STATE OF HAWAI‘I
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
560 N. NIMITZ HIGHWAY, SUITE 200
(VIRTUAL MEETING - VIA ZOOM WEBINAR)
COMMITTEE ON RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
MINUTES
November 16, 2021  10:00 a.m.

ATTENDANCE:
Chairperson John Waihe‘e, IV
Trustee Leina‘ala Ahu Isa
Trustee Dan Ahuna
Trustee Kaleihikina Akaka
Trustee Keli‘i Akina
Trustee Brendon Kalei‘aina Lee
Trustee C. Hulu Lindsey
Trustee Keola Lindsey

EXCUSED:
Vice-Chairperson Luana Alapa

BOT STAFF:
Crayn Akina
Melissa Wennihan

ADMINISTRATION STAFF:
Sylvia Hussey, CEO / Ka Pouhana / Administrator
Casey Brown, COO / Ka Pou Nui
Erin Nakama, IT
Grace Chen, FS
Kalani Fronda, LL
Kalena Blakemore, LL
Kevin Chak, IT
Lori Walker, LL
Raina Gushiken, Corporation Counsel
Ramona Hinck, CFO
Ryan Lee, INT INV MGR
Geoff Blackwell, ACI
Monica Braine, ACI
Rachel Clivaz, Associate - Commonfund
Joe Falcha, Investment Officer - Commonfund
Niniau Kawaihae, DHHL
Ralph Money, Managing Director - Commonfund Capital
Jennifer, Seidler, Investment Officer - Commonfund
Dave Shekar, Senior Associate - Commonfund Capital
Mikhail Sundust, ACI

I. CALL TO ORDER
Chair Waiheʻe calls the Committee on Resource Management meeting for Tuesday, November 16, 2021, to order at 10:00 a.m.

Chair Waiheʻe notes for the record that PRESENT are:

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<th>MEMBERS</th>
<th>AT CALL TO ORDER (10:00 a.m.)</th>
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At the Call to Order, SEVEN (7) Trustees are PRESENT, thereby constituting a quorum.
EXCUSED from the RM Meeting are:

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

None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. October 26, 2021

Trustee Hulu Lindsey moves to approve the minutes of October 26, 2021.

Trustee Lee seconds the motion.

Chair Waiheʻe asks if there is any discussion.

There is no discussion.

Chair Waiheʻe calls for a ROLL CALL VOTE.

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

Chair Waiheʻe notes for the record that SIX (6) members present vote ‘AE (YES) and the MOTION CARRIES.
IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Trustee Training (or Education): What is Venture Capital and how does it work?
Joe Falcha, Director, Commonfund

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

Pouhana Hussey: Thank you Chair Waihe‘e. I’m going to ask Interim Investment Manager, Ryan Lee to introduce our guests, or have them introduce themselves and then continue with their presentation.

Interim Investment Manager Lee: Thank you. Aloha Trustees. For today’s agenda, we will be covering; What is Venture Capital and how does it work?

Venture Capital falls into the bucket of either alternative investments category along with Private Equity and Private Debt. So, we discussed this last time - we talked about portfolio asset allocation.

We have Commonfund here, who manages several of our investments for OHA including Venture Capital. Venture Capital represents about 5% of OHA’s investments today. So, I’m going to hand this over to Joe Falcha, who is our main contact at Commonfund and let him introduce the rest of the team members.

Investment Officer Falcha: Mahalo and Aloha everybody. Mahalo for inviting us to your meeting today, it’s been way too long - great to see everyone, so many familiar faces. I will introduce the group today; we have a pretty good-sized group.

For those of you who I’ve not met yet, my name is Joe Falcha, I am OHA’s Primary Investment Officer at Commonfund. I’ve been working with OHA’s Investment Office, most recently with Ryan Lee for about five years and have been with Commonfund for almost 16 years.

With me, are two of my outsourced Investment Office colleagues; Jennifer Seidler and Rachel Clivaz. Jennifer is also an Investment Officer who recently joined the OHA team, she’s been with Commonfund for almost 10 years and works out of the San Francisco office. Rachel is an Associate with Commonfund, she’s a vital member of our OHA team, she may look young but she’s the glue that holds us together, she’s been here with the OHA team for three plus years and with Commonfund for over four years. Then we have two special guests with us today from the Private Capital Team, Ralph Money and Dave Shekar. Not a stranger to OHA, Ralph is the Managing Director of the Commonfund Capital Team, he’s been with Commonfund around 30 years, Ralph will correct me if I’m wrong.

Managing Director Money: Twenty-two.
Investment Officer Falcha: 22? Feels like 30, Ralph. Over the years, Ralph’s been part of the Capital Team for OHA since the beginning of our relationship, I believe he’s presented north of maybe 10 times to the group over the years.

Dave is a member of the Venture Capital Team at Commonfund, he’ll be the one walking us through the Venture Capital Ecosystem, so to speak. Discussing best practices, emerging themes in a Post-COVID world, and how tech affects everything.

So, we hope to accomplish three things on our call today:
1. give a quick refresher on why long-term investors include Private Equity Venture Capital and their policy allocation;
2. get a closer look into what Venture Capital is and how it works; and
3. how does one measure success and Venture Capital investing?

Before we begin, just a quick note – we prefer to have a conversation with you all, so please stop us along the way to ask any questions or make any comments, that’s why we’re here. With that all said, I’m going to turn it over to Ralph on page three to start the discussion around *Why long-term investors invest in private capital.*

Managing Director Money: Thank you very much, Joe and Good Morning. It's so wonderful to reconnect with so many friends from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. As Joe mentioned, I've had the great treat and privilege of meeting so many of the Trustees live, over the years in Honolulu at your various Resource Management Committee Meetings and Trustee Meetings. Also, a number of Trustees who joined us at the annual Commonfund Forums. I am really appreciative to spend some time with you.

So, what I'd like to do initially is a reminder of *Why do Institutional Investors invest in Private Equity? Why do they invest in Venture Capital?*

The number one reason is return, is performance, and the drivers of return are representative on these two charts that we have on the screen. The left side is just a reminder that over long periods of time equity outperforms other asset classes; certainly like cash in fixed income. In the investable marketplace there’s something called the equity risk premium, which is true over long periods of time, typically it’s a 4% premium, which is meaningful and today it’s running at about a 5% premium.

That’s why so many organizations that we work with and so many of the endowments and foundations around the Country have that equity bias, and this is just a reminder.

The second premium that helps drive Private Equity and Venture Capital is not only the fact that it’s equity but it’s illiquid equity. So, investors typically will invest in the private markets to receive a liquidity premium and typically it’s about 3% that’s the goldenrod bar on the right graph. Today that premium is larger than that, but that’s what it’s all about.

If you can invest, as OHA has done with us, and others over the years in Private Equity, in Venture Capital your objective is returned.
**Managing Director Money:** Secondarily, diversification - so next to a basket of publicly traded companies, you have in your Public Equity asset allocation, now you're getting exposure to a large basket of privately held companies and their more private companies in the investment - in the universe that are public companies.

![Equity and Liquidity Premiums](image)

**Managing Director Money:** At a kind of an intellectual level, Trustees will remember; yes, there's a premium, but there's a wider premium in the private markets if you work with better managers. What we're showing you on this chart answers the questions: *How does Private Equity work? How does Venture Capital work?* - compared to the public market.

So, on the Left set of bars, is a very tight set of returns over the last 10 years that the public market has given to us investors. The S&P 500, for example, the median Public Equity fund would have returned about 13.5%. If you were with a top quartile Public Equity manager, you would have received 14.4%. As that philosopher Yogi Berra said: "If you come to the fork in the road, pick it up". If you have access on the public side to the top tier managers, you pick up almost a percentage point.

In the world of Private Equity, in the world of Venture Capital, the median return in say U.S. Private Equity, is about 15%, but if you work with the top quartile managers, the best managers, the returns are more significant. We view Private Equity in many ways, and certainly Venture Capital in many ways, as not an *asset class* per se, but an *access class* that if you can have access to underlying managers who can give you those top quartile Performance, that really has a positive impact on the portfolio.

Later in the agenda we'll talk about what has that meant over the years to OHA. The headline will be because OHA has had access to really strong managers in Private Equity and in Venture Capital within our programs; you have seen some meaningful 'Outperformance' versus Public Equity. So that's just a refresh of how Private Equity works, it has a return premium of over 3% on average and if you can get and work with better managers that premium can be much wider and much more interesting if I can go back one page, please.
Managing Director Money: This is pretty interesting - and we shared this early on, with the OHA Trustees, and I think Trustee Hulu Lindsey is on the call. She’ll remember because she was part of the group that approved the initial allocations to private markets.

Her questions and the other trustees, a decade ago, were:

   How do foundations outperform?
   What is the driver of outperformance?

What this data shows is we show you size cohorts of smaller endowments, medium-sized endowments, and mega-endowments with over a billion. What we’ve discovered through our research over the years is the organizations that have more allocations to private and illiquid allocations typically have better Performance. We’re not advocating a 37% allocation, like that the goldenrod dot on the far right, that the mega foundations and endowments have, but we do know that’s one of the reasons why their 25-year performance record is stronger than the other cohorts group.

The single driver has been the inclusion in a meaningful way, illiquid allocations; we’ll talk more about that later in the agenda.
Managing Director Money: In my last overview slide, would be what are some of the best practices that we've observed. So many of these I would say OHA has been a beneficiary of and blessed with the current returns; is that you started a program and your dollar-cost-averaging over a number of vintage years. So, vintage year diversification was important.

Second, you had geographic diversification. So, it wasn't just U.S. You were opportunistic including developed markets outside the United States, parts of Europe and, to a lesser extent, but still important thoughtful allocations to select emerging markets as well.

