STATE OF HAWAI‘I
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
560 N. NIMITZ HIGHWAY, SUITE 200
VIRTUAL MEETING - VIA ZOOM WEBINAR
COMMITTEE ON RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
MINUTES

March 23, 2021 1:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:
Chairperson John Waihe’e, IV
Vice-Chairperson Luana Alapa
Kaleihikina Akaka
Trustee Dan Ahuna
Trustee Keli‘i Akina
Trustee Brendon Kalei‘āina Lee
Trustee C. Hulu Lindsey
Trustee Keola Lindsey

EXCUSED:
Trustee Leina‘ala Ahu Isa

BOT STAFF:
Crayn Akina
Melissa Wennihan

ADMINISTRATION STAFF:
Sylvia Hussey, Administrator / Ka Pouhana / CEO
Erin Nakama, IT
Everett Ohta, Corporation Counsel
Kevin Chak, IT
Raina Gushiken, Corporation Counsel
Ramona Hinck, CFO

GUESTS:
Charles Goodin, Audit Senior Manager, N&K
Dwayne Takeno, Audit Principal, N&K
Germaine Meyers
Lehua Gould, Audit Senior Associate, N&K

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Waihe’e calls the Committee on Resource Management meeting for Tuesday, March 23, 2021 to order at 1:30 p.m.

Chair Waihe’e notes for the record that PRESENT are:

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At the Call to Order, EIGHT (8) Trustees are PRESENT, thereby constituting a quorum.

EXCUSED from the RM Meeting are:

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MEMO – REQUESTING TO BE EXCUSED
II. PUBLIC TESTIMONY on Items Listed on the Agenda*

Germaine Meyers: Mahalo. Aloha Chair Waihe’e, Vice Chair Alapa, Staff and Lāhui.

My name is Germaine Meyers; I am an OHA beneficiary for beneficiary advocacy and empowerment. I'm also a Nānākuli Hawaiian Homestead lessee. Today I'd like to provide public testimony regarding agenda item V. B, regarding the draft audit report.

Trustees, there is a letter from the CEO that is unaudited beginning on page 60. However, on page 70, there's the auditor's responsibilities listed and in it.

It states - *Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We did not audit the financial statements of Hi'ilei Aloha LLC, which is both a major fund and 99.9 percent, 100 percent and 98.3 percent, respectively, of the assets, net position, and revenues of the business-type activities. Those statements were audited by another auditor, whose report has been furnished to us, and our opinion insofar as it relates to the amounts included for Hi'ilei Aloha LLC is based solely on the report of the other auditor.*

So, my concern Trustees is that I have stated before of my concerns about the LLC - is that OHA has taken the assets out of the hands of the beneficiaries. What is really important about accuracy and audits is that we're talking about an asset of OHA.

The LLC recently assigned new managers. I understand that OHA had decided to take it away from the managers being the CEO, CFO and COO of OHA. Those three positions are mandated by the state to follow conflict of interest, disclosures, procurement laws, etc. or procurement rules regarding state employees. Of course, I have stated in the past that the operating agreement did not honor these specific things that are required by state employees. I didn't see that the audit report brings these specific things to clarity.

What I'm concerned about is that when you put it under other managers; the operating agreement was not revised to ensure that there will not be embezzlement, that there will not be nepotism or conflicts of interest. You allowed the same operating agreement to continue and so I'm concerned - even though I had done a lot of research regarding these three specific individuals.

I'm concerned that nevertheless, they are public; they are not mandated by the State as far as employees. OHA has put themselves in a position where you've created a nonprofit organization to compete for Grant Monies with other nonprofit organizations that come to OHA, but they get an exclusive favorable lead when it comes to these grant monies.

Speaking about Grant Monies; in this audit report, Chapter 10 specifically states that there are directives regarding how Grant Monies are to be handled. So, I'm hoping that the trustees are looking into the fact that recently for example, CNHA didn't provide grant reports for the money that they received. Although monies have been redirected and reallocated away from CNHA, I'm concerned again - what audit reports are supposed to highlight is how monies were spent, etc.

I notice that my time is coming down. I just wanted a way to express to you trustees what this audit report is showing me and what it doesn't show me is some of the things that I mentioned to you about conflict of interest and following the law and protecting the assets of OHA. As far as the LLCs and the operating agreement.

I hope you agree with me that this needs to be further researched and looked in to, and that we need to take the audit reports more seriously. Ke Akua Pū. Mahalo. Thank you, trustees.
III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 16, 2021

Trustee Ahuna moves to approve the minutes of February 16, 2021.

