Due to the threat of COVID-19, Governor Ige issued the most recent Emergency Twenty First Supplementary Proclamation dated June 7, 2021 that suspend 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

Moloka‘i Site Visit Report
of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs
Board of Trustees
Summary Report
July 14, 2021 – 10:00 AM

ATTENDANCE:
Chairperson Carmen Hulu Lindsey
Trustee Kaleihikina Akaka
Trustee Luana Alapa
Trustee B. Kalei‘aina Lee
Trustee Dan Ahuna
Trustee Keliʻi Akina
Trustee Leinaʻala Ahu Isa

ADMINISTRATION STAFF:
Sylvia Hussey, Ka Pouhana / CEO
Jason Lees
Joshua Koh
Alice Silbanuz

GUEST:
Kahekili Pa-Kala
Hala Pa-Kala
Kilia Purdy

EXCUSE:
Trustee Keola Lindsey

BOT STAFF:
Lehua Itokazu
Kanani Iaea
Claudine Calpito
Anuhea Diamond
Pohai Ryan
Maria Calderon
Nathan Takeuchi
Crayn Akina
Lei Ann Durant
I. Call to Order  
Site visit starts at 10:00 a.m.

II. Introduction

Everyone says aloha and informal introductions are made.

III. Site Visit

A. Hānai ā Ulu Native Crop Program and Sustainability Garden

The primary goals of this program is to educate the community, sustainability, and food security.

Kahekili Pa-Kala shows everyone the growth of limu specifically of ‘ele ‘ele. The ‘ele ‘ele grows well near fresh water or a spring. He shares a moʻolelo that was told to him when he was a young child. The moʻolelo is about Hina. Where ever Hina would walk along the shore with her oʻo and where ever her oʻo touched, fresh water would come out of the ground.

When ‘ele ‘ele was plentiful it was used to barter or they would sell the limu. No one sells the limu because it is very scarce.

Trustee Ahuna inquires the thought on making money and do they feel about this topic.

Kahekili Pa-Kala shares that he is very blessed to get paid to do what he loves. He can trouble shoot problems, he does this work for his children, and for all the children of Hawaiʻi. He wants the children to know how important this work is. If the environment thrives then the community will thrive.

Kilia Purdy shares that she is 4th generation on the Hoolehua homestead. She explains that the ocean is far from Hoolehua and the limu that grows in this area is different from the South shore. She runs a home-school she started ten years ago. She recieves no funding instead they barter with families. The bartering is based on the skills and knowledge of each family. Many years ago she learned how to clean and gather limu ‘ele ‘ele from aunty Aunty Valie ainoa. She learned that if there is no limu or resource than there is no practice or knowledge to be passed on. What ever manaʻo and skills you have they should be shared. She and Hala’s focus is education. They want to equip the children with not only the culture side but the academia. When they choose to leave for school they’ll be ready for it.
They recognize resources are very limited and they must be protected. She points out that everyone uses the term gathering rights. She explains that people can gather but they also need to put back. She shares that she is working on her Doctorates in Indigenous Leadership and Organizations through Chaminade and plans to use the model they are doing at the pond but in a bigger scale. In closing, she shares her thought on ‘ōlelo. She believes ‘ōlelo should be free. When she taught at the local college she had kupuna paying for classes. This broke her heart. Anyone one wanting to learn ‘ōlelo, the classes should be free.

Hala Pa-Kala shares that they have two tanks now with lime ‘ele ‘ele and they are in the process of placing two more tanks in her homestead. The new tanks will have manauea. The kids do water quality testing. They checking on salinity and analyze the results. The kids will also go in and remove the invasive gorilla ogo.

Trustee Keliʻi Akina inquires on their thoughts about children growing up and moving away. What can they do to encourage them to return home?

Kahekili Pa-Kala states more jobs need to be created. Jobs like farming, aqua culture, natural resource management. There are kids that want to do something with ʻāina but they don’t have a path way to follow.

Kilia Purdy shares they need the kids to flip their mindset. Success is thought to be getting a good job and make lots of money. Many kids on the homestead have five to forty acres. They can stay home to farm and be happy and rich. She shares her Dad’s thoughts, he is not rich with money but he is rich with resources and with the lifestyle.

The help they seek is to clean the invasives. This help can come from their community, families, and OHA.

They plan on speaking at the Hawai‘i Conservation Conference at the end of the month.

IV. Public Testimony
None

V. Announcements
None

VI. Adjournment
The site visit ended at 10:40 am
Respectfully submitted,

Lehua Itokazu
Board Secretary

Site Visit Minutes Approved at Board of Trustees Meeting on September 8, 2021.

Carmen Hulu Lindsey
Chairperson, Board of Trustees

Attachments:
1. Excused Memo - Trustee K. Lindsey
July 11, 2021

TO: Trustee Carmen Hulu Lindsey  
Chairperson  
Board of Trustees

FROM: Trustee Keola Lindsey

SUBJECT: Excused Absence

Aloha Chair Lindsey:

I regret to inform you that I am unable to attend the Site Visit of the Board of Trustees to Hanai A Ulu Native Corp Program Limu Project & Sustainability Garden at Keawanui, Mana’e on Wednesday, July 14, 2021 at 10:00 am and to include the Kealapiko Production Site Visit at Kalama‘ula at 11:30 am.

Please extend my apologies to the other members of the board. Mahalo.

[Signature]

Trustee Keola Lindsey, Hawai‘i Island