera when you need to address the Board. When you would like to speak, unmute your mic, and address the Chair to be recognized. When the Chair recognizes you, proceed to speak. Please mute your mic when you are done.

At the prompting of the Chair, the Board Secretary will do a roll to determine quorum and when the Board votes on matters.

If you are disconnected, we will pause the meeting for one (1) minute and wait for you to log back on. After one (1) minute, we will proceed with the meeting provided we have a quorum.

If you need to leave the meeting, please inform the Chair by announcing you are leaving the meeting.

We are recording today’s meeting for the sole purpose of producing written meeting minutes, which will become the official record of this meeting.

Joining the Trustees today are Robert G. Klein, Board Counsel, CEO Sylvia Hussey along with Carol, Dayna, Lōpāka, Laurene, Kevin, Marc as support staff. I will call on Sylvia to announce the names of the administrative staff also joining us today.

Sylvia Hussey – Mahalo Chair. We have Senior Legal Counsel Raina Gushiken, Assistant Senior Legal Counsel Everett Ohta and Community Engagement Director Mehana Hind. We’d also like to thank Community Outreach Center staff Gayla Haliniak-Lloyd.

Chair Colette Machado – Thank you Sylvia.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Colette Machado – Members, we will now move on to II. it is the introductions of Trustees. I ask Trustees that as you introduce yourself to be also mindful to introduce your personal staff that have joined us this evening if you are willing to do that and I thank you at this time. We will begin with the Vice Chair Lee to do his introduction, and if your staff is here, please introduce them also. I’ll call on Trustee Brendon Kalei’āina Lee.

5:34 pm Trustee Robert Lindsey joins the meeting.

Trustee Brendon Kalei’āina Lee - Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm Trustee Lee At Large Trustee. Although I have deep ties to Moloka’i as well. A deep place in my heart as my grandmother Aunty Mary Lee from Hoolehua and my dad was born and raised in Moloka’i. I spent every one of my summers going up on Molokai. We look forward to hearing from your island. I'm so sad that we're not there in person. My staff joining us this evening is LeiAnn Durant and Alyssa Kau. Mahalo Chair.

Chair Colette Machado - Thank you, Trustee Brendon Kalei’āina Lee. I will ask now, Trustee Leina’ala Ahu Isa to introduce herself as well as her staff. That is present with her.

Trustee Leina’ala Ahu Isa – Aloha mai kakou all of my beneficiary friends on the island of Moloka’i on my grandfathers island that is where he cam from. I want to introduce Nathan he's here we’re in the office with Dayna. And anytime you need anything you know you can call us At Large we are Trustees At Large. I’m also like Trustee Lee sorry we're not on your island to face to face, you know physically be there. Becauseit’s such a wonderful feeling when you go to that island you can relax. I mean you can feel safe. And you know everybody is like almost ohana to you. So, thank you for welcoming us now in this virtual meeting. Aloha Walter, I see you over there in the corner. Thank you Chair.
Chair Colette Machado - Thank you, Trustee Leina’ala Ahu Isa. We're going to go now to Kaua‘i and Ni‘ihau. I’ll call on Trustee Dan Ahuna.

Trustee Dan Ahuna – Aloha mai kakou. I’d like to say Aloha to the island of Moloka‘i and I also would like to thank you Chair for doing a wonderful job. You know as a school teacher, you know where we're learning things every single day. Virtually you know how to teach virtually, and I think you're doing a wonderful job. So, thank you for hosting us and hosting us tonight. With us tonight is my two staff. We have Claudine Calpito and Anuhea Diamond.

Chair Colette Machado - Thank you Trustee Dan Ahuna. We will not go back to Oahu and I’ll call on Trustee Kalei Akaka. Trustee Akaka please introduce yourself and your staff if they are present.

Trustee Kalei Akaka – Aloha, tonight joining me is my staff Brandon Mitsuda and Mark Watanabe. Mahalo Chair for hosting this evening, and to all our OHA staff and to our CEO and our Board Counsel. Those Moloka‘i joining us this evening. Those tuning in all over the World, mahalo for joining us. Looking forward to hearing what are Moloka‘i residents have to share with us this evening, mahalo.

Chair Colette Machado - Thank you Trustee Kalei Akaka. We will now go to take a quick trip to Maui. I’d like to call on Trustee Carmen Hulu Lindsey to introduce herself as well as her staff who is present. Trustee Carmen Hulu Lindsey please.

Trustee Carmen Hulu Lindsey - Mahalo Chair thank you. Thank you for hosting our meeting this evening. We certainly will miss the beautiful delicacies that you normally spoil us with and hopefully next year we can enjoy that. Carmen Hulu Lindsey island of Molokai and with me, this evening is my staff Lehua Itoaka and Kanani Iaea. We’re so happy to be able to share this evening with the Moloka‘i beneficiaries and we welcome your comments. If our office can ever be of service to you, we welcome you to call us anytime Mahalo.

Chair Colette Machado – Mahalo hulu. I believe we have Trustee Robert Lindsey on the telephone. Can we confirm that Carol?

Carol Ho‘omanawanui - Yes, he is. He’s on.

Chair Colette Machado – We do to Moku o Keawe and our Trustee Robert K Lindsey, Jr. Could you please introduce yourself and your staff with who is joining us also?

Trustee Robert Lindsey – Mahalo Chair, I'm sorry for being a slowpoke. My horse bucking me off when I was coming up the hill. I bring Moloka‘i greetings from the green side of Waimea and I too am very sorry we cannot be visiting with you all face to face. But we are here tonight with you virtually and spiritually. We look forward to hearing all the sharing and comments that you have for us tonight and I wish you all the very best in the coming days. Take care and mahalo nui. Aloha.

Chair Colette Machado - Thank you, Trustee Robert Lindsey from Waimea and Moku o Keawe. I’ll call on Trustee Keli‘i Akina. Could you please introduce yourself and your staff if they are present?

Trustee Keli‘i Akina - Thank you very much. Madam Chair and first aloha to everybody on Moloka‘i. Thank you for showing up tonight. We look forward to hearing your manaو and also much mahalo to Chair Machado for the many years of representation and service to the community of Molokai. Although I am an At Large Trustee, our concerns are for every one of the islands, and so I am deeply concerned about the betterment of conditions of our people on Moloka‘i. And thank you all for your support of OHA. My two Trustee Aides are Paul Harleman and Maria Calderon.

Chair Colette Machado - Thank you Trustee Keli‘i Akina. Our last Trustee, Trustee John Waihe’e IV.
Trustee John Waihe'e IV - Thank you, Madam Chair and thank you so much. I really, really want to thank you for hosting us tonight and for just holding everything down on Moloka‘i island. Thank you for sending me food because I couldn’t be there live. I wasn’t expecting that. I really am sad that I couldn’t be on Moloka‘i in person. I mean I regret not having been able to be on any of the neighbor islands this year in person. But really Moloka‘i is my favorite trip not just because it’s an awesome island, but there’s always really passionate and intelligent feedback when we you go there. Which I have no doubt you will still accomplish virtually. My staff that are here tonight is Crayn Akina and Melissa Wennihan. And once again, thank you everybody for being here tonight.

Chair Colette Machado – Thank you Trustee John Waihe‘e IV. We will now proceed to III.

Trustee Robert Lindsey – Chair.