Trustee Akaka seconds the motion.

Chair Waihe’e asks if there is any discussion. There is none.

Chair Waihe’e calls for a ROLL CALL VOTE.

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Chair Waihe’e notes for the record that all members present vote ‘AE (YES) and the MOTION CARRIES.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None
V. NEW BUSINESS

A. ACTION ITEM RM #21-02: Approval to Close the Native Hawaiian Rights Fund
(Special Fund S-331-z1)†

Chair Waihe’e turns it over to Ka Pouhana Sylvia Hussey.

Pouhana Hussey: Thank you Chair. Trustees the action item that's before you to close the fund; as the purposes of the fund have been inactive, so the purposes of the fund have not been realized, and so we want a formal approval by the trustees. The action item - although it's coded special funds and was picked up by recent legislation; these are specific trust funds that have been designated for a certain purpose.

They are not special funds in the sense of under the state's control. These are trust funds coded as special funds and because of the inactivity in the past several years, Administration is asking for formal approval to close this particular fund as the needs that originally created the fund are being addressed through existing contracts and services.

Trustee Keola Lindsey: When I was reviewing the action item, that was one thing I noted as the title of the fund implies - Native Hawaiian Rights are obviously significant to our beneficiaries. The policy details the purposes of the funds and it's footnoted in the action item, but I heard our CEO mention that support for those issues is coming from other areas and that's why this fund has not been used recently and we're taking this action. We're still applying the necessary resources to burials, water rights, traditional and customary practices, correct? Just not through this fund?

Pouhana Hussey: Thank you trustee for that clarification. That's correct; closing the fund doesn't mean we're closing the advocacy around the special rights. Contracts such as the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation contract that cover native rights and as part of the legal provisos provide those continuing advocacy resources to that.

Trustee Lee: I had a similar concern that Trustee Keola Lindsey had and thank you for addressing that. I have one other question.

When those contracts come up –

- Do we have policy in place to ensure that those types of services are going to be contracted out? or
- Do we solely rely on the fact that those issues meet up with our strategic plan?

My concern is our strategic plan is 15 years. These issues are going to go on beyond 15 years, so without this line item in our budget I just want to ensure that 20 years down the line these things continue to get funded for our beneficiaries.

Pouhana Hussey: So, the mechanism is definitely in the contracting - in the legal proviso of the general funds, as an example; while other legal provisos are grant funded through Chapter 10-17.

With this particular proviso - we go through the contracting process. So, it's open to all when we put out the contracts and the RFPs for the legal services and then those who respond to it - the process.

The overall advocacy points about that – that is absolutely in the strategic plan and so we will always be advocating for those Traditional and Customary Rights, Water, and Iwi Kupuna. This is just the current mechanism. That doesn't preclude us from having other mechanisms to be able to advocate for those rights.
Chair Waihe‘e: Are there any other questions, members?

There are none.

Trustee Hulu Lindsey moves to approve the closure of the Native Hawaiian Rights Fund (Special Fund S-331-z1) account, including completing the necessary documentation with the Department of Accounting and General Services.

Trustee Keola Lindsey seconds the motion.

Chair Waihe‘e asks if there is any discussion. There is none.

Chair Waihe‘e calls for a ROLL CALL VOTE.

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Chair Waihe‘e notes for the record that all members present vote ‘AE (YES) and the MOTION CARRIES.

V. NEW BUSINESS


Chair Waihe‘e turns it over to Ka Pouhana Sylvia Hussey.

Pouhana Hussey: Thank you Chair Waihee. Trustees just like the memo that was provided as part of the packet - we wanted to set context. Our new CFO who joined us back in October, this is her first audit she is going through and of course, midstream our beloved Controller Gloria’s transition. This is a regular audit if you will. As a reminder this is the audit that for the past 8 or 9 years, OHA has had clean opinions; meaning the financials are fairly stated.
There was a loss of audio; Ka Pouhana Hussey asks the Auditors to begin while she addresses the issues.

**Audit Principal Dwayne Takeno:** Good afternoon Trustees. Thank you very much for having us here today. We're here to present the results of our recently completed audit; a brief overview of what we're going to be covering today.

We're just going to do a few introductions, go over some very high-level financial statement information, then the results of our audit, and lastly continue-on with any questions that you may have.