Lastly, you followed the rules of the road. We thought of allocating over time, diversifying by geography, but also diversifying by style; Buyouts, Venture Capital, Natural Resources were part of your thinking.

Then of course the most important thing was accessing the best managers, over time, not the best that were available - and you'll discover through a future agenda item, you've been rewarded by that - that approach. I'll pause for initial questions before we take a dive deeper into Venture Capital.

Chair Waihe’e: Are there any questions, members?

Trustee Akina: Thank you, this is very valuable information and I appreciate the first chart, which shows that the caliber of the Investment Advisor has a remarkable impact upon the outcomes. Tongue-in-cheek - Where would you place Commonfund in terms of the dark blue, light blue, or orange?

Managing Director Money: Let me address that. I’ll take your attention to the far right, say Venture Capital. It’s also true in Private Equity, but because we’re focusing on Venture Capital in this morning’s discussion, because Commonfund Capital has been investing in Venture Capital for over 30 years, and because we represent so many mission-based organizations; whether they be organizations like OHA, University of Hawai‘i, Queen’s Health and other mission-based organizations - we have access to managers that our other competitors don’t have access to. Because we have access to the top tier, the industry leading Venture Capital firms - our performance is on the upper end.
Managing Director Money: We’re either at the top quartile for most of our venture funds, or at the very top of the second quartile driven by that access. That is why, when we started working with OHA; that was one of the questions that the Chair at the time had:

Do you have access?
Are you being rewarded? and
Can that accrue back to our investors?

You’ll discover later on in my comments, Trustee Akina, your Venture Performance at Commonfund Capital has been top quartile, compared to the Direct Managers. Compared to the other fund of funds, even better, but we have been blessed with those strong relationships with the general partners we work with. That would be my short answer to your very good question, sir.

Trustee Akina: Well, Thank you, Mr. Money.

Managing Director Money: If there are no other questions from Trustees; my colleague David Shekar who is on the Venture Capital Portfolio Team will share some definitions about Private Capital, share the trends we’re seeing in the industry, and some examples of actual Venture Investments that are in OHA’s Portfolio. So, with that - I’ll segue over to my friend Dave.

Senior Associate Shekar: Thank you, Ralph. Good Morning everyone. If you turn to page seven, please. I’ll give an overview of Venture Capital and what we’re seeing in the market today, and some of the evolutions over the past 10 years or so; what it means for our portfolio. Please feel free to stop me with any questions along the way, trying to keep this high level, but would like it to be interactive as much as possible.

What is Venture; in basic terms, Venture Capital is a type of financing to help startups and small businesses grow inherently. There’s a little more level of risk than a Traditional Public Investment or Private Equity Investment, but also more potential for returns.

If you look at the left-hand side, this is what Venture Capital used to look like. It was sort of a cottage industry, in the sense that there were a few firms that were involved, it was a little bit unorganized. You would have traditional early-stage investors, you would have growth equity investors, and then you’d have the Public Markets.

So, if you were to start a company, as a founder you’d raise capital from an early-stage investor really at the outset of company formation at the beginning of building the company. You may or may not raise from a growth equity investor as the business matures and then you would look to go public as soon as possible via an initially public offering and public equities.

Obviously, larger Asset Managers could then invest in those companies, retail investors can invest in those companies, and that was really seen as the end goal, even for the most successful startups.

A good example is Google; they were started in 1998, they went public as a six-year-old company in 2004 with the Market Cap of $23 billion. If you look at Google today, it’s trading at $2 trillion; all of that growth was accrued by the public markets between 2004 and today.
Senior Associate Shekar: If you look on the right-hand side, you can see there’s a lot more going on, on that side of the page. What’s really happened is the Venture Capital Market has expanded and as a result, as sort of proliferated into a number of subcategories.

So, you see all the way at the bottom ‘Angel’ - that could just be an individual investing in a proof of concept that hasn’t even been turned into a company yet. Then all the way at the top, you have Foreign Capital; like sovereign wealth funds, “Mega” Growth/Buyout funds, you might have heard of SoftBank’s involvement in this space or Tiger Global, which is a hedge fund turned Private Capital Investor.

There are a lot of new entrants into this space, and they’ve all gotten involved in the past five to 10 years. What’s happened is the capital flowing into Venture has really increased, especially at the later stages. What you’re seeing now is that if you’re a founder with a market leading kind of company you don’t have as much pressure to go public. So, what we’re seeing is that companies are staying private longer instead of raising one or two rounds, before going public. They may raise five or six or even more than that. The value is therefore accruing away from Public Investors to Private Investors. If you’re an early-stage Venture Investor, you’re getting the benefit of all that growth before companies go public. If you only participated in buying companies on the stock market, you may miss a lot of that growth. So, that’s been a really interesting trend and a reason why a lot of different types of firms are now looking at venture capital as a way to boost returns.

Senior Associate Shekar: The next slide kind of speaks to why there’s so much attention being paid to this space. We all know, the last two years really have seen the world forced to go digital in terms of living our everyday lives, in terms of working. We’re all on Zoom a lot more than we were before. Even consuming goods and services; all that has really been routed online.

From our perspective, this innovation was pulled forward. It was already innovation that we thought would happen, that Venture Capitalists were already investing in, and it’s really accelerated the market and made it an even more attractive time to get into Venture Capital.
Senior Associate Shekar: We’ve listed a number of different sectors here that have been significantly impacted and ‘pulled forward’ as a result of what's happened in the past couple years. I'll give examples that you have exposure to through our program as I go through these.

- **Future of Work** - Obviously we're all remote and have been for a while, we've had to figure out how to work in a distributed manner and create collaboration and productivity tools around that. Zoom obviously being a great example, but we're also seeing the rise of Freelance / Gig Economy. An example of that is DoorDash in the U.S. and actually now abroad as well, started with food, and now you can order pretty much anything on it. You have exposure to that company that's been a very large outcome that was put forward because of the pandemic. Another good example is Airbnb; it started as a way to disrupt the hotel chains and they actually did very well during the pandemic as they shifted their business from short-term Rentals to long-term Rentals, that's in your portfolio as well.

- **Machine learning / Artificial Intelligence** - has been talked about for some time, but now we're seeing actual real productivity tools with real business models, much better data sets, so ways to help enterprises run more efficiently and taking away a lot of the human elements of inefficiency and automating them.

- **Next Generation Finance** – A really, big trend is making financial tools more accessible; banking tools of the past catered towards more affluent people, but we're seeing the rise of ways to do banking from your mobile phone, so anyone in the world with a smartphone can connect to the financial system and trade. For example – Robinhood. Another example that's in your portfolio is Stripe, which is now a 100-billion-dollar company. They essentially power, all of the back-end infrastructure to make payments online. If you think about how big that space has gotten in the last year, Stripe is behind all of that.

- **Digital Health** - This is a pretty obvious one; we've all had to shift to telemedicine as hospitals have been pushed to the brink. So, there's been a lot of technological advancement in terms of ways to connect with your doctors online, ways to make hospitals run more efficiently and at lower costs, and process patients more quickly and more effectively.

- **Blockchain & Crypto** - You may have heard of what's going on Blockchain. It kind of extends beyond Bitcoin, but even decentralized infrastructure for building new finance applications. That will think of ways to facilitate transactions without going through a central bank. If you're in a country where the banking system isn't as reliable - that's a very important new trend, but it's here to stay.

- **SaaS** - which means Software as a Service; essentially means instead of storing your data on site with big server farms, it's stored in the cloud. Which is a lot cheaper to run businesses. A good example of that is Snowflake, in your portfolio. They went public at about $70 billion last year and it's done very well.

- **Logistics & Mobility** - Supply chains were stretched very thin over the last year. So, a lot of companies have trouble with that, but ways to optimize production on the supply chain, last mile delivery, use of robots and drones - we're seeing more adoption of those types of technologies.
Senior Associate Shekar (continues)

- **Future of Engagement** - We're all forced to engage online with peers, we're sent in isolation, essentially during the pandemic; but new social networks have come out and gained engagement through that. Good example, being TikTok; the parent company is known as Byte dance. That's a $200 million company, that's in your portfolio and has very strong engagement. Another one being Roblox, which is a social gaming platform for kids that's done very well. All of these were investments that were made in the past five years; companies were built in the past 10 - 15 years and have really gained steam because of what's happened over the past couple years. As a result, when you make Venture Capital Investments, the size of these companies can grow, as to reach an unprecedented peak, which makes returns in the space more and more attractive if you can get into those category winning companies.

Senior Associate Shekar: Again, feel free to jump in with any questions.

This plays into a larger Global “Tech Effect”, which we've observed over the last 10 years. This is essentially showing the state of venture from 2010 verses 2020. If you look at the top left, tech is growing in importance globally; that's something that we've all witnessed and feel in our everyday lives, I think this really paints the picture.

If you look at the largest Market Caps in the world; from 2010 to 2020 you'll notice a pretty big shift. 2010 on the left, you'll see a lot of oil and gas names, you only see two tech names, Apple and Microsoft, and those were both 30-40-year-old companies largely hardware based at the time, they were selling computers and phones.

If you look at the right, this is a snapshot of 2020; you'll see that eight of the top 10 companies in the world of tech companies. Apple and Microsoft are still on there, Amazon - an online retailer and a cloud service company, Google, Facebook – Social Network, Tencent and Ali Baba - which are large tech companies in China. Then Tesla as well, which it may or may not be a tech company, but you know, it certainly has some aspects of that. So that's been a major shift in kind of the largest companies in the world, and what we're seeing is that if you look on the right, the size of companies that are entering the stock market are getting much bigger too.
Senior Associate Shekar: If you looked at the median IPO value between 2010 and 2020 - the median IPO is three times bigger than it was 10 years ago and that's really happening because we are consuming much, more technology.