Chair Colette Machado – Trustee Robert Lindsey, yes.

Trustee Robert Lindsey - I apologize. I’m sorry. I forgot to introduce my staff for joining us tonight by phone. My two loyal aides Kama Hopkins and Kaui Wailehua mahalo.

Chair Colette Machado - Thank you again for introducing your staff and we will now proceed to III.

III. PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON ITEMS LISTED ON THE AGENDA

Chair Colette Machado – I will have to read this statement again. Currently, before we began my staff announced that we have one individual that will be giving public testimony. So, let me begin to read this statement.

Public testimony should be limited to matters listed on the meeting agenda and will occur during the public testimony portion on the agenda. Once the public testimony section on the agenda has concluded, oral testimony on line will no longer be accepted. Your name will be called in. Your microphone will be unmuted when it is your turn to testify. If you are not audible you will be muted, and the next testifier will be called. Your name will be called again before the conclusion of the public testimony section. State your name, organization if applicable, agenda item you are testifying on and your position, support, oppose or comment on each of the agenda items. If you begin to address other issues not on today’s agenda the Chair will call you out of order and direct you to limit your testimony to items listed on the agenda. Oral testimony on line will be limited to 5 minutes. A timer on the screen to count down the time a chime will sound when you have 30 seconds left and a second chime when your testimony time expires, your mic will be automatically muted. Once you have completed your oral testimony or if your allotted time for testimony expires. I will call on our individual that has signed up. Took the time to register with Chair’s office. I’d like to call on Lori Buchanan. Are you present Lori?

Lori Buchanan - Aloha Chair. So, I maybe I never quite understand the rules that you read. What I wanted, well I thought was an open community concerns and I had a few one of them was, today I attended a number eight meeting about Kalaupapa. So I don’t know if I can testify on that on that, but it’s just basic community concerns.

Chair Colette Machado - Yeah, that would be under VII. So you can still talk about Kalaupapa. I would like to have your in your introductory comments and your manao on Kalaupapa. Was there anything else you wanted to address that’s not listed on the agenda.

Lori Buchanan - Yeah I wanted to address the OHA elections.
Chair Colette Machado - OK, so you'll have two positions in the community concerns to address the Trustees. But do you have something on the public testimony that you would like to address on the agenda? I thought you were going to speak on Aina Momona.

Lori Buchanan - I wanted to hear their testimony first, but I will stand in support of the Aina Momona, what they testifying for today and also for the ROOTed which I did not sign up to do, but Mahalo. I'll wait till the end.

Chair Colette Machado - OK, thank you Lori. I'll ask Madam Secretary do you have other individuals that have signed up for public testimony tonight?

Carol Ho'omanawanui - No Madam Chair. This is Carol. No other testifiers have registered to for public testimony

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. September 17, 2020

Chair Colette Machado – Members we're going move on to IV., which is the approval of the minutes for September 17th, 2020. The chair would like to entertain a motion.

Trustee Brendon Kalei'aina Lee moves to approve the minutes for the September 17, 2020 meeting.

Trustee Kalei Akaka seconds the motion.

Chair Colette Machado - Is there any discussions, any corrections that a Trustee would like to enter into the record? Hearing none, roll call vote.

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**Trustee Brendon Kalei'aina Lee moves to approve the minutes for the September 17, 2020 meeting. Trustee Kalei Akaka seconds the motion.**

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MOTION: [x] UNANIMOUS [ ] PASSED [ ] DEFERRED [ ] FAILED

Motion passes unanimously with nine (9) yes votes.
V. COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS

A. Alu Like, Ke Ola Pono No Nā Kūpuna Program Moloka‘i – Kaui Manera

Chair Colette Machado - Members will move on to Community Presentations. We have three people that have asked to address the Board of Trustees this evening. We will begin with Alu Like, Ke Ola Pono No Nā Kūpuna Program Moloka‘i. I will call on Kaui Manera.

Kaui Manera – Aloha, aloha kakou. You know this technology nowadays I got to get my moopuna to help me because it's like what you got to do? It just drives me absolutely batty. So, mahalo Dayna. Thank you, Dayna for taking care of me. Aloha Kākou, Madam Chairman Colette Machado, the trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the support staff, aloha. Aloha to Mercedes and Walter as well.

These are trying times and before I begin I wanted to thank Trustee Colette Machado for the opportunity to share my manaʻo pertaining to kupuna. Here at Alu Like, Ke Ola Pono No Nā Kūpuna we've been around for almost 30 years and we've served beautiful kupuna here on Moloka'i. I have gotten older and grew older with our kupuna. Many are gone and I consider myself like I foot in the door kupuna in training and I hope I have the grace, the dignity, the ike of our kupuna.

At the onset of the pandemic. Many Kupuna were confused. What is this? What are we going to do? Because our kupuna program ran five days a week at the on Moloka‘i it's different sites. We had a lot of gatherings and the kupuna were maa to being around each other. And of course food. We always ate. Of course, we like eat and you're right, you guys missed out Moloka‘i this year because I know Colette always get the food, you guys, the raw oio, the limu eelele. Moloka‘i nui ahina, aina momona. So our kupuna we're kind of confused. What do we do now? My main concern as the manager of the Ke Ola Pono No Nā Kūpuna Program Moloka‘i, was how the health of our kupuna being that they were, the target group, the other elderly, now became the target group and they had to stay home. What kupuna like stay home? And even now, that's one of the issues we know like stay home. But the other issue that I was very concerned about was food. How are kupuna going to get food? Now the ones that have support from the ohana, their children, there moopuna not a prob but I was really concerned about the kupuna that were isolated homebound, and even the ones that did get support from their ohana. I'm just going to do a real brief history of how this all panned out.

So, there was a time when there was no case, no confirmed cases on Moloka‘i and we all felt kind of. I don't want to sit complacent because that's lolo. But we kind of like right on, we're pretty much away from the mainstream of travel. Well, lo and behold 2 cases, yeah, confirmed cases. Then of all places Friendly Market. Now if you guys are familiar with Moloka‘i get 2 main stores in downtown Kaunakakai. Misaki's and Friendly Market and Friendly Market happened to be like one of the bigger stories, yeah, so this was huge when the store was shut down and they had to comply with the protocol with COVID-19 protocol. So that left Misaki store the only store really in downtown, Kaunakakai. Of course Pukoo had Manae Goods and Grinds, Maunaloa Store was still open at that time. Kualapu‘u I think was open. So, you had these three stores that had to carry the weight of the island.

Eventually what happened was for the first time in my life I saw lines, people lining up to go to the stores and Misaki eventually had to limit food purchases. So, for me that was kind of a heavy-duty thing and I also went aloha the kpuna although they had kupuna hour 8:00 to 9:00 o'clock I think in the morning they could go and get food.

So at that time my kupuna program was still feeding our kupuna so staff and I we're going out to the homes to deliver food. And it was limited. I think we're having like 16 kupuna that came to program regularly and then at that point 9 home delivered meals. Kupuna that are homebound have dementia suffering from terminal illnesses, chronic diseases etc. So, we provided meals for them as well. Well something really nice happened, Gayla-Ann gave us a call one day and says, hey Kauai, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs is offering funding to feed more kupuna. You know what that was like a call from the lord. It was like, oh my God, thank you Gayla- Ann and mahalo Trustee Colette Machado. So, in having that monies put towards our budget Alu Like, Ke Ola Pono No Nā
Kūpuna Moloka‘i eventually outreached like crazy. Before the COVID, nobody like join the kupuna program. During the COVID everybody like join the kupuna program and mainly I think they looked at us as the meal. Of course, who wouldn’t right? So, we did mega outreaching and then what was a blessing is we got five caregivers who are caring for loved ones so either the husband, the Mama etc.