So, my name is Dwayne Takeno, I'm the Audit Principal on this engagement. I've been working at N&K for about six years now. I have been the audit principal on this engagement since we took over from the predecessor auditor in 2017. I'll have Charles and Lehua introduce themselves.

**Audit Senior Manager Charles Goodin:** Good afternoon. I'm Charles Goodin and like Dwayne I've been working on this audit since 2017. I've been with N&K for over 10 years now and I really appreciate all the help that we've gotten throughout the course of this audit and all the audits that we've done previously.

**Audit Senior Associate Lehua Gould:** Aloha everyone, my name is Lehua Gould. I have been with N&K for a little under three years. I'm an Audit Senior Associate and this is my second year working on OHA under both Charles and Dwayne.

**Principal Takeno:** Charles is going to continue with the overview of the financial statements.

**Senior Manager Goodin:** Thank you very much again; I am going to be covering the condensed Statement of Net Position and the condensed Statement of Activities. All of the amounts that are provided here are in thousands. As far as assets go Capital Assets make up 246 and 247 million in both 2020 and 2019, the slight difference from year to year is a result of current year editions of approximately 860,000 and current year depreciation expense of about 1.4 million. Other assets are 432,000,000 in 2020 and 443,000,000 in 2019.

The majority of other assets is comprised of the investments held by OHA, investments for 2020 were approximately 394,000,000 versus 406,000,000 in 2019. There is about an 11.7 million dollar decrease in the investment portfolio held by OHA during the year, this is primarily a result of the market downturn in March of 2020, resulting from COVID.
Senior Manager Goodin: Since then, the investment portfolio has definitely picked back up, but because our reporting period is as of June 30, 2020, the significant downturn during March negatively impacted the portfolio. Deferred outflows of resources include deferred outflows related to both pension and OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits). These amounts in 2020, where 7.4 million versus 8.2 million in 2019. Other liabilities is 6.9 million in 2020 versus 7.0 million in 2019. Long-term liabilities is 93,000,000 in both years, there is about a $440,000 difference from year to year.

Long-term liabilities are summarized in note L to the financial statements where we detailed the compensated absences, capital lease obligations, notes payable and lines of credit. Those long-term liabilities make up about 25,000,000 as of June 30, 2020. Also included in long term liabilities is the net pension liability of 34.4 million and the net OPEB liability of 33.6 million; the net pension and OPEB liability are further detailed in note M to the financial statements. Deferred inflows of resources are also related to the pension and OPEB and then total net position was 586,000,000 as of June 30, 2020 versus 597,000,000 as of June 30, 2019.

So, the decrease of net position of $10,000,000.00 is primarily a result of the poor performance of the investments, primarily because of COVID during March of 2020.

Does anyone have any questions related to the condensed statement of net position?

There are zero questions.

Senior Manager Goodin: As far as the condensed Statement of Activities, program revenues was about 15.7 million in 2020 versus 15.78 million in 2019. So very flat, only a reduction of about 20,000. General revenues - 20.7 million in 2020 versus 43.7 million in 2019. Included in general revenues is all of the investment related income, including interest and dividends realized and unrealized gains.

Prior year, it included investment related income of nearly 25 million while this year there was only 1.4 million in investment related income. That's why the general revenues had such a significant decrease during 2020. Total revenue 36.4 million versus 59.5 million. Division expenses is 40 million in 2020 versus 41.2 million in 2019. Depreciation is 1 million versus 1.9 million in 2019 and then expenses related to Hi’ilei and Ho’okele are 6.5 million and $276,000 versus 6.2 million and $478,000. The expenses really didn't change much during the year, there was a slight reduction of approximately $2,000,000 in expenses during 2020. The change in that position is really, significantly impacted by the investments held by OHA.

Overall, there was a change in that position of negative 10.7 million in 2020 versus a positive 10.5 million in 2019; so, the overall change was approximately 21.2 million from year to year.

Are there any questions on this? If not, Dwayne will continue-on with our auditor’s results.
Principal Takeno: The next few slides is a summary of our auditor’s results and basically in connection with our audit we issue 3 reports; one on the Financial Statements, one on Internal Controls over Financial Reporting and one on Compliance.

The first report that we issue is in conjunction with the financial statements and management's responsibility for those financial statements is to prepare and fairly present these financial statements in accordance with U.S. gaap. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on those financial statements.