We as businesses, as consumers - using technology more in your everyday lives. Tech companies are therefore selling into larger-and-larger markets, so the weeding type companies are now magnitude multiples bigger than they used to be. Then the bottom left is one thing that we've observed, one of the key takeaways that plays into our strategy which is the biggest companies that go public, account for the majority of returns in venture capital.

As Ralph mentioned it's all about returns for us. If you look at 2010, the aggregate value of companies that exit at 500 million or more, was about half of the total returns. They were important, but not the entire story. If you look at 2020, they're accounting for almost 90% of industry returns, so that's been a major change.

As the markets have gotten bigger it's also been the case that the category winning businesses are taking the lion's share of returns, and so it's become really important to get into those category winning companies. As we'll get into in a second, really the top handful of venture firms are able to get into those companies, which is why it's important to work with the cream of the crop in the space.

Then the last thing, on the bottom right, which I kind of alluded to, we're seeing an increasing menu of opportunities, so this pie chart is difficult to read and it's that way on purpose. There are 50-plus industries being disrupted by technology, so it used to be that technology was an industry by itself. Now any kind of company needs a tech strategy. It's gone from a Cost Center to a way to differentiate. So, if you looked at FinTech, if you looked at healthcare, if you looked at energy; all of them have technology disruptors and these disruptors need to figure out what their tech strategy is going to be.

So, it's never been a better time, even with all these major companies that already exist, it's never been a better time to start a company.
Managing Director Money: David, it's interesting that technology is no longer its own sector, it touches every sector. I was speaking earlier in the week with some friends in Hawai‘i, who are in the hospitality business and we even see Venture Capital and disruption impacting that. You think about the beverage robots, that increasingly we're seeing - whether it's for morning or afternoon coffee type products. Now there are these precision machines that can do a correct Kona coffee with almond milk versus a green tea latte.

We see it going to the juice industry, in restaurants; precision robotics mixing the right type of juice. We're beginning to see it in bars and taverns, and certainly the hotel industry where we've seen attrition, we've seen labor shortages. The need to streamline operations, have a quality product, increase margins, and now we see technology going in with these beverage-robotics backed often by venture capital firms. Whether it's in the juice drink category or mixed drinks.

I'm old fashioned. I like to have a mixologist make a proper mai tai versus a machine, but there are machines that I understand are highly rated and can produce a mai tai. Again, just an example of how the “Tech Effect” has touched so many sectors.

Dave, maybe it's worth sharing with the group our approach; The Commonfund Capital, our point of view and how we think about taking all these macro factors into a micro case of finding returns, and I'm thinking about maybe page 11 if that’s okay Rachel.

Trustee Hulu Lindsey: I have a question about the pie.

Chair Waihe’e: We'll go to Trustee Lee first, since I saw his hand raised and then we'll go to Trustee Lindsey.

Trustee Lee: Thank you, Chair Waihe’e.

Ralph, to your point about the hospitality industry, I just went to a symposium at the Hawai‘i Convention Center a few weeks ago and they were talking a lot about this and how technology is infiltrating every layer of the hospitality industry. Especially now, given the labor shortages that we’re facing, they're looking now into using technology and algorithms to better maximize their labor force. So, instead of the Head of Housekeeping determining who's going where, what time, based on check-in and check-out; a computer is doing it now. So, that they can use their workforce more efficiently as to what rooms need to get done when and all of that. That’s something you would never have thought of 10 years ago right, that technology would be impacting not only the labor force, but the allocation of labor in the visitor industry, which is our largest industry here in the State of Hawai‘i.

Managing Director Money: Very important, and if you go back literally and maybe Trustee Lindsey will remember that at one of the Commonfund forums, one of our speakers was the founder of a company called Kayak. Remember, that was a big disrupter literally 10-11 years ago to bring online, more quickness in booking flights and hotel rooms. Today, we take it for granted, but that was a company in our earlier portfolios, backed by one of our managers called General Catalyst. Which was really eye opening for our members and investors who attended the forums thinking about technology.

Then David's example of how it's touching healthcare, and doing at home testing, where before you had to go out to a lab. Some of the testing can now be easily and cost effectively done at home, but it's been mind-boggling and truly disrupting. I think it ends up with a better product, better health, better consumer experience for a lot of consumers.
Chair Waihe'e recognizes Trustee Hulu Lindsey.

Trustee Hulu Lindsey: Thank you, I see in the pie that there's a large portion attributed to TMT can you share with me what's happening with them in their industry.

Senior Associate Shekar: Yes, TMT stands for Tech, Media, and Telecommunications. So, if you know…

Trustee Hulu Lindsey: Okay...

Trustee Lee: That's not the telescope.

Senior Associate Shekar: Yeah.

Trustee Hulu Lindsey: I wanted you to stop right there. I just wanted to be sure it didn't involve the telescope that is being suggested for the Mauna Kea project. So, I'm ok with that. Thank you.

Senior Associate Shekar: Different acronym.

Trustee Lee: Dave and Ralph, you know this conversation about how tech is infiltrating all these other things, I think one of the biggest emerging markets coming forward is going to be Cybersecurity.

Senior Associate Shekar: Oh absolutely.

Trustee Lee: Right, and I'll give you a perfect example, for those of us that watch a lot of television, the episode of New Amsterdam last week. People don't realize that every aspect of what you go through in a hospital is run by a central tech system; and if somebody hacks into that you can't perform surgeries, you can't do tests, you can't prescribe medication, you can't access patients' files - you can't do anything.

So, with this conversation we're having about emerging markets and everything - that's I think, by far, going to be one of the biggest ones emerging in the near and far future. Cybersecurity, because everything now is touched by tech. If you don't have strong Cybersecurity and a resiliency plan of what you're going to do if and when that technology goes down; you're screwed.

Senior Associate Shekar: Yeah, I was going to add that a lot of our managers are investing in that; a lot of them have Cyber Security. Experts who use our companies, who kind of grew up in that space.

Another big thing that's happening is because of Edge Computing, a lot of enterprises now have bring-your-own-device to work or, especially with remote. You don't have a central repository for all your data being stored. It's located on people's phones, they're scattered across the world, so how do you create a safety net. All those multiple different points of potential failure; it is something a lot of startups are trying to address as well. That's only going to grow as a trend.

Managing Director Money: Dave, maybe move to our approach. I can close out with a couple comments on measurement and the OHA portfolio, but I think your slide here; Trustee Lee kind of opened the door to the first investment thesis, but why don't you take it on that page.
Senior Associate Shekar: Sure, I can go through this quickly. *So, how are we navigating the Venture Capital landscape?* It’s obviously changed a lot. Our strategy has been consistent, and I would say we’ve been beneficiaries of the value created by the tech effects.

Our thesis has always been that technology will disrupt all industries and investing in Venture Capital at the early stages, is the best way to get exposure to that innovation. We've been highly tech-focused, around 90% of our portfolio is in underlying technology companies - the rest of it is in healthcare. That healthcare can be either drug discovery, like biotechnology or the intersection of technology’s healthcare, where it's about telemedicine and hospital security and imagined data like we talked about.

We are early-stage-focused, so we think that more and more value is accruing to Private Investors and if that's the case - you want to get into these companies as early as possible and add more capital into those companies as they mature. That's been our focus.

About two-thirds early stage, one-third venture growth, which would be sort of the mid-stage before companies go public.

One piece that I skipped earlier on the previous slide is importance of being global. So, if you look at the number of IPOs, globally, only 60% of them are in the U.S. It used to be 90%, so we think it's important to have a global perspective. We're primarily U.S. focused, about 60% of what we do, but we have exposure in China, India, Europe, and increasingly Israel.

Speaking of Cybersecurity, they're kind of the world leaders in those types of companies and have done very well. Then importantly Portfolio Construction, as Venture has grown, there have been a lot of new entrants into the space. We constantly do analysis on whether we're working with the right managers. What we found is there's really a concentrated set of top quartile firms that tend to be consistently in the top quartile and get into those big names - that generate the industry returns. We've been focused on narrow exposure to a set of managers that we think are the best. We might add one or two in any cycle, but we think that's the right approach in this market.

There's a lot of noise, but the best, tend to consistently be the best, with some exceptions. That's our core strategy, and then we couple that with select Direct Investments. If we know that there's an emerging category leader, we have the opportunity to invest in that company. We'll seek to do so, that's about 15% of our portfolio.
Senior Associate Shekar: Then secondary is increasingly a bigger part of the market as companies get bigger and bigger, but don't go public. A lot of early investors will sell their shares, and if we have a point of view on whether that company will continue to grow, we will do that too. Smaller part of our business; that's our portfolio.

Managing Director Money: Dave, I think you make an important point that goes back to Trustee Akina's question before. There are over 2,000 institutional, quality Venture Capital firms in the marketplace and we work with about two dozen of them, 20 to 24.

So, to your question before, we really work hard to stay and have very good relationships with the industry leaders that really drive the return and that could open the door in terms of - how do you measure success?

What I'd like to do in the last minute of our prepared comments is say - typically an investor in Venture Capital, an investor in Private Equity would look at several ways of measuring success.

The first question is, hey we locked up our money, in your case with Commonfund Capital; in these Venture Capital and Private Equity programs - Did we achieve a premium over the Public Markets?

You had a choice of investing in the S&P 500 or other indices on the public side, but you chose to work with us. I can report this morning that over the last 10 years on an annualized premium, OHA had a premium of 8%, not the industry goal of 3% and not the current average of about 4%.