So that was a blessing, but the beauty of this service, Colette. I have to say, Trustee Machado, was that we fed 42 kupuna from Hoolehua, 41 from Kualapuu, and you got to be Hawaiian, yeah. 46 in Kalamaula all the way to the East End altogether, with our original number, because OHA funded all of our meals, you guys funded all of our meals and we were feeding 121 Kupuna from March. We started small but we built up to July 20th I believe so March 18 to July 20th, we fed up 121 kupuna. What a blessing and I tell you, you know today we delivered 68. Oh, I tell you that was so much Redondo sausage and we have potatoes and milk. We partner with the community because were recognized as the Kupuna program. So, I had built this program here on Moloka‘i so that our kupuna voices are heard. I advocate for Kupuna and I’m so grateful for you folks. I really, really am Mahalo a nui loa.

Once the funding was pau, we didn’t turn our backs on the kupuna because we’re still feeding kupuna. But we also turned the kupuna onto these vouchers that Office of Aging, it is $8.00 five vouchers a week and then you get to participate with vendors here in town up at Hoolehua and at Manae Goods and Grinds. So, the Kupuna weren’t, although we’re feeding our kupuna at our program, our kupuna are getting meals also from Office of Aging. So, it’s not like we are not feeding our kupuna. I really, really wanted to say mahalo to Michelle Naeole a native Hawaiian business girl, Mikes Catering out of Hoolehua. This girl, awesome she feeds our kupuna until now and of course Molokai Pizza Cafe help too. We got to get salad in there. You can only eat rice and chicken all the time got to get vegetables kupuna.

So, what you call we have a variety of food that we provide for our kupuna. And before I leave, and I cannot thank you folks enough. I come from a poor family. What you get on the table is what you eat, and we are blessed with this Āina. We get ulu, we get mango, we get orange, we get star fruit, we get all kinds of food, not all kupuna have that. So, I’m just so blessed that we share our ulu with our kupuna and here on Moloka‘i if people get extra fish they think of the kupuna. We live in a beautiful place. Before I leave I’m talking too much. Before I leave there’s one thing that I really, really want to stress that here multi our caregivers for our kupuna with dementia, there’s only two care homes on Moloka‘i with two beds per. And the need for services on Moloka‘i, like everywhere else and not just Moloka‘i everywhere else. Very limited here on our aina on our moku and I think that’s one thing that I’m going to advocate for to help our kupuna who have dementia, who have ohana struggling, struggling to malam because there’s no real facility on Moloka‘i. And if Heaven forbid you do not meet the expectations of the services here on Moloka‘i you have to go off island you have to go Maui, Hale Makua I knew a tutu who went all the way to Kaau‘i until she went u hala. So, our kupuna like u hala on Moloka‘i. I just thought I’d throw that out. Mahalo a nui loa, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Colette Machado. Nobody can replace you. OK, so I Mahalo you. I’m mahalo you for loving us for the aloha.

**Chair Colette Machado** - Mahalo nui Kau'i. Is there any questions from anybody that they would like to ask Kau'I? No questions. Then we'll just move on. Thank you Kau'i we will move on to our next presenter.

**Carol Ho‘omanawanui** – Chair, Trustee Akaka had her hand raised.

**Chair Colette Machado** – Trustee Kalei Akaka.

**Trustee Kalei Akaka** – Mahalo, I just wanted to say Mahalo to Kau'i, and all those at this program at Alu Like for all the kupuna on Moloka'i and for all the food that you are taking to them as you have and for the exuberance of and energy and aloha that you put into the program. It’s much appreciated and thank you so much for sharing about the positive impact that we can do together with the community there. Mahalo.

**Chair Colette Machado** - Thank you Trustee Kalei Akaka. anyone else would like to offer any kind of comment or express your aloha to Kau'i?
Trustee Carmen Hulu Lindsey - I just would like to say Mahalo to Kauai.

Chair Colette Machado - Chair recognizes Trustee Carmen Hulu Lindsey.

Trustee Carmen Hulu Lindsey – Aloha, nice to see you again keep up your singing.

Chair Colette Machado - Carol, is there anyone wanting to be recognized? Please acknowledge.

Trustee Leina’ala Ahu Isa – Hi Chair.

Chair Colette Machado – Trustee Leina’ala Ahu Isa.

Trustee Leina’ala Ahu Isa - I also wanted to mahalo Kauai. Nathan, my aide just asked me how long can we do this. I said well as long as the need is there. I mean I don't expect this economy to pick up for the next year or two, so as long as you need the food. Because like I said at the Lāna‘i, I volunteer for Meals on Wheels so I know where the Kupuna live. I mean, you know. They are in times dire circumstances, a lot of them. They have nothing and they appreciate that meal. So as long as we can even into next year, we're going to have to do this OHA. Mahalo Kauai.

Chair Colette Machado – Thank you Trustee Leina’ala Ahu Isa. Is there anybody else or Carol that wants to be recognized?

Carol Ho'omanawanui - I didn't see any other Trustees.

Chair Colette Machado - OK Kauai, do you have one parting statement you would like to make before we move on to our next speaker? Which is Mercy Ritte.

Kauai Manera - You know, Colette I just wanted to say that I am honored and I'm blessed. We're blessed. We're really blessed here on Moloka'i and I appreciate your leadership and Mahalo to all of the Trustees for being so sensitive to our kupuna. It means a lot to me.

Chair Colette Machado - We say Mahalo to you Kauai. We will go on to our next speaker, Mercy Ritte she doing a presentation on ROOTed.

B. ROOTed – Mercy Ritte

Chair Colette Machado - Mercy we call on you now.

Mercy Ritte – Mahalo, aloha. Mahalo to Aunty Colette.

Chair Colette Machado - I want to say thank you for your patience with your presentation and the power point. So now we got it clear, you're going to do your own PowerPoint from your computer, so you'll be able to control all of that

Mercy Ritte – (Please see attached presentation)

Mahalo, Aunty Colette, Mahalo Aunty Gayla and Aunty Dayna and the Board of Trustees mahalo nui for this opportunity to share a fairly new program, and project that I've been involved in and have basically created. But before I get into that I just wanted to share a little bit about myself. A little bit background, about who I am. Again, my name is Mercy Ritte. I am a mother of four children. I've been married to Kalani Ua Ritter for nearly 19 years. We've been together on Molokai raising our children together.
Throughout my upbringing I was raised here on Moloka‘i through my early years with my mother and attended public school. I attended Kualapuu Elementary School and then went on to finish up my education at Kamehameha for six years. During that time of my upbringing, there was no, homeschool wasn’t really common at all. I knew of one family that was home schooling and they were our neighbors and that was it. But the options are basically public school on Molokai, Kamehamhea, or I think Lahaina Luna or if you moved somewhere else and those are the options for you. But home school is not really an option.