As Sylvia mentioned, we have again this year, an unmodified opinion or unqualified opinion, so the financial statements are prepared in all material respects in accordance with U.S. gaap. The second report that we issue is the report on internal control over financial reporting and that's in the smaller packet that is provided to you. The one that is titled Reported Independent Certified Public Accountants in accordance with government auditing standards and the uniform guidance.

In there we did note one significant deficiency as finding 2020-001 and we'll talk about that towards the end of this presentation. There were no material weaknesses noted in our audit.

The next slide talks about the report on compliance with Federal Awards; there were no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies noted. Our opinion on compliance was unmodified again and so this is another year that OHA has complied with all material respects with its major programs and there were no other findings to be reported.
**Principal Takeno:** The major program that we audit is CFDA number 93.612; The Native Hawaiian Revolving Loan Fund, and because that fund is such a big portion of the Federal Funding that OHA receives - we audit that every year. If you look at the finding, 2020-001 in that second packet on page 19 there is a description of the finding and then following that is management's Corrective Action Plan.

When we were auditing the fiscal year ended 2020, it was noticed that an adjusting journal entry that was recorded as of the prior year was not reflected in last year's audited financial statements. Because of this error, we needed to adjust the beginning balances of the 2020 Financial Statements, so Management has developed a Corrective Action Plan in response to the finding and that's on page 21, and 22. With that I guess I'll open it up to any questions that you guys may have on any other reports or the audit finding itself.

**Chair Waihe'e:** Are there any questions members?

**Trustee Ahuna:** So, when we go into like ‘corrective actions’ is it just a process that we go through? A whole new process or we just make the correction?

**Pouhana Hussey:** So corrective action means exactly that. We correct whatever error or identify and more importantly, as management what you want to do is look for the root cause. What caused that error to occur and then make sure that we don't do it again in the case for this, that's exactly what it was.

Our procedures found the error, our procedures corrected the error on the financial statements and in the process of transferring and reconciling the accounts we didn't transfer the adjustment in the information that we gave the auditors. So, the bottom line is it's not going to happen again.

Management is responsible for ensuring that the calculations are correct, that the reconciliations are done correctly and so that's essentially what our letter says. We take responsibility for that and we have found the underlying condition. That's just being more careful when we book adjustments and when we transfer the information to auditors as well as reconcile our beginning and ending trial balances.

**Trustee Ahuna:** Thank you Sylvia for saying that - I just wanted to get that out on record. As a teacher, corrective action is a 3-year process for us (teachers). I was hoping that it wasn't the case here. Thank you so much for explaining that. Thank you.

**CFO Hinck:** I just want to clarify and to put it in perspective also - that the adjustment was $63,000.00.

**Trustee Ahuna:** Thank you guys, I don't want any misinformation to get out there. Thank you so much.
Pouhana Hussey: I just would like to let the Trustees know that now that this presentation has been made to the RM Committee - at the next RM Committee meeting we will bring an Action Item for the committee to move on.

Chair Waihe‘e: Ok.

Senior Manager Goodin: Chair, I would just like to acknowledge the OHA Staff and Management for all their help in completing their audit. This year was a little bit of a different year just because of COVID and with management's help we were still able to complete the audit before the deadline, which is the end of this month. So, thank you very much Sylvia, Ramona, and Ryan.

Chair Waihe‘e: Thank you. That's a great compliment and again thank YOU also for a good job.

Trustee Lee: I too, would like to commend Sylvia and her team and Ramona coming on - to finish up the audit. Although the Office of Hawaiian Affairs goes through this audit every year - notwithstanding this small discrepancy, which our Management found. Which is a very important thing to note, that we found it.

The fact that we go through the reporting of this audit and there's no significant questions is a testament to our Management and the way that they keep our books because we, as the Trustees who have the fiduciary responsibility to oversee this Trust see that our audit once again has come back clean.

There isn't a lot of discrepancy for us to sit here and discuss and hash over so thank you to our team; our CEO, our new CFO and everybody else in Administration. Especially as the Auditor's team stated, to be able to get this work done with COVID, they can't come in like they normally do to our offices and sit there and have the documents provided to them. I'm sure that was a great challenge to them, so thank you everybody for your hard work.

Chair Waihe‘e: Thank you. OK, are there any other questions or discussion Members?

There are no further questions.

Principal Takeno: I just wanted to say thank you again and if it's OK with you Chair - we're going to log off.

Chair Waihe‘e: Yes, Thank you Dwayne, Charles, and Lehua.