For the last 10 years to premium, based on your Commonfund Capital Investments over the years - has returned back to OHA an annual premium of 8%. Quite nice. It's more than we thought we would do; we're not going to ask for it back. I think based on the quality of the managers, the portfolio construction, they were important drivers to it. So, your overall portfolio has done well.

Another way of measuring success is the internal rate of return, that's what the Private Capital industry uses as probably a very important measure of success. Since inception, the internal rate of return on OHA's Commonfund Private Capital program has been 17.3%; quite strong.

It's third measure is called the multiple, where we add up the distributions that we've returned back to OHA plus the current value against what you've paid in. When we started working with OHA, our goal was 1.8. We're ahead of that, but recall there's still about 60 million of values on the portfolio that we hope to convert to cash over the years. From a benchmark perspective, which was another question, we would say we're at the top of the second quartile or touching the first quartile and the different programs you're in.
Managing Director Money: From a success perspective, you have a good foundation on which to build, should the trustees vote to continue a private program. Working with Ramona and Ryan on the staff side, we’re here to help, but we’re very pleased to report successful performance to date within your Commonfund Capital Private programs. I can answer any questions Trustees may have.

Trustee Lee: Not so much a question Ralph, but maybe a little bit of context for the rest of the Trustees. Those numbers are great and they’re fantastic, unfortunately this is an extremely small portion of our entire portfolio and that’s part of the reason why Chair Waihe’e is having us go through all of this education now, because we’re in the process of redistributing our portfolio.

As the portfolio currently is, it is significantly risk averse and as we have come to learn, that’s not where we should be especially given the large amount of land that we own that acts as its own hedge. So, those numbers are great and we’re super happy about them. Now we just have to increase the size of our portfolio of that - so that we can really take advantage of those type of numbers versus it being really the minority part of our portfolio.

Managing Director Money: It’s interesting too Trustee Lee, and I know, one of the meetings, Trustee Ahu Isa and I were talking about by adding seemingly risky assets, like Venture Capital and Private Equity; the overall riskiness of the total portfolio actually goes down. It’s counterintuitive, and we’re not suggesting a significant increase in your asset allocations to private but getting back on the path of dollar-cost averaging. Maybe slowly adjusting the targets higher, but you’ve skipped a couple cycles. So, you’re a little bit behind but it sounds like the Trustees are getting back on the path of success.

One of the ways to win is continue where you started: dollar-cost average, diversify, some buyouts, some venture, some environmental sustainability. U.S. bias, but appropriate non-U.S. exposures as well, getting back on that. Joe from our team, Rachel from our team, Jennifer from our team - are on the call and can help design the next steps; working with Ryan and Ramona and the Trustees. Happy to help.

Trustee Lee: Ralph, that risk profile goes down because we’re not as exposed to the volatility. Right? That’s why that risk exposure goes down because we don’t have the same volatility that the S&P has.
Managing Director Money: Right, and I close with a statement - that we have a distinct bias towards working with managers who are very close to the company’s they’re backing. A true partnership. Not hands off, but hands on and not a lot of leverage, sometimes no leverage. The companies David talked about when we first got involved; they couldn’t borrow money. So, it was all about smart equity and using that equity Capital to help them grow to the next level of excellence and success for the next rounds of financing.

Part of the mitigated risk we believe is choosing managers who are experts in those fields. To add value with the management team, to collaborate with the management teams with the growth pattern. That’s a distinct bias, we have, versus passive.

*Does that make sense Dave, in terms of your work with Venture firms?*

Senior Associate Shekar: That’s right.

Trustee Ahuna: I just wanted to say thank you to Commonfund - Ralph and your team. I'm very familiar with Commonfund, and I also wanted to add to that. When you guys add the education part to our trust and you guys take care of all of our trustees - we're very updated on what's going on, so thank you Ralph.

I also wanted to say this, I've learned about Commonfund over the past few years, and what you guys do well is you - actually go and manage your managers, check on your managers. I thought that was really interesting because we have a lot of active managers and it's very important. Thank you.

Managing Director Money: Good to see you Trustee Ahuna and thanks for commenting. One of the things that you probably remember is that we're rarely the largest investor in these private equity and venture funds, but we've been invited to serve on over 100 of their advisory boards. That gives us the monitoring and risk oversight to watch the portfolios grow, watch the teams, how they cooperate, where they're taking the portfolio, and making sure they're not off the mark.

Also, we use those platforms Dan, as you're familiar with relationships, particularly those firms where their allocation to get added money is very, very difficult sometimes. Those relationships are helpful in terms of getting the allocations that make a difference.

To the other trustee’s question - we have access where it makes sense, and that's the quality level where you want to play. I know, in the past when you've challenged us, quality, quality, quality, good ethics; those components drive the returns we do for our mission-based organizations like OHA. So, for that we’re honored by your trust and hopefully work more in the future. Back to Chairman John.

Chair Waihe’e: Thank you, Ralph.

Managing Director Money: Joe Falcha wanted to invite everybody to the forum before we hop off.
**Investment Officer Falcha:** Thank you. We've been a little longer than anticipated here and we apologize, but if you haven't received that, you'll be receiving it shortly. Registrations for 2022 Commonfund Forum has started. As a right now, it would be in person, but there's also virtual attendance available as well, so we'll see how that goes. Knock on wood that everything starts to go well, you know with COVID, and we'll possibly be able to all meet together.

We think it's a great way to get together, and if it does happen, and there are a number of folks from OHA certainly; Ralph, Dave and team will be happy to sit down with the group and talk about anything you want from the private side. Just want to note that, and again if you haven't gotten the email to register, you'll get that shortly.

**Trustee Lee:** I already registered Joe.

**Investment Officer Falcha:** I knew that (chuckle). Thank you.

**Chair Waiheʻe** asks if there are any further questions or comments.

   There are no further questions nor comments.

**Chair Waiheʻe:** Okay, once again, thank you guys for everything.

**Investment Officer Falcha:** Thank you. Mahalo. Good seeing everyone.
V. NEW BUSINESS

B. Presentation: Tribal Broadband Connectivity Grant Program, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands – Niniau Kawaihae, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands

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

Pouhana Hussey: Thank you Chair Waihe‘e. We have from DHHL, Niniau Kawaihae and she will be introducing some of her partners that are on the call as well.

DHHL Special Assistant Kawaihae: Aloha Kakahiaka Chair Waihe‘e, members of the Committee and to Ka Pouhana Sylvia Hussey. Good morning, my name is Niniau Kawaihae. I’m a Special Assistant here in the Office of the Chairman. On behalf of Chair Ailā, he extends his salutation this morning for a successful meeting. I’d like to first take the time to introduce two of our consultants from AMERIND Critical Infrastructure (ACI) and I’ll let Monica and Mikhail introduce themselves really, quickly.

ACI Project Specialist Braine: Hello everyone. Thank you so much for having me today. My name is Monica Braine, I’m Assiniboine and Hunkpapa Lakota and I’m a Project Specialist with AMERIND and we’ve been working with DHHL to bring broadband to the homesteads. I’m not sure if my partner Mikhail is on, but Mikhail Sundust is also a specialist with us. Geoffrey Blackwell is running a few minutes behind, but he’ll be joining as well to answer any questions you may have.

DHHL Special Assistant Kawaihae: Mikhail, you can introduce yourself since we see you on the screen now?

ACI Project Specialist Sundust: Thank you. Thanks Monica. My name is Mikhail Sundust, I am Akimel O’otham and Pee Posh from the Gila River Indian Community. I am based out of Phoenix, Arizona just north of the Gila River Reservation. I’ve been with ACI for about five months now and am really proud of the work that we’ve been doing in partnership with DHHL and excited for their projects that are forthcoming.

DHHL Special Assistant Kawaihae: Before I start our PowerPoint, I just want to provide the Committee with some context. Last summer, in July of 2020 right after we opened up, after the first shutdown; DHHL did apply for 2.5 gigahertz Spectrum licenses with the Federal Communications Commission. The FCC had opened up extra Spectrum to Tribal Government entities, and under the FCC rules or regulations, DHHL and DHHL Trust Lands are included, and so we applied.

There's no available 2.5 Spectrum here on O'ahu, but we were able to apply for all of the neighbor islands, so that is Kaua‘i, Moloka‘i, Maui, Lāna‘i, and then East and West Hawai‘i. So, we used where we have our satellite DHHL offices, and then identified the Trust Lands listed under the FCC on their maps, and we put in our applications.

We were awarded those licenses in two different parts. The first part was in October of 2020, and then the second part was East and West Hawai‘i which was February of this year.
DHHL Special Assistant Kawaihae: Also, at the same time, since the pandemic began, the Department has been sitting on several subcommittees related to broadband throughout the State, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic. So, a lot of those discussions and experiences helped us to preliminarily identify need in terms of broadband capacity and access, as well as identify for broadband use and adoption of devices and/or infrastructure assistance. That could be provided with the monies that came under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020, which was signed by President Trump the last week of December.

So that set aside, especially for DHHL $30 million on behalf of native Hawaiians. Besides the existing beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, it also utilizes the Title VIII of the Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act definition of Native Hawaiian which was anyone that can trace their ancestry prior to the arrival of Captain Cook.

So, in this NTIA application that we submitted August 31 of this year, we included that definition of HHCA beneficiaries, as well as the expanded definition under Title VIII of NAHASDA to come up with the activities and infrastructure related to increasing broadband connectivity in a post pandemic Hawai’i.

Also, as many of you know, President Biden just signed into law yesterday, the large infrastructure bill that also sets aside $60 million to DHHL for broadband infrastructure.