I decided when I started having my children, so I had my first child early in life and I connected with the family on Moloka‘i that was home schooling. I was basically very intrigued by the idea of teaching my child like I didn’t think I could do that as a parent. I just assume we send your child to school and that’s where they belong. And so, with this family I connected with and was able to learn more about homeschooling and what that entailed. So when my oldest child turned 9 years old, my husband and I made a difficult decision. It was a very hard decision, but we decided to keep her home and homeschool her and that meant fully taking on the responsibility as a parent, not just the duties of our home, not just you know, as a parent we see our main duty giving them chores or creating structure in the home and that’s you know discipline like that’s our duty as a parent? But by keeping her home, we really had to step up in our responsibility and be the sole teachers of her learning and growing through her life through the rest of her life until she turned 18 years old. So, we took it upon ourselves. It was very challenging. It wasn’t an easy thing to do. There are many times that I wanted to give up, but I saw that there were many benefits in keeping her home close to us. I saw that it strengthen our family relationships as I had more children, it kept them close. I do have now my two younger children, whose nine and six were home schooled now and then. We have a baby. And I saw that keeping her home kid kept our family unit strong and it also kept them as siblings, very close to one another.

Now going into 2020, it's been about nine years since I've embarked on this home school journey. I am currently a Home School Legal Defense Association Member, and I'm also the State of Hawaii Ambassador for Home School Legal Defense Association. They've been in existence since 1983 and they haven't had a representative in Hawaii to advocate for homeschool on a community level, and on a political level, so I'm very grateful for that opportunity to take on that volunteer role. And so now going into our ninth year of home schooling, one thing that comes up with my children is that they want more social interaction with their peers. We are fortunate to live on a homestead where there are multiple families. They have many cousins. So, they have that kind of social interaction, but there's definitely a difference in pure you know friendship, developing friendships and that kind of interaction. So coming into the New Year in January I just felt this desire to create a program, a homeschool program that would meet their needs for social interaction, would meet the needs of other families that are interested in homeschooling, would meet the need of our community of just to provide a service in our community and also to also meet my own need, my passion for promoting human health. I'm also involved in other projects. Health program that that I host with volunteers. A team of volunteers and it's a lifestyle health program that we do together every year. And so, I wanted to create a program where it combined my family and my passions and their needs and community needs. And so that's how ROOTed came to be. And so currently I am a student again earning a dual degree, Masters in Original Medicine and a doctorate in Naturalpathy. I wanted to be able to grow myself in education and continue learning so that I can be better equipped to help our community in their health needs.

ROOTed came to be growing lifelong learners, and it's interesting because when I had already had this in mind, the program and then COVID hit. The students, the school shut down for spring break, and then that was extended, and their families found themselves in a predicament, not knowing what to do with their children's education. So, in the nine years that I was home schooling, I hardly had anyone ask about home schooling. Like really barely and then all of a sudden, there's this influx and an interest in home schooling. So, I felt like it was timely to start a program like this because of the interest that came later, and so when that accrued I was able to present this program to multiple families. They are all native Hawaiian families and they were very interested.

So, I'm going to kind of get into what ROOTed is and the details of this program. ROOTed we are fortunate to be sponsored under Aina momona my father in laws 501C3 nonprofit organization. ROOTed our learning site, is that Keawanui Fishpond. We are grateful to have that learning site. There's so many resources there for learning and
there’s multiple learning areas that we can utilize, we are very fortunate to have Keawanui. The main mission for ROOTed is to grow a generation of lifelong learners, firmly ROOTed in a foundation of credible wisdom, counsel and knowledge. When I think of credible wisdom and knowledge and counsel for me the first, what's most foundational is scripture knowledge, wisdom, and counsel that comes out of scripture and also the wisdom and counsel and knowledge that come out of where cultural and generational. The wisdom concept knowledge is passed down culturally and generationally and also we have so much wisdom and counsel and knowledge in our community through the expertise that are in our community and so combined this is a foundational part of ROOTed.

I do have a very strong passion for human health and so learning Laau lapaau or natural remedies. Learning about health, learning anatomy, about the human body is very foundational in ROOTed. This is part of our curriculum and this is something that I believe as young people is foundational to know, and we know. I think we can all agree that without our health. You know you hear that term health is our greatest wealth and I believe that wholeheartedly that without our health, how can we be contributing members in our community? How can we be contributing to our family? And so, this is just a really, really important aspect of our program. Moral excellence as well, which is is seen often neglected in the homes for various reasons in the schools. With ROOTed, wanting to restore more excellence back into the learning environment which includes just bringing back honesty, trust just important morals and character-building opportunities. Community service is also very foundational in ROOTed. Right now, our community service site is Keawanui since we are there, and we have many opportunities to give back to Keawanui and to Āina Momona for allowing us the space and to allowing Keawanui as our learning site.

Gratitude and prayer. So finally, gratitude and prayer are also foundational. I mean to me in all aspects of life to just be, to instill gratitude in the home, in the learning environment, in prayer. We always begin our day with prayer. We always end our day with prayer together and it sets the standard for our program and that I have up here and for the most high. The only reason ROOTed has been appealing to families and successful thus far is because we aim for the most high. So, God at the center always and acknowledging him always in all the things that we do. The blessings that come our way, and so this is very important and foundational.

Some key information about ROOTed. Again, it's a home school program. We operate independently. There is a very strong emphasis on health and Wellness. What families are part of ROOTed are required to be committed to ROOTed and not just one parent, not just the mother, not just the father, but the entire family is required to support their child's learning and to be committed to this program. We are dependent year to year on grants and donations, we were very fortunate to have support through Āina Momona to purchase our curriculum for the year to purchase some other needs. We have a lunch meal program. I'll kind of get into that a little bit. So, the funding that we receive for all aspects of our program has been very helpful just to get us through a year. The reason too, that we are dependent on grants is to keep the enrollment and curriculum free. We all volunteer. We are a group of parents and everyone volunteers their time. But I do want ROOTed to be accessible, and any kind of hindrance that we can alleviate from parents like if it's a financial thing, then I am very determined to secure grants and donations to help in this area. I mentioned that ROOTed a volunteer-based program. It is apparent guided learning program so parents come together, we have a set curriculum, a full curriculum, so math, language Arts, Science, Social Studies is all taught through a parent guided learning approach and then we have many extracurricular activities we have gardening, we have natural remedies classes, cooking classes and we have community service.

This is led through a rotation schedule because I realized that not every parent or family can just give up their work and be a part of this. So, going into this I really wanted to make this program available to families that wanted another option. But they still need to work, and I basically tried to figure out the most convenient way for them to be a part of it, but still give some of their time. The rotation schedule is basically a weekly rotation schedule. It's a very kind of organized rotation schedule or parents coming weekly, and then we rotate. We have teams of children and they work specifically where their child and that and the team that they're on. I mentioned here several ways that parents volunteer is to lead a lesson. It might be a specific subject, weekly, they may just come in to assist weekly with a lead parent who's leading a lesson. Or they may prepare a lunch weekly.
Our schedule is basically we always start the day with exercise, so this I just have a few shots of the kids’ exercise. We try to make it very fun and engaging so we have different kind of circuit training stations set up for them. And they really get into it. Like these kids, there’s like little kids 6-year-old, 9 and 10 and they really get into their exercise routine. I mentioned lunches, so part of my passion for promoting health is focusing primarily on a plant-based nutrition, and lifestyle. So, all of their meals are completely plant based. Well, lunch meals for now.