VI. COMMUNITY CONCERNS**

Germaine Meyers: Aloha Chair Waihee, Vice Chair Alapa, Staff members and Lāhui. My name is Germaine Meyers; I am an OHA beneficiary for beneficiary advocacy and empowerment. I'm also a Nānākuli Hawaiian Homestead lessee. I would like to bring to you my community concerns. I'm very concerned that the Legislators have before them now in the House HCR 129 / HR 111. The convening of a workshop group to discuss the future development plans in Kaka‘ako Makai.

My concern is that this resolution is the result of two towers being requested to be built by OHA in Kaka‘ako. What I'm concerned about is there seems to be injustice when it relates to indigent and indigenous people of this land. The indigent and indigenous Native Hawaiians. My concern is that when it comes to our land, OHA's land, DHHL's land - the State continues to do statement-dated projects on our land.
For example, at the neighborhood board we are now battling with solar farms or renewable energy being built in Nānākuli, not for Native Hawaiians, but for other developments that are nearby. We, also on the West Oahu, must deal with the homeless; we must deal with landfill and wastewater.

OHA knows that we have our land in Kakaʻako, and OHA has been there to help the homeless population.

In the past, the city has come to OHA and asked to use our parcel of land in Kakaʻako for toilet water and wastewater. We have in West Oahu, Waimānalo Gulch; it's the current landfill, and the only landfill for trash. It is in my backyard and recently we've been discussing the fact that the city out of all the properties that it researched to build another landfill to replace Waimānalo Gulch - guess where it's ending up?

The proposal was - it should go to a land in the back of Waianae Valley. So, my concern is that we continue to have all of these injustices when it comes to Native Hawaiian lands; OHA lands, DHHL lands.

We’re asked; please assist us with trash, assist us with toilet water, assist us with the homeless, assist us with our renewable energy projects. But when we ask for two towers to be built so that Native Hawaiians can come participate, and live and thrive in downtown Honolulu - the doors are shut upon us.

Now they want to convene a workshop to discuss the future development on our lands. What I'm concerned about is and that I will share with you - I will email to all of you a list of the tallest buildings in Honolulu. It says here in this report that Honolulu is the capital of Hawai‘i - is a US city that currently contains over 470 high rises.

In 2011, it ranked 4th among US cities in the number of high-rise buildings after New York City, Chicago, and Los Angeles. Yes, our little island in the middle of the ocean out of all the cities across the United States, we ranked number 4.

Then it states in 2017, it ranked 6th; we dropped 2 spots having fallen behind Houston and Washington D.C. This little parcel of land in the middle of the ocean - downtown Honolulu, which includes Kakaʻako. The first high-rise exceeded 350 feet; the Ala Moana Hotel built in 1970.

But as OHA has requested for the Legislature to allow us to go above 400 feet. I want to share with you when we started to have 400 feet high rises. That would be in 1990, 31 years ago, two residential towers were created in Kakaʻako. It's called One Waterfront Mauka Tower and One Waterfront Makai Tower, they’re each 400 feet and they each have 45 floors.

The highest in that area is 47 floors, which is the Koʻolani that was built in 2006, just a mere 15 years ago. 15 years later we are asking to assist us to have two towers in Kakaʻako and the response to that is to convene a workshop group to discuss the future developments of Kakaʻako.

I think Kakaʻako has been already overly developed and our two will not make a deep impact. I think it’s all about putting the indigenous and indigent people out in the country with landfills and using our lands for wastewater and toilet water - that will service these towers. Trustees, I ask you please stand for us and organize us in a way that we can have these things in Honolulu. I see that my time has ended, Ke Akua Pū. Mahalo.

Chair Waihe‘e: Thank you Germaine.
VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Waihe‘e: We have a Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment Meeting tomorrow and we will be discussing all these various bills that affect us in greater detail at that meeting.

Chair Waihe‘e: Are there any other announcements?

There are zero announcements.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Hulu Lindsey moves to adjourn the RM meeting.

Trustee Akaka seconds the motion.

Chair Waihe‘e asks if there is any discussion. There is none.

Chair Waihe‘e asks if any members vote NO or ABSTAIN. There are no dissenting votes.

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

Chair Waihe‘e adjourns the Committee on Resource Management (RM) meeting at 2:12 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Wennihan  
Trustee Aide  
Committee on Resource Management

As approved by the Committee on Resource Management (RM) on April 20, 2021.

Trustee John Waiheʻe, IV  
Chair  
Committee on Resource Management