So, while this presentation today will just be a high-level overview of what connectivity is and then I'll look at the NTIA application. We don't anticipate the application for the $60 million set aside to come until probably quarter four of this current Federal fiscal year.

DHHL Special Assistant Kawaihae: So originally, Geoffrey Blackwell and Irene Flannery of AMERIND Critical Infrastructure did this particular presentation at a special standalone Hawaiian Homes Commission meeting; as part of a workshop, so that the Commissioners could understand how this $30 million set-aside came to be in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, to understand the types of activities that were allowed by the application.

So I think foremost for our Commission, especially was understanding - What is Broadband? Besides calling up a carrier like Spectrum or Hawaiian Tel or using your cell phone.
DHHL Special Assistant Kawaihae: *What is Broadband?* - so we gave a brief overview about last mile, middle mile, backhaul, which is essential and then broadband technologies, which include fiber or lack thereof of fiber, as we found out recently on a site visit. We took ACI to Moloka‘i a couple weeks ago and we realized that Moloka‘i’s SIC infrastructure is copper, because it was done early on in the SIC era. So that led to the difficulties our homesteaders experienced throughout the pandemic with getting enough capacity to do distance learning, telework, etc.

So, here’s a quick overview map of what networking and broadband looks like, and as we get to the design and engineering phase, see how we can supplement broadband that goes directly to lessee’s household with a network that’s owned by the Department. Under the guidelines of the NTIA application, all of the tribal governments must own the infrastructure that’s produced with this $30 million. However, it does not mean that the Department itself will create a division to operate it, because we can contract that out.

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**Broadband 101 – Key Concepts**

Networks are a powerful tool to serve Native Hawaiian Communities and support development, education, healthcare, and/or public safety – and potentially provide revenue as an internet service provider.

- *Last mile* connectivity brings Internet service, or broadband, to a home or business.
- *Middle mile* connectivity brings broadband from an internet backbone to a connection point in a city or town.
- *Backhaul or transport* is the side of the network that connects to the global internet.
- *Broadband technologies* include fiber, cable, wireless, fixed wireless, and satellite.

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**DHHL Special Assistant Kawaihae:** So, the methods of connecting organizations or institutions for services; we have point-to-point with Backhaul link. We have point-to-multi point, which is what you see with the larger tower that goes to multiple sites: Government, Schools, Healthcare, and Emergency Services. Also with the 2.5 gigahertz licenses, where DHHL may have unused spectrum for those licenses, the subleasing of that excess spectrum.

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**DHHL Special Assistant Kawaihae:** One day, yes, this slide is what we’d like our homelands to be, connected and not have to worry about the lack of capacity due to old or aging infrastructure, like copper.
**DHHL Special Assistant Kawaihae:** Now we’ll start the overview of the NTIA application. What was really exciting about the NTIA application process, and what made it different from other Federal grant applications, was it allowed the tribes and DHHL to think outside the box and come up with solutions or ideas that would fit their respective communities.

So, it wasn't so much as the Federal government telling the Tribal governments or DHHL *Okay, you have to do this, this, and this*, which we know from other Federal programs, sometimes there's a lot of restriction or the boxes are drawn too small.

In this grant application, there were just broad buckets that we, as a department understanding the effects of the pandemic on our homesteaders at our households, how we could respond to that and come up with adequate services or adequate infrastructure.

So, as I said earlier, it was created as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. It was administered by NTIA, the NTIA did extensive webinars since April, and then the application was released in May.

Although the original language in the Act, is that the application was supposed to be released by NTIA at the end of February, it was not.

The deadline was September 1, but we did manage to put it in a day early just so that we wouldn't be on grants.gov at the same time as all the other Tribal Governments.

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**Tribal Broadband Connectivity Grant Program**

- Created as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021
- Administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (’NTIA), part of the U.S. Department of Commerce
- NTIA released a Notice of Funding Opportunity (“NOFO”) on June 3, 2021
- Application deadline is September 1, 2021

**DHHL Special Assistant Kawaihae:** So, the purpose of this program is to improve the quality of life for rural Tribal governments or DHHL Trust lands where access to affordable, consistent and with sufficient capacity broadband networks.

So those who are eligible for this program, are the Tribal government, Tribal college or university and, of course, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, on behalf of the Native Hawaiian Community. With the expanded definition beyond the Hawaiian Homes Commission and that includes anyone having Native Hawaiian ancestry who can trace their lineage to pre-1778.
DHHL Special Assistant Kawaihae: So, our set aside for DHHL was not less than 3%, which was not less than $30 million. The timeline, originally in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, there was a 12-month timeline for when the funds would be awarded to the Tribal government or to DHHL and when the funds would lapse. In the Infrastructure Bill that President Biden signed yesterday, that extended the deadline to four years.

DHHL Special Assistant Kawaihae: It allows the construction of middle mile or last mile. In Indian country and Indigenous Digital Sovereignty, we consider the last mile actually the first mile; because it goes from the consumer or the native person, as the first mile, then to the middle mile and then to the point of origin for the deployment.

We could also use the 30 million to deploy infrastructure; replace antiquated are outdated infrastructure, or upgrade or extend existing infrastructure. So as part of our outreach, since February we’ve met with various stakeholders, which OHA was one, and we had the opportunity to meet with your Former Chief Advocate, Sterling Wong, and his staff to talk about the need in the Native Hawaiian Community.

The State of Hawai‘i Department of Transportation is building a wireless network through the highway systems. Pilot projects along Waimānalo, Kalaniana‘ole Highway, and in Wai‘anae, along Farrington Highway, in Ka‘ū, in Hana Maui, and Ho‘olehua on Moloka‘i, I believe is the last one, or it could be Kapa‘a Kaua‘i, one of the two.
DHHL Special Assistant Kawaihae: DHHL is also working with DOT to piggyback and see how we can extend that community network beyond the fixed points of the intersections that Deputy Sniffen is considering. Broadband infrastructure can also include cable, fiber, wireless, fixed wireless, and satellite. Part of our more recent considerations is to work with the U.S. military, who still owes DHHL for land taken prior to the settlement in 1994.

So the U.S. military was the Department land and money, but we want to start the discussion, because on O'ahu, we have so many military locations with secure satellite access. That would be a good discussion to have. How they could splice their access to a military satellite to service our native Hawaiian households.

The application also asked us to prioritize the currently unserved households. So we have the emergency broadband benefit right now that is under the FCC, and that allows DHHL Trust lessees who have SIC or Spectrum or Hawaiian Tel to get a $75 credit on their monthly Internet bill. We're also trying to find those who can't even afford lifeline, which is only with Hawaiian Tel right now in the State of Hawai'i. SIC is not an eligible telecommunications carrier to have the lifeline program, which is a low-cost, low-income program under the FCC for poor households, making a certain AMI percentage.

DHHL Special Assistant Kawaihae: Broadband Use and Adoption; this is my favorite one. A lot of activities; broadband education, training, access, and equipment. Affordable Broadband programs, including subsidizing free or reduced broadband service, increasing access to and use of anchor institutions. Delivered Telehealth, we worked with the Hawai'i State Library System, and we have a pilot example in our application for Nānākuli library.

Because the libraries are in the midst of trying to convert some of their space for access by either kupuna or those who might not have Internet at home, where they could be doing their telehealth visits at the library. The State libraries are also recipients under the E-rate program, so they've been able, in the last year with the pandemic funds, etc. to expand wireless access in their library and communities.

Building digital skills and workforce capacity, many of you might know Ka'ala Souza with Workforce Development Council, earlier this year he helped me assist our Waimānalo Kupuna Housing Project back there in Waimānalo, which originated in, I think 2002 under OHA and then came to DHHL. We were able to receive donations of refurbished desktops for 31 kupuna who had no desktop computer. With the Ka'ala's assistance we installed and he provided simple, technical training to most of the kupuna who did not even know how to use a mouse or how to create a Gmail account, let alone how to bookmark the page where their telehealth service would be. Besides the refurbished computers, Hawaiian Hope also donated brand new webcams.
DHHL Special Assistant Kawaihae: Let me go back, I'm going to talk more about telehealth. Also, in our application - we worked very closely with Queens Healthcare Systems during the pandemic first to set up a point of distribution site at our Waimānalo Kupuna Housing. For our kupuna who could not access Waimanalo Community Health Center; either because they were afraid to go on the public transport system because of infection rates at the time or because they were homebound. So Queens Native Hawaiian division, under Dr. Gerard Akaka worked with DHHL and we went out to do vaccine distribution.

In doing that and in talking with Dr. Akaka and his team of doctors and nurses who during the height, this past summer of the delta surge saw a lot of unvaccinated Native Hawaiians at the hospital - they talked with us about doing little medical carts with an iPad, instead of the nurse holding the phone next to an intubated or unconscious person ill with COVID-19. That each room would have that for ICU so that Native Hawaiians could still be in contact with their loved ones. We know how important family is and the ability to not see a dying family member, to not see someone so critically ill in a coma, it made it one of the activities we included.

Queen's has expanded to include North Hawai'i Community Hospital on the Big Island and Moloka'i General. Their footprint that is across most of the State, and their commitment under their charter by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide healthcare services to Native Hawaiians made it a great fit.

We also have activities for Papa Ola Lokahi, as well as for the Pacific Telemedicine Center at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa with a focus on maternal care. During the pandemic, a lot of the pregnant women on the neighbor islands are hesitant to fly on the plane to come to O'ahu to go to Kapi'olani or Queens for specialized services because of the pandemic. So, there's activity in our application that expands equipment and devices that a pregnant woman could use at home. Also, for elderly under the Queen's Healthcare Systems and Papa Ola Lokahi.