An either if you’re going to volunteer and you cannot be at site, or you want to be a part of this that cannot get site, we do have parents that actually just prepare a lunch meal weekly that’s plant based. It always includes salad and a main dish and uala, or maybe it’s brown rice, and so it’s very well-balanced meals. They have a snack break time, and they’re only allowed to bring fresh fruit partially to reduce waste, you know the plastic packaging waste, but also to encourage eating more whole Foods because even fruit alone you would think kids get enough fruit in their diet and they don't, it's next to vegetables fruit is one of the neglected foods. Not only do children get to eat plant-based meals or lunches every day, but they also learn to cook plant-based meals. Parents again they come in and volunteer to teach a cooking class and these parents have never like it's amazing the food that comes out of the classes because these are parents that are not used to eating or cooking plant based.

But they find a recipe and they share it with the kids and the kids enjoy it. We may not cook the entire meal in one setting, but they learn kitchen. They learn how to use like a peeler like things like that. These simple tools they learn to use peelers, blenders, we have these safe plastic knives that they use for chopping and so just engaging them in simple practical life skills have been great and they love it. They love their cooking classes. The veggies and herbs that we use in our in our cooking class comes from our garden and then all the additional ingredients are donated by each family. And so, they we incorporate practical math into our cooking classes, measuring, temperature. We make bread. I did a demonstration on making bread, and so that's something that has been like really neat because it's not something that's taught in the home anymore. It's kind of old fashioned to make your own bread, and these children get to learn. We invite individuals in our community to teach cooking, and so we have my Yumi, she taught the traditional way to make miso soup and it's just been really. It's been really fun.

Our garden is called the garden of Eden. And we we're out there in the garden basically daily and whether it's we're pulling weeds or watering the plants. Here we're starting out the composting worms so we can fertilize our garden. We did have some harvest of some purple carrots and we cleaned it up and ate it with our salad. Every family has their own raised bed and they plant their seeds and their little seedlings. The really neat thing is the kids work so easily together. This is a multi-age group. I mentioned from 6-year-old to 10-year-old and they work so good together. I even have my little one that tags along she's a year and a half. And then when we have food that's growing, the kids get to take it home to their families or we incorporate it into our cooking classes.

Natural remedies is an integral part of this program it's divided in seasons. So when we came into our New Year in July, we focus a lot on first aid, natural remedies, laau that we can use for healing the body on the outside and then entering August, September just before flu season we got into boosting immune systems. I basically had to challenge parents to go and research. What are some remedies that we can use? What are remedies that you use at home that help boost immune system that we can teach our children. So, it's been really neat to see them kind of stretch their mind a little bit, because like I mentioned, like plant-based eating, you know using natural remedies is really not the norm so much anymore. And then now as we are in the flu season and still dealing with COVID, we're focusing heavily on remedies that combat the flu. And I'm learning so much too. We have guests like aunty Sylvia, laau lapaau practitioner that comes and shares we have other community guests that come in. So, we're gaining so much just through these weekly classes. Then I have listed here the remaining themes of our year we're going to spring cleaning into cleansing the body and simple ways that children can take care of their bodies internally as well. So, this is one of our community guests here teaching a boosting immune system remedy. We have out one of our laau lapaau practitioners here as well, teaching about kukui, and Olena.

I mentioned in another big part of ROOTed a foundational part is community service and we are fortunate to utilize the resources at Keawanui. So, the kids learn about the uses of the stones that are there so they are here helping relocating mounds of stone that could that were going to be used for repairing one of the walls. They've worked with mud using that resource to help repair the wall. We've used mangrove. They learned about mangrove and that resource that is heavily used that Keawanui. So, they're here debarking mangrove. They're helping with
removal of keawe wood that was part of that service project. Then their biggest kuleana daily is watering. They water all the plants by bucket and the water comes from the freshwater spring at the fish pond and you know it’s been fun. They actually enjoy watering and doing their kuleana and it just teaches for us, teaches responsibility, environmental stewardship taking, giving back to Keawanui. So, this has been a really important part and not only kdo we have parents volunteer, we have their grandparents volunteering. Some parents cannot be at site, so we have our tutu coming to help and they love it and we love having them. Here’s another picture of the kids watering, and they also got to do dishes, so it’s not left for the adults. All the kids got to wash the dishes from lunch. They got to wash all their plates and spoons, dry it and put it away. They have to sweep and mop the classroom every day. Put away chairs. It’s just kind of a daily part of their day, but they all work together to complete this.

Finally, we do not have site on Fridays, it is reserved for nature study. A big part of route, it is to reconnect with nature because we can learn so much through observation, through just being surrounded in nature. So, parents and their child or family go together on the nature study every Friday and spend time quiet time in nature. Observing the elements, just whether it’s up manuka or near the ocean and record their observations in a Journal. For the younger ones, they may just draw what they see or observe and then the older jot down their observations and it’s just really to again be connected nature and to promote in our children delight in natural things and not so much like in this day and age, everything so digital and I know with my family, we can kind of get too much immersed in electronics and so by scheduling nature study kind of helps at least reconnecting helped us to reconnect.

So finally, I want to close with our partnerships. We are fortunate to be partnered with CTAHR as one of our community organization partners. We have Marshall Joy here he is helping us lead out our garden curriculum. And so, we’re very fortunate to be able to work with him. We did some tree planting with him. We’re going to continue that this month. Then also the Moloka‘i Child Abuse Prevention Pathways Organization is another partner they visit monthly. Hono‘ulu is the health program that I am the volunteer program director of and this program is a partner because participants in this program actually come to site and they come as guests, so they learn a lot of the things that the kids are learning and they come back and apply what they learn by sharing with the kids. So mainly in the cooking area, so these participants come to site and they teach cooking classes with our kids. And then of course, our community members who have partnered with us?

In closing the vision of ROOTed is to restore Education that is living and tangible and practical and relative to us. And COVID really taught me, it was an eye opener because we realized what really mattered when that hit, what really mattered in life. I talk about kind of my education and the degrees I’m seeking but when COVID hit nobody really ask like oh, what degree do you have? Nobody really cared. It was more about can you grow food and the state of your health. Where is the state of your health? So that was super important to me food security and health. The vision for me is to take ROOTed, right now it is just a homeschool program but I am working with the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools to license ROOTed to be a living Education Academy of living education so that our kids Moloka‘i have another option. The public schools may not be sufficient or may not be something that works for them. I see already with our small group that this type of learning is, it works and it’s very practical and they love it. Learning has to be tangible, has to be something that you can take home and actually apply, and it’s not just dry knowledge or dry information in a book or on paper. And so, that’s the vision for ROOTed and I wanted to present to just kind of highlight this growing program and see in what way OHA would be interested in partnering or supporting or you know, I’m not sure exactly what that looks like. But I just really wanted to share. I appreciate it. Thank you so much for this opportunity. Mahalo for your time.

Chair Colette Machado - Thank you Mercy.

Trustee Carmen Hulu Lindsey – Madam Chair.

Chair Colette Machado – Trustee Carmen Hulu Lindsey.
Trustee Carmen Hulu Lindsey - I have some questions if I could ask Mercy. Thank you Mercy for your presentation and thank you for such a wonderful program. How many participants do you have in this program?