Devices, whether it's an iPad or internet access, for those who cannot, because of obesity leave their home or could not find a healthcare provider to do a home visit, because the pandemic.

*What kind of equipment would expand access to health care to get that person medically cared for?*

We also have some activity for broadband mapping that's already been done by a Brad Kaleo Bennett and expands actually on that mapping in rural areas, with a focus on DHHL Trust Lands or areas with high concentrations of Native Hawaiians.
**DHHL Special Assistant Kawaihae:** We also have Nā Lei Na’auao, KALO, and our Native Hawaiian Focus Charter Schools, who are not included in the State DOE’s E-rate program. So, trying to assist and make sure that those schools have the equipment for increased internet capacity, as well as devices that go beyond what my children got at the public school system; which were Google Chromebooks, which I think they went through three of them in a semester. Those Chromebooks, in my opinion, they were prone to going down and just not as good as I thought that we could have for our kids.

So we've been working with the Native Hawaiian Charter Schools and the associations, like Nā Lei Na’auao and Kanaeokana to identify how we can provide devices or equipment that can support distance learning should another lockdown occur or the infection rates increase. This effort would give the school or the Po‘o Kumu, the ability to have that flexibility and not having to worry about bringing kids into a school area where an infection rate might be high.

We have been working since 2019. The Department assisted the Internet society in hosting the Indigenous Connectivity Summit, which I believe Trustee Keola Lindsey came to. So the first Community network at Pu‘uohonua O Waimānalo was set up, and now Aunty Twinkles group in Wa‘anae, Puuhonua O Wa‘anae.

We did site visits, three weeks ago with ACI as well as Sascha Meinrath of X-lab and he's the Palmer Chair at the Penn State University. So, we did site visits to both Community Network areas and we also included Kīpahulu which is closest to our DHHL and Trust Lands in Keanae and Hana, Maui as part of our 2.5 gigahertz build out. I see that Geoffrey Blackwell is on the call now.

Hi Geoffrey, why don’t you unmute and introduce yourself.

**ACI Chief Strategy Officer Blackwell:** Aloha. Mahalo. Chickasaw, Muscogee Creek, Omaha, and Choctaw. Good afternoon, my name is Geoffrey Blackwell; I work as the Chief Strategy Officer and General Counsel for AMERIND risk, I do double time for AMERIND Critical Infrastructure.

AMERIND's director Irene Flannery, couldn't be here today. Both Irene and I are former Office Chiefs at the Federal Communications Commission in Washington. It's good to see you again Trustee Keola Lindsey and it is good to see you as well CEO Hussey, Sylvia - we came to your office when we were introducing ISOC.

I think it's also appropriate to say for this Resource Committee, Chair; I wear a number of hats one of those - I co-chair a couple of Committees with the National Congress of American Indians, the oldest and largest intertribal government body and Keola has represented OHA there before. You always have representation in our Economic, Finance and Community Development Committee.

A couple of years ago, last time we had one of the in-person conferences that focused a great deal on broadband in our technology and telecommunications subcommittee. We've been working with DHHL here from AMERIND Critical Infrastructure, forever it feels like. Most certainly from coordination that started with ISOC and then follow-up from there, and then helped them acquire the construction permits for 2.5 gigahertz licenses that Niniau talked about.
ACI Chief Strategy Officer Blackwell: There are a number of folks in Hawai’i both at DHHL, OHA, and elsewhere who’ve really learned a great deal about broadband networking. So we’re excited to see what has come in the most recent legislation. We advocated hard for the inclusion, not just for DHHL and Hawaiian Home Lands, but other organizations in Hawai’i.

Being from the FCC we know a great deal about the history of the carriers in Hawai’i and the lay of the land. So, just as we are a resource to DHHL, we hope that we can be a resource to you as well in this big, new potential of ‘Ohana for Broadband.

This is the first and I think the last time in my career; this is just simply unprecedented. It took a pandemic to pull back the layers of the onion on the real problems out there. The exciting thing is that they’re actually native institutions and lands and communities that are directly funded by this now $3 billion. We know that there are parts of Hawai’i and parts of the Native Hawaiian Community that have been suffering well behind the curve. 30 years behind the curve of certain types of programs that support the missions that Niniau so eloquently spoke to.

We’re sitting on the middle of the Santa Ana Indian Pueblo on Federal Trust Land, and this is all we do in AMERIND Critical Infrastructure is work - to get Broadband into unserved native communities. I look forward to the rest of the meeting, and to answer potentially any questions you may have and we’re looking to try to bring more resources to this issue as well. Thank you. Mahalo Nui.

DHHL Special Assistant Kawaihae: Mahalo Geoff, I would be remiss if I just want to give some background to Chair Waihe’e, and the other Committee members. Geoff was the first Director of the Office of Native American Program and Policy at the FCC and it was he, I think 30 years ago, who wrote DHHL and DHHL Trust Lands into the Tribal Government piece from which we were able to benefit under these two pots of money that is going to the NTIA. Chair Waihee, we're done, and you can see if anyone has questions.

Chair Waihe’e recognizes Trustee Ahuna.

Trustee Ahuna: Thank you very much for that presentation. I just have some comments I just wanted to offer up. I’ve seen in the past, Sandwich Isles (SIC) and the people of Native Hawaiian communities, and in the end with these projects, people in the community suffer from these programs.

The reason why is because they have no tech support. They subcontract everything, but when a Native Hawaiian Charter School calls for one simple thing, to help out with the Internet - there’s nobody. So what are you guys going to be doing, especially on the islands of Kaua’i and stuff, because right now there’s no support.

DHHL Special Assistant Kawaihae: Thank you for that question, because yes, that’s not the first time I have heard of that. I think in our concept part of the eligible activities on the Broadband use and Adoption is Workforce Development Training. So, part of our thought was to see how we could provide training and education to those, perhaps maybe younger members of a Homestead Community who are more tech savvy. Who’d be able to o’amo kuleana with the Community Association Leadership on managing and/or operating a Community Network. Other than that, yes, I think it’s certainly possible to have a DHHL Global Tech Support Center of some kind, but I appreciate you bringing that up.
**Trustee Ahuna:** The reason why I say this is because all these things can work, but they have no support, so there's nobody to help. I mean it’s great to have all this money, they had it the last time, but there’s nothing. I just don't know how to say it, we still need somebody to come to the house and you know what I mean. Alright. Thank you.

**Chair Waihe‘e:**

**Trustee Hulu Lindsey:** I think I have a question that's related.

**ACI Chief Strategy Officer Blackwell:** Yes, Chair Waihee, it is - if I may be recognized just for a portion of that answer.

**Chair Waihe‘e:** Yes.

**ACI Chief Strategy Officer Blackwell:** Trustee Ahuna, one of the things that became very clear 20 years ago, and Niniau was very kind, although I am an elder, I am not that elder. 22 years ago, at the FCC, one of the things that became very obvious is that the Native Hawaiian Community has never experienced, never was given the opportunity, I completely agree. Never been given the opportunity for any other type of deployment model, other than a very predictable, obvious, corporate structure with big corporation, now outside of Hawai‘i, corporation ownership and other ownership that actually, to be frank, was committing fraud.

What has worked in Alaska and Hawai‘i; for remote, disconnected, native communities that have virtually the same exact types of socio-economic challenges related to broadband, is an entirely different type of business model predicated on Community design, and Community engagement, Community source, and Community ownership. The great challenge was of course finding a Federal link, a Federal hook in Hawai‘i, and yes 20 years ago, the only thing that I had was the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act.

Now, we have new pieces of COVID and stimulus related legislation, that now give new authorities. The point that you made about having local support, local help desk, local networking, there are so many Community Members that, if we could just continue forward with this model of Community engagement, Community deployment, there are so many people that will step up. We have seen that in Alaska. We've seen that throughout the contiguous 48 states on the continent. You will be surprised also how on the other side of this deployment, and all of the things that the different organizations in Hawai‘i can now do. You will be surprised how making that shift from only consumer to owner-operator will patently solve the issues of things like having a help desk.

So, we have built into, and will continue to build the applications for the types of support to grow those within the Community, so that those can be embedded in the Community. For a corporate based model, it is not at all profitable, nor to their benefit to keep that knowledge in the Community.

Where this community-based model - the whole point of it is to embed it in the Community, and this was something that was talked about greatly in the indigenous connectivity summit that was hosted in Hilo Hawai‘i, by DHH. It is a model that will work, especially with the amount of now targeted funding as well. Appreciate your perspective, and we will keep our nose to the grindstone on that aspect in particular, thank you.

**Chair Waihe‘e:** Thank you Geoff. **Trustee Ahuna, are you done?**
Trustee Ahuna: Yes.

Chair Waihe‘e recognizes Trustee Keola Lindsey.

Trustee Keola Lindsey: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Niniau, thank you for the presentation and I hear you about the Chromebooks. I told my kids if they don't stand on them or hit each other, they'll last longer... It's great to see the Department working with the different groups and very valuable resources on this issue. My Aloha to Geoff Blackwell and his team. As he mentioned, before I joined this Board; myself and Ka Pouhana, and at the time Keone Nakoa, met him at the NCAI and he really blew my mind on what the potential was. We're seeing all of those opportunities paying off for our people in Hawai'i today, so I would just encourage the Department to continue on that course and see these opportunities fulfilled. The only question I have Niniau is, early in the presentation, it was mentioned - the grant is currently for underserved or unserved households?

DHHL Special Assistant Kawaihae: I think it's a priority, so we have some activities for priority for the unserved. So, areas where we don't have internet connection nor SIC connection. That's what's identified in the NTIA maps.