Mercy Ritte - We are currently at 14 and at 14 participants 10 families so and at this point because we're just starting it's kind of a nice number to work with as we're figuring out the flow of the program and just working on tweaking where we need to tweak and improve. It's at 14.

Trustee Carmen Hulu Lindsey - So do these kids have to pay to enter this program?

Mercy Ritte - They do not have to pay. It's a free program. We were fortunate to receive some funding to cover all of the curriculum for the year and in talking with Aina Momona, now we want to keep it as a free program. So we're working really hard to secure funding and that we can serve even more families because you know, going into the new year we don't know what the education system is going to look like and if this is an option that more families want, we want it to be available and accessible and not have it be attached with the financial burden on anyone.

Trustee Carmen Hulu Lindsey - Couple of questions. Do the subject's science, math, geography, and etcetera align with DOE standard curriculum for testing purposes?

Mercy Ritte - So for us, an according to the State of Hawaii, we are required to take assessment and so the assessment that I have been using for my children that we use for ROOTed is it's called IO Assessment and it's aligned with smarter balanced assessment that we use on in Hawaii. To say that the curriculum is aligned, completely aligned with that, I would say it's not, like I'm not following were actually not. So, the State of Hawaii says we're not required, we are not mandated as homeschools or homeschool parents to teach the subjects like that DOE teaches. But we do follow like I still follow, the core subjects and things like that, so I don't necessarily actually follow all of their general learning outcome objectives. But we have our own way of assessing, and it's because it's a little bit more unique because it's a multi age group so. I'm not, yeah, I don't know how to explain. It's not like the traditional school where you're assessing by grade level because every child I see that they may not be at their grade level. Everyone is at different learning levels, so we mostly focus on learning level. So, you might have a 6-year-old that's actually learning at a higher level. We don't suppress them to like a grade. So, we don't even have grades. It's just multi age learning and it's more about mastery of skill, different skills and it's not necessarily aligned with Hawaii public school. But we do keep record of all curriculum, very good attendance. We still need to follow all of the State Laws for home schooling and assessments.

Trustee Carmen Hulu Lindsey - Thank you, Mercy.

Mercy Ritte - You're welcome.

Chair Colette Machado - Ok members, are there any other questions that you may have for Mercy?

Trustee Kalei Akaka - Chair.

Chair Colette Machado - Chair recognizes Trustee Kalei Akaka.

Trustee Kalei Akaka - Aloha Mercy. Do you service all ages or include all ages from elementary school to high school?

Mercy Ritte - At this moment it's primarily early elementary through middle school. The reason for that is because we are working on licensing. If the child wanted to entering high school and then return back to public school they would not be able to do that because we're not necessarily licensed as an Independent School yet. Right now, it's yeah, it's just the early elementary through middle school years because after 8th grade you can easily just enter back into the public-school system. They don't require a test they only require assessments for 5th, 8th and 10th
grade I believe. That's the reason for that. We're starting small so trying to just work with a targeted group and not broaden ourselves too fast.

Trustee Kalei Akaka - What are some of your mean of goals and vision on what you're looking to do in the next few years with this program. How you want to expand it or keep it on the track that you have right now?

Mercy Ritte - The main goal I mentioned is the main goal is licensing. So that it can be an option that families feel comfortable with. Because not every family is comfortable with just home schooling. There's large goals and small goals. So, like our smaller goal is food independence with our gardening project is to expand that in partnership with 'Aina Momona so that we can provide food for those in need, for the families that are involved in ROOTed. So that's actually a very strong goal and a big goal for us. But overall, it is to be a licensed Independent School recognized by Hawaii Association of independent schools and to provide this option for all levels of learnings up through high school, but that I don't foresee happening for another few years.

Trustee Kalei Akaka - Mahalo for sharing all that you have. It sounds like an excellent program, and I think it's great the experiences that you provide for our keiki on Moloka'i, and even just teaching the options of how you can implement plant based food into your diet and teaching them the importance of service within the community through service projects and getting their hands dirty. I just think it's really great. So, thank you so much,

Mercy Ritte - Thank you.
Chair Colette Machado - I want to thank you Mercy for your wonderful presentation. Very comprehensive. But we still have one more speaker which is your father in law. I'd like to call on Walter Ritte 'Aina Momona. I will also suggest Mercy, that our CEO Sylvia Hussey she is paying attention and I will delegate the assignment of how we can follow up with you on further kinds of discussions with our staff at OHA. So duly noted that I will seek the support of our administrator to kakou some of the issues that you raised, and maybe your presentations could be forwarded to us. So, we have that, and we'll forward it to our CEO Mercy.

Mercy Ritte - So thank you so much, mahalo.

C. 'Aina Momona - Walter Ritte

Chair Colette Machado - Walter are you ready? Aloha Walter, thank you for joining us tonight.

Walter Ritter – Thank you Colette for allowing me to speak tonight and it's a very different experience talking to a computer. I guess we all got to learn what we got to learn during these times so. I want to talk a little bit about some politics. Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the intent in forming the Office of Hawaiian Affairs was to try and get Hawaiians involved in politics.

Chair Colette Machado – Walter I have to tell you that's not on the agenda tonight. You would have to come on the community concerns with Lori.

Walter Ritte - No, I'm not going to talk directly about politics. It's just an introduction.

Chair Colette Machado - We'll see how you go. We wanted to talk about 'Aina Momona first.

Walter Ritte - Yeah, I'm getting there. So, Moloka'i is an interesting place to live. Where people think we're like the poating island sometimes. We kind of backward or all country people, we get the highest unemployment and all that kind stuff. And maybe some of that if you compare it to the rest of the island might be true. We started a long time ago to make sure that Moloka'i was going to be a traditional place. Moloka'i nui ahina, Moloka'i Pule o'o, Moloka'i no ka heke as Aunty Clara Ku taught us and Moloka'i aina momona.

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So Moloka'i Aina momona talks about our ability to feed ourselves. And that ability gives us independence feelings. Our kupuna never depended on the barge or the airlines in the middle of the Pacific. They were experts being resilient and resourceful without outside dependency. That meant that we had to make sure that our island was Momona. We had to produce more than we really needed and that created Aina Momona. So for Molokai we were lucky because we have the largest reef system on our South Shore. And we have verdant four big valleys with water that you can actually drink today. That produce that taro and the starches and the reefs produce the protein. So, Molokai's history is based on that and we all are looking at our future right now during this COViD times, and we're saying that in order for us to be successful, we need to understand how our kupuna was successful. So we don't go into the future blindsided.

On Moloka'i we played defense for the last 40 years. Colette was part of that defense. We made sure that all of the resources that came naturally left to us for kupuna was protected. And that really took a lot of defense. So, we had water wars like every other island. We weren't too keen about tourism. So right now, tourism is pretty flat, and it really doesn't harm Moloka'i in any way, shape or form because we already said a long time ago we were not going to depend on tourism as being our number one industry. What is happening today I wanted to speak about the excitement that is going on Moloka'i right now. We are transitioning from being a place playing defense to an island that is now playing offense. All of this started because Moloka'i Ranch decided they were going to sell over 50,000 acres on our little island. And we were like, it happened to Lāna'i. They had no say about who was going to come in and take over the island. So, when you have 50,000 acres plus, you own 1/3 of our island. And these are people from Singapore. They're not even American citizens, they're foreigners.