Trustee Keola Lindsey: So that was going to be my question. You don't have to go through everyone but, in terms of served versus unserved; what does it look like in the Homestead Community, are most getting service right now, or...?

DHHL Special Assistant Kawaihae: The NTIA's definition of served and unserved; unserved is if you're getting 25 (download) / three (upload) bits per second. So, there's a whole broadband map actually of the United States, as well as with GIS overlays for Tribal Governments and DHHL Trust Lands. So if you go island-by-island, you can see, like even East Hawai'i is red, because the 25/3 standard isn't being met. So that would be considered unserved, even if we know that SIC or Hawaiian Tel or aging infrastructure is in that location.

I can share the link with Ka Pouhana because it's fun to go and look, I compare areas all the time. Trust Land areas versus Hawai'i Kai or seeing where there's no infrastructure at all. I can share that link because it's on the website.

Trustee Keola Lindsey: Mahalo for the presentation, keep up the good work. Thank you.

Chair Waihe‘e recognizes Trustee Hulu Lindsey.

Trustee Hulu Lindsey: Thank you so much Niniau for all the work that you folks have done in this so much needed area. My questions are:
  - Will the Department of Hawaiian Homes be implementing this grant program?
  - How does it relate to Sandwich Isle with most of homesteaders on Sandwich Isle accounts?
  - Is there a relationship there?

DHHL Special Assistant Kawaihae: Well, may I say very diplomatically, that the Chairman and the Commission is carefully watching the bankruptcy proceedings. Under the bankruptcy proceedings, I believe, they are the owner of the SIC assets and allowing SIC to operate the assets so that there's no disconnection of service. I do know that the Court issue is ongoing and developing, I guess every other week. So, rest assured that Chairman Ailā and the Commission are very much aware of the critical need that the SIC infrastructure provides to our 4,000 lessees who are being served currently by SIC.
DHHL Special Assistant Kawaihae: To add to your other question, I think during the course of this pandemic; whether a Hawaiian family didn't have access, because they couldn't afford it, or they couldn't have access, because the infrastructure was aging and it's copper; like on Moloka‘i with SIC.

The thought of a community network that would be robust enough and either free or on a stepped-up scale based on income, would be available. I’m thinking of like Nānākuli High School and Nānākuli Elementary, it's in the middle of a Hawaiian Homestead. If we could figure out a community network that the mesh would cover the entirety of Nānākuli, or the entirety of Waiohuli on Maui and Keokea; where it would be available for families to use, at either no cost or a very limited cost. If the SIC infrastructure issue goes in that first mile from the household to the middle mile, is not adequately addressed by the bankruptcy court. That was our thought, as the backup.

Trustee Hulu Lindsey: Okay, I just have another question since Trustee Keola Lindsey brought it up. We sometimes have a very difficult time connecting with him down in Kawaihae. So, is that considered in an unserved area or a weak area, I should say?

DHHL Special Assistant Kawaihae: Is Trustee Keola Lindsey in the homestead by Kawaihae Boat Harbor, by where Aunty Jojo Tanimoto lives?

Trustee Hulu Lindsey: I’ll let him answer.

Trustee Keola Lindsey: I am, but I think my issue, to be honest, is an equipment issue versus a connectivity issue that I got to work on - so that's on me. Sorry, the truth is coming out here.

DHHL Special Assistant Kawaihae: I didn't think to put devices for the Trustees or the Commissioners, so my bad; I should have thought of equipment access for our Hawaiian leaders.

Trustee Hulu Lindsey: I was trying to help out Trustee Lindsey.

Chair Waihe‘e recognizes Trustee Ahuna.

Trustee Ahuna: Just a quick add to what Trustee Hulu was saying. The reason why I'm bringing this up is because I teach at a Hawaiian Charter School on Hawaiian Home Lands and I totally understand. For me, it's not about that they cannot afford or anything, it's just we don't have service. Yes, DHHL did help our students with jetpacks for their homes, but the concern I have is we're stuck in a sole source agreement. Which means we cannot go outside to go get help, we cannot go get help to fix our things or anything like this, we have nobody to come help the school to fix the problems that they're having. I just wanted to make sure, you don't have to answer it. I just want to make sure that we understand that this is a big issue for people on Kaua‘i. This is a really big issue and the problem we're having is we're stuck in that sole source agreement.

DHHL Special Assistant Kawaihae: What sole source agreement are you referring to please?

Trustee Ahuna: Sandwich Isle.

DHHL Special Assistant Kawaihae: The FCC did rule in 2017 that the SC exclusivity license was not valid.

Trustee Ahuna: The problem is, if we like fix something - Who do we call?

DHHL Special Assistant Kawaihae: May I ask Trustee Ahuna, are you in Anahola? I'll follow up to see, I've been working with…
Trustee Ahuna:  *Can I hear what's going on here, so we can all hear it?*

DHHL Special Assistant Kawaihae:  Okay, I was just going to say; I've been working with Kalehua Krug folks and Ka Waihona in Nānākuli; because some of the other charter schools on DHHL Trust Lands - some can access Spectrum or Hawaiian Tel.  Some of the other providers have said no, we cannot come over there.  So I'm just trying to get in my mind which, because I haven't heard about Kaua'i, I've only heard about Big Island and Waianae, so I was trying to get an idea.  I'd like to know more information about what's the name of your school in Anahola and then I can follow up to see if you folks are in the same situation as some of our other charter schools or not.

Chair Waihe‘e recognizes Trustee Akina.

Trustee Akina:  Thank you very much. Niniau, mahalo so much for the presentation and the hard work of yourself and the Department of Hawaiian Homelands.  I get really excited when I think that we can have an expansion of telehealth, education, and workforce development, and all of these things can come to our people on Hawaiian Homelands.

We've touched upon some in the past and I don't want to rehash that now, but this is a huge amount of Federal funding that's coming to be distributed and administered.  *What safeguards are in place now to ensure that we're not going to have a misuse of these funds, as there has been in the past, so that the people really get the service that they really need?*

DHHL Special Assistant Kawaihae:  Geoff, that sounds like an FCC question.

ACI Chief Strategy Officer Blackwell:  So, this is a very important question.  Sandwich Isles Communication was the very first carrier in the history of the Federal Communications Commission to lose their status as an ETC, an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier eligible to receive Federal subsidy.

There are those of us that were there when that happened, I actually did two tours of duty at the FCC about six years each.  Once at the beginning of the millennium.  Then I went back to work for the Chickasaw Nation, my father's tribe.  Then I went back to work at the FCC when the FCC created the Office of Naval Affairs and Policy.

One of the major reasons, there was an obvious public stated reason that I asserted Federal Jurisdiction over the Homeland.  It was because Native Hawaiians were suffering a lack of broadband, often to an extent, greater than American Indians or Alaska Natives.  The unstated, which is now public, was that Sandwich Isles and Waimana were engaging in what my Property Professor in Law School used to call *good nature horseplay*, to the tune of 84 million dollars.

One of the most important things about this new Federal Funding is that the money is not being run through the industries.  Now that's very, very important for Native Hawaiians because the transparency of State Government will address the issue significantly.  Industry may be involved, may not be involved to one extent or another, but it places the people who are going to be accountable in the middle of the model, so it's direct funding.
ACI Chief Strategy Officer Blackwell: Whereas, before, I was trying to force-subsidize companies to build out and frankly Sandwich Isles picked and chose where they wanted to. I know about the situation on each of the islands of Hawai‘i. It was my job to know that and advise the Chair, the Commissioners, and all the bureaus and offices on the matter.

There's another element of this, however, as well. We are constructing, Niniau, perhaps with your permission, I can show our Gantt chart, very briefly, just as an illustration. Would that be helpful to look at some of the preliminary work and ramp up and the project plan so that people can see a little bit more of the transparency in this.

DHHL Special Assistant Kawaihae: Sure.

ACI Chief Strategy Officer Blackwell: Okay, this is just purely a planning tool, the timing is unimportant. This is privileged and confidential, so I'll be very quick, and I won't go into specific details. But you can see here the kind of efforts that DHHL and the ACI team are working on. This ramp up is the next step, and yes, this is in terms of months, but really that's just for illustration purposes.

So, we're engaging in something that a lot of carriers never engaged in, in their creation and this whole effort. I don't mean it to sound hokey or overly broad, but this whole effort has a level of engagement for Native Hawaiians and Native Hawaiian Institutions, not just Nānākuli Library, but libraries throughout the state. Not just one or two healthcare providers, but broadly listening to the needs and trying to address them both from the ground up and the top down.

This is the kind of work that's being done that leads to an amount of accountability and amount of transparency for the Community, that hopefully 20 years later, we will be able to get Native Hawaiian Communities, with DHHL as the lead, in a position to understand what actually goes into running and operating a network they understand.

I would only differ with you on one point, this is not a lot of money when it comes to broadband. It is an amazing amount of money, but this is expensive stuff, very expensive stuff. So, the idea here is to not measure once, cut once, but to measure three or four times so that the appropriate cut is made. We're watching very closely what's going on with carriers, what's going on with Sandwich Isles in the hearing. Where DHHL, where Hawai‘i does not need to build or where it needs backhaul. Where other Federal funding is coming from the Department of Transportation, from University of Hawai‘i - there is a conjoined effort to try to bring Hawai‘i solidly into the 21st century.

I was very fortunate. I was able to be in Hawai‘i. We're all vaccinated, and a majority of the managers here actually have their booster. So, we were able to be in Hawai‘i a couple of weeks ago with Niniau. We did some site visits on the different islands on the Big Island, Moloka‘i, and O‘ahu. Unfortunately, we weren't able to make it to the other islands, but we will.