So when we heard about the sale, we decided that instead of waiting around to see who was going to be the next master. We went out and we started looking for people that think like us so that whoever is going to buy Moloka'i Ranch is in line with our thinking about our future. We have a Moloka'i Community Plan. We have a Moloka'i tourism plan. We have a Moloka'i subsistence plan. We have a Moloka'i Fish Pond plan. We have a Moloka'i cultural plan. We have a Moloka'i water plan. So the point I'm making is that even though we're playing defense, we were looking to the future, and right now Moloka'i is in that transition. So it's exciting times for us. And OHA has always been part of our growth here on Moloka'i. Sometimes good, sometimes bad in one time to an OHA meeting with hundreds of signs condemning Colette and condemning OHA for doing this and doing that so we're very active.

Sometimes we right sometimes we wrong, but we at least we're actively trying to protect our island, and we know where we're going. We're going to aina momona. That's where we're going. So, it's important that OHA understands Moloka'i. So that's why the law says if you're going to elect Trustees. You going to elect Trustees from the different islands. In 1978, the original plan was to have trustees from each of the counties. There in 1978 and we said wait a minute we want a Trustee from Moloka'i and nobody from Lāna'i spoke up to get a trustee from Lāna'i. So we didn't want to speak for any other island except for our own island, Moloka'i. So as a quasi institution OHA now, go right through the County thing and gave Moloka'i its own Trustee. So, each island has a Trustee and you're supposed to be living on your island in order to understand what I just told you. About the growth of the island, how are you growing doing this doing that.

I looked up the laws governing OHA and OHA needs to figure out how to make it clearer about how we get Trustees from our island. We assume that the Trustees from each of the islands was going to be people who live on that island. And Moloka'i, and Hawai'i Island now has a problem. Because we don't have in this voting process, voting for somebody who actually lives on our island. I'm really, really worried about that because all these years of playing defense and now going into offense takes a lot of understanding of the intricacies in order for us to succeed and to change midstream in all of this and have a Trustee coming representing Moloka'i that does not live on Moloka'i it scares the hell out of us. I mean, how are we going to go into this transition when the person who is now going to represent us at OHA doesn't even live on our island? So, I implore the Trustees to make it clearer. That you have to live on the island in order for you to understand the problems and the dreams and the goals and objectives of our island.
Each island is complicated and different, so it's imperative that whoever is going to be the OHA Trustee must live on the island, so they don't come in not knowing anything about where we've been and where we're going. So, I wanted to put that out there that to let you guys know that Moloka'i is going to go from the pua'āina island to the most advanced island after the pandemic. We're going to be able to feed ourselves. We're not going to have to depend on barges and airlines for tourism and food. And those kinds of things so. I want it to be positive. My message to all of the Trustees a positive message that Moloka'i now is in a huge transition. We found really good partners that are ready to buy Moloka'i Ranch. It started off at 260 million dollars they wanted, and the negotiations went down all the way to 100 million dollars. And they wanted it to go lower. The people that were representing us. He said, no, we're not going to go lower so we're kind of stuck right now. But if we get a third party, we have two parties. We get a third party. We may be able to push this thing through, so we're very close to having an island that went from being a defensive island to an island that is going to be playing offense and create an economic vision and future based on our kupuna and based on our ability to feed ourselves and based on the ability to protect all of our natural resources. So I wanted to send that message out to the Trustees coming from the island of Moloka'i. That we like.

the relationship that we have with OHA. We participated from 1978 to now. And we wish all of you well. And we're not going to give up if we have to come and talk to the computer. Will come and talk to the computer. Whatever it takes to make sure that Moloka'i is going to be an independent and subsistence island. Thank you Colette for allowing me this time to speak. And if there's any questions.

Chair Colette Machado – Mahalo Walter, Trustees any questions. Carol, do you see anybody's hands up that would like to address Walter?

Carol Ho'omanawanui - No Madam Chair, I don't see any Trustees hands up.

Chair Colette Machado - Walter, thank you again for your mana'o, we will move on members to VI. which is the status of OHA activities I'll call on Sylvia Hussey our Ka Pouhana for CEO, updates on Ho'oulu Lāhui Aloha Sylvia.

VI. STATUS OF OHA ACTIVITIES – KA POUHANA/CEO'S UPDATE ON HO'OULU LĀHUI ALOHA & OHA ACTIVITIES

Sylvia Hussey, CEO – Mahalo Chair, I'll keep it small because I want to provide beneficiaries with the opportunity to share their community concerns. Just as an update, the Trustees will be expecting from previous, they should be expecting actions to come for the legislative package that will be presented. As well as budget bills and related grants of community budgets. The organization is continuing its get out the vote effort to increase voter engagement, and awareness overall. So, we'll start to see more, the community engagement piece is there and then last but not least, I wanted to congratulate CNHA for their first virtual convention and the breadth of plenary, and caucus work that were completed yesterday and today. So, we just wanted to congratulate them for that successful venture in convention. Which is one of our sponsored events and we had many staff members participate on panels informing about a wide variety of topics. So, we just wanted to highlight that for the Trustees. That's it.

Chair Colette Machado - Sylvia, may I call on you, if there's any updates on the Kahoma Valley fire? If you have some updates then we can call on Trustee Hulu if she would like to add more information on that please.

Sylvia Hussey, CEO - I think Trustee Hulu you have that information.

Chair Colette Machado - The Chair recognizes Trustee Carmen Hulu Lindsey.

Trustee Carmen Hulu Lindsey – Thank you Chair. I understand it was just a brush fire and could have been started from a camp, but what a coincidence that you folks also had a fire on Moloka'i.

Chair Colette Machado – Moomoni, yes.
Trustee Carmen Hulu Lindsey - Yeah, ours burned 30 acres understand yours, burned 10 acres, but it was. Just carelessness here on Maui. And that's what I got from U'i and I also got that from a friend of mine that's a firefighter.

Chair Colette Machado – Thank you Hulu so much for that update

Trustee Carmen Hulu Lindsey – Thank you.

Chair Colette Machado - We'll move on to community concerns. Lori are you still with us, Lori?

VII. COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Chair Colette Machado – Carol, you can you check if she if Lori Buchanan.

Carol Ho'omanawanui – She is on, she can unmute.

Chair Colette Machado - Just so you know Lori, you have 5 minutes a timer will on the screen to countdown the time and chime will sound when you have 30 seconds left and a second time when you when your testimony time expires. I know you will be addressing in two areas. One is Kalaupapa and the other was going to be som issues relating to residential requirement for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. I will probably extend your time a little longer, so if you're ready you could begin Lori.

Lori Buchanan – Thank you. I am wanting to mention a few other things. But I am going to go straight to Kalaupapa because I had the number 8th discussion with that National Park Service on the subject of the General Management Plan for Kalaupapa and specifically the the programmatic agreement that they are writing up. What I wanted to convey to the Trustees is that this process is a chaotic mess. I am very disheartened because at every meeting I have to listen to kupuna crying on the phone during the two hour meetings with the Department of Interior and then also because its become so complex and disingenuous we have a number of key people from Washington DC, now on the phone calls. Now because of COVID all but the two last meetings were conducted over the phone. We are having an office 106 consultation, the beneficiaries. And to bring Trustees up to speed, the primary area in Kalaupapa that is where all the 200 homes existed is on Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. The rest is under the management of DLNR. But the entire peninsula, except for the airport which is under jurisdiction of Department of Transportation. And the 100 homes under the management of Department of Health. This process is because the park has managed Kalaupapa for over 40 close to 50 years without a General Management Plan.

Its been piece meal and arbitrary through the years and because we are here now. In the past when I was in consultation with the Department of Defense over the use for Kalaupapa for military training, Jerome with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, I felt that I had an advocate to help me. Jerome was there as well as other members of staff from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. Currently there is only one Department of Hawaiian Home Lands Planner that is attending these meetings. Except for Ka Ohana o Kalaupapa, there is really no advocate. So I really looking to help from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to help in protecting Kalaupapa in to the future. I can work with that planner to bring everyone up to speed.

I wanted to switch really fast to talk about the health of Moloka‘i with the closing of Papa Ola Lokahi and the gym, the many people of Moloka‘i that suffer from diabetes, really doesn’t have, and this goes to Kauai, a place to exercise and to monitor thier health in more. And if OHA can help with that, that would be good. With Kalaupapa the Department of Defense wanted to train in the Kaunakakai Harbor, specifically the Navy Seals and any Country that is also training with the Navy Seals would be using our Harbor. We needed help advocating for that, against that. Then I wanted to touch on lastly because I see my clock ticking down on the OHA elections. I heard earlier testifier kind of elude to the same stresses that I had about feeling like persons that were running to
represent the Island of Moloka'i did not live on the island of Moloka'i. I was really aghast and I was extremely distraught. Because I personally as a Hawaiian would not go to Waimanalo, Waianae, Koolau Poko, and pretend that I would want to represent you if I don't live there. Even if I had ohana. So I also echo the need to revisit the qualifications on island representation for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

Last thing I wanted to touch on was burials for the island of Moloka'i. It came up with the COVID. It was a concern for us because we ran out of space to bury our ohana. That issue is not being resolved. I don't know if the Office of Hawaiian Affairs can help. This is separate from the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. But if you guys don't know demographically the island of Moloka'i is the only island per captia other than Ni'ihiw that still has a representation of more than 50% of our demographic are Hawaiian. That is why it's important for everyone to protect Moloka'i. Because we have the most Hawaiians. Like you saw what is happening, we are trying to keep Moloka'i, Moloka'i and keep it a place for culture and when everything else is lost I hope we can still be the one to have all of our resources and to help everybody restore there. Thank you for that.

Chair Colette Machado – Thank you so much Lori. Sylvia I will raise the question about Kalaupapa to you about an assignment of some staffing regarding the GMP for our consultation for the 106. I leave that to you and we can follow up with another discussion at a later time.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS/FYI

Chair Colette Machado – We are on announcements. I have one announcement, on October 13, at 5 pm the OHA Board will hold a BOT and Kaua'i Island Community Virtual meeting. That is the 13th which is next week at 5 pm. Trustee Ahuna will be conducting the meeting and he will be hosting it.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Colette Machado - I'll entertain a motion to adjourn and thank you for your patience and allowing our community to express their Aloha to you as well as their mana'o and some of the great projects that we can look forward to for our beloved island.

7:01 pm Trustee Carmen Hulu Lindsey leaves the meeting.

Trustee Kalei Akaka moves to adjourn the meeting.

Trustee Keli'i Akina seconds the motion.

Chair Colette Machado – It has been moved and seconded that we adjourn. Roll call vote.
Trustee Kalei Akaka moves to adjourn the meeting.
Trustee Keli'i Akina seconds the motion

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MOTION: [ ] UNANIMOUS [ ] PASSED [ ] DEFERRED [ ] FAILED
Motion passes with eight (8) yes votes and one (1) excused vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]
Dayna Pa, Board Secretary

As approved by the Board of Trustees on October 29, 2020.

Colette Y. Machado, Chairperson
Board of Trustees

Attachments:
1. Testimony submitted via Email from Karen Holt, Hoomana Hou School Moloka'i.
2. ROOTed Powerpoint Presentation by Mercy Ritte
Aloha e OHA Leaders and Staff,

A little over a year ago, our organization received a grant to support our alternative high school on the island of Moloka‘i. Ho‘omana Hou School provides an alternative for students who need a place-based curriculum that meets the DOE requirements for credits and graduation. In the Spring of 2020, Moloka‘i saw a total of 93 keiki o ka ‘aina graduate from high schools including Molokai High and Kamehameha. Nine (9) of the graduates were Ho’omana Hou students, and all were Native Hawaiians. A photo of the happy graduates is attached.

OHA’s support for our school and its students has been invaluable. This testimony is to thank all of you for giving the youth of Moloka‘i another avenue to obtain their high school diplomas. We deeply appreciate your commitment to education, and especially to the success of our youth.

Mahalo Nui A Loa!

Karen M. Holt, Principal
Ho‘omana Hou School
Executive Director
Moloka‘i Community Service Council
P.O. Box 2047
Kaunakakai, Hawai‘i 96748
Phone: 808-553-3244
Fax: 808-553-3370
Website: www.molokai.org
The mission is to grow a generation of lifelong learners firmly rooted in a foundation of:

- Credible Wisdom, Counsel & Knowledge
- Original Health & Medicine
- Moral Excellence
- Community Service
- Gratitude & Prayer

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- Credible Wisdom, Counsel & Knowledge
- Original Health & Medicine
- Moral Excellence
- Community Service
- Gratitude & Prayer

Aim for the Most High!

Home School Program

Strong emphasis on health & wellness

Requires support & commitment from the entire family

Dependent on grants & donations, year-to-year

Enrollment & curriculum is free

Volunteer-Based Program
- Parent Guided Learning
- Rotation Schedule
Volunteer-Based Program
Ways to Kōkua

1. Lead a lesson, weekly
   (e.g. Geography)

2. Assist at site, weekly
   (e.g. Mondays)

3. Prepare lunch, weekly
   (e.g. Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays)

Daily Exercise
Plant-Based lunches

Kids Cook!

- Whole food, plant-based recipes
- Use veggies & herbs from Garden of Eatin'
- Additional ingredients donated by each 'ohana

Growing Lifelong Learners

Kids Cook!

Growing Lifelong Learners

Growing Lifelong Learners

Kids Cook!
Kids Cook!

The Garden of Eatin'

Kids Cook!

The Garden of Eatin'
The Garden of Eatin'

The Garden of Eatin'

The Garden of Eatin'

The Garden of Eatin'
**The Garden of Eatin'**

- July 2020
  - First Aid 101

- Aug - Sep 2020
  - Boosting the Immune System

- Oct 2020 - Feb 2021
  - Combating the Flu

- March - May 2021
  - Spring Cleaning

- June 2021
  - First Aid 102

**Natural Remedies**
Service Projects

Kūleana
Growing Lifelong Learners

Kuleana

Purpose:
Learn to know & delight in natural objects!

• A nature walk or hike
• Encourages quiet & patient observation
• Observations may include noticing weather signs, cloud patterns, changes in the tide, wind patterns, insects etc.

Nature Study
Partnerships
Community Members

ahonaulu

Partnerships
Community Members

The Vision
An Academy of Living Education
Mahalo!