This is entirely doable and doable in a way that is unlike what Hawai‘i has seen before. There are excellent examples in other parts of the country, both in urban and suburban and rural settings where this community-based network will obviate the potential of a repeat of a SIC situation. I look forward to hearing about it in two to three years. So hopefully that helps address your question.

Trustee Akina: Well, we all are hoping for the very best for our people. Thank you, Geoff and thank you Niniau, this is an exciting project.
Chair Waihe‘e recognizes Trustee Akaka.

Trustee Akaka: Mahalo Chair. I wanted to Mahalo Niniau, Monica, Geoff, and Mikhail for your wonderful presentation. Really look forward to hearing things to come. I wanted to ask what some of the challenges have been, if the results vary between the various Tribal nations.

ACI Chief Strategy Officer Blackwell: They have, the Chickasaw Nation came in to meet with me when we started the Office of Native Affairs and Policy in 2010. They came to ask whether-or-not they should seek Federal funding, because they were building a fiber ring around Southern Oklahoma, and they have largely over the last decade have been working hard to deploy networks throughout.

The major challenge everywhere is - let me step back. Last mile or First mile as Niniau put it, the way that we refer to it in Indian Country; there are obvious, clear, good solutions. It's kind of the option like - do you want to buy a BMW, or do you want to buy a Honda Accord?

The real challenge for much of the disconnected parts of the United States, not just Native America, not just the native and indigenous places is really the middle mile and the backhaul. So, it's not the major interstate superhighways of broadband and it's not the dirt roads. Broadband is really those state roads, those inner roads; to borrow the transportation analogy.

In Hawai'i particularly, what is and isn't true about Sandwich Isles, that's a big determining factor. We are in the midst of an asset inventory, an asset inventory that goes to both location partner, infrastructure, funding opportunities, and it is time for Hawai'i to really get serious about this type of asset inventory.

This is enough money to change the opportunity, particularly with you authorities outside of homelands for Native Hawaiians, writ large, as Niniau has said. I think it also needs to be said, if I may just take leave of my answer. Based on the training that Deputy Tyler Gomes and Special Assistant Niniau have taken, they really have made themselves experts in this particular area of native broadband. I can say that I feel like I can, I've been in this space for about 22 years; and when you apply yourself over time, the big building blocks really become very obvious in Hawai'i.

There's a lot of missing middle mile to get to Native Hawaiian Communities and that missing mile can be intel or it can be, on the other side of Maui. It can be remote but that's a very important point to try to solve, so we will see if it will be solved by friends over at the Department of Transportation.

There's also an asset inventory of location. This effort is not trying to overbuild, but to build very intelligently. The Department actually has, as I'm sure OHA and other organizations that are focused on serving Native Hawaiians, assets in locations. Not everything has to be reduced to building a tower but it's very important that this money also includes fiber and other backhaul opportunities.

I guess the last thing that I would say is also it becomes very true in Hawai'i as it does elsewhere that there's a unique relationship between power, towers, fiber and spectrum. On certain islands there's a lot of these radio frequencies available to close the gap for the last mile or even the middle mile. If you remember about 30 minutes ago Niniau showed a vision of the future, with all of these arrows going all sorts of different ways, a lot of that is predicated on wireless technology.
ACI Chief Strategy Officer Blackwell: But in Hawai‘i, also on certain islands in certain population areas, there isn't a lot of that spectrum available. So, this asset inventory, is a very important step to try to make sure that this amount of money goes as far as it can to address needs.

Now there are certain tribes that are already 20 years down that road, one of our friends and partners is the Southern California Tribal Digital Village. It's a 600-mile fiber wireless network that connects 22 tribes in San Diego County, California and provides social services, education, healthcare provided on that network.

Another tribe that we work pretty close with has created even its own Facebook and social media type of outlets that are not only just that, and that is the Couer d'Alane Tribe in Idaho, not just for civic engagement. There was a big vast world of opportunity in the Internet of Things, on the other side of the owner-operator side of broadband, rather than just being a consumer.

For a long time, companies have pulled a lot out of the Native Hawaiian Community and it's time for that to change. I would say, if you want some examples of some tribes that are doing some very interesting things right now; on the cutting edge is Mohawk. Mohawk Networks in New York, who have deployed essentially an IT Department on steroids, that is becoming more of a broadband wireless and wireline Internet Service Provider, ISP.

At the other end of the spectrum is Gila River Indian Community where our wonderful Mikhail Sundust comes from. They have one of the preeminent telcos, traditional wireless telephone, and now broadband telcos in the United States, not just in Indian country, but the entire United States. They serve about 12,000 Community members and businesses.

So there's this amazing perspective from outside of Hawai‘i - the challenges you face and how to solve them, but because of the force inside Hawai‘i I think only perhaps you know Senator Akaka, Senator Inouye, now Senator Schatz sort of see the potential. So, his asset inventory and taking these deliberate steps, right now, very important.

The last thing I'll say, however, is even though some of what other tribes are doing, what other Tribal Nations are doing as Governance. Providing kind of services that are very relatable to OHA's services; we can't take that as a model, no one size fits all. We've got to figure out the Native Hawaiian solution, that's its own jigsaw puzzle fit together. But right now, it sure is nice to be able to have the money to be in the Center of it, rather than the outside of it.

I would buttress what Niniau said in response to the question that the other Trustee had about Sandwich Isles, the FCC removed the ETC status. It's all over but the shouting, it's just a matter of how that's going to, you know, what the history means there. It's going to be very important that this network gets structured with the future of further subsidy in mind. For instance, the enhanced broadband benefit that's available right now and other types of recurring support, but with so much going towards a capital expense, it's a bright future. Thank you.

Chair Waiheʻe asks if there are any further questions or comments.

There are no further questions nor comments.
Chair Waiheʻe: If there are no other questions, I want to thank you, Niniau. It’s good to see you doing a fine job as always. I want to also thank Geoff, Mikhail, and Monica for all your good work and for joining us today.

DHHL Special Assistant Kawaihae: Thank you, Chairman Waiheʻe. Thank you, Members of the committee. Thank you, Ka Pouhana. Good to see all again. Yes, I think we still don’t have as much wrinkles as we should, so we’ll just count our blessings. A hui hou. Mahalo Nui.

ACI Chief Strategy Officer Blackwell: Chair, may I make one more brief statement on that point Niniau made about having a lot of wrinkles. I know you recently added at OHA, Colin Kippen. There are many of us in Indian country that know him and know him well from his service helping our tribe to get education and you should not have a deficit and wrinkles having Colin (chuckle). The way we still love in Indian Country is by teasing, so Mahalo, Mahalo nui. You all take care.

Chair Waiheʻe: You too, thank you again, Geoff.

Chair Waiheʻe calls for a 5-minute recess.

The RM Committee Recesses from 12:01 p.m. -12:09 p.m.

V. NEW BUSINESS

C. Presentation: Legacy Land Program & Portfolio, Wao Kele o Puna – Kalani Fronda, Land Director

Chair Waiheʻe turns it over to Ka Pouhana Sylvia Hussey.

Pouhana Hussey: Thank you Chair Waiheʻe, and may I suggest, for your consideration - I've asked the Land division to keep the overview to 10 minutes, so, that we can follow up. Then the next presentation - just keep that, at most, at 10 minutes because it's just sharing information. Most of you got the binders just yesterday, it's 300-some-odd pages. I want to be sure that we honor people's time I know there's some commitments, beyond that. So, would that be okay?

Chair Waiheʻe: That would be fine; good idea actually. Okay.

Pouhana Hussey: Ok, so Kalani, Kalena & Lori are 10 minutes, we'll transition to the other presentation and then Pau. While Kalani is getting the screen ready, Trustees, this is a continuation of what Chair Waiheʻe asked Administration to provide information about - the Legacy Land Portfolios (LLP). While that was done about two weeks ago, as an overview, we wanted to come back to the Trustees with some specifics on larger parcels such as, Wao Kele o Puna (WKOP), and the follow-up in a couple weeks with our Wahiawā Lands.

Just for context it's at Chair's request, so that we can have a conversation about the Legacy Land Portfolios.
**Land Director Fronda:** Mahalo, Trustees. Once again, as Ka Pouhana mentioned, we had shared this in our last RM meeting, our Land Legacy Team shared a presentation on the LLP Portfolio.

Today, I have with me two members of our team; Interim Legacy Land Manager, Lori Walker and Legacy Specialist, Kalena Blakemore; here joining me, focusing on Wao Kele o Puna. We'll do a quick overview of the asset and share our Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) which establishes our blueprint, talk about the implementation that will guide the cadence of how we mālama this ʻāina, cover some updates and expectation for FY22, and then we will set some time aside for you to ask questions related to this asset. With that, Lori, I'll let you take it away.

**Interim Legacy Land Manager Walker:** Mahalo Kalani. Aloha nui kākou, mahalo for allowing the time for us to share more about this special landholding. I will say first that the ʻŌlelo Noʻeau; He aliʻi ka ʻāina; he kauwā ke kanaka describes the land as chief, and man as its servant. This informs directly how we function in the Legacy Land Program, as we treat ʻāina as our first beneficiary and we as well as our human beneficiaries are its stewards. Our program is responsible for just under 27,000 acres of legacy and programmatic land. Wao Kele o Puna is our largest land holding at 25,856 acres of conservation forestland in Puna on Hawaiʻi Island, which we acquired in 2006 in partnership with USDA Forest Legacy Program who contributed $3.35 million to the purchase price and OHA contributed $300K to secure the fee simple title.

We put together a working group on Hawaiʻi Island to collaborate on a Comprehensive Management Plan, which was approved by our Board of Trustees in Aug 2017. This plan is the foundational document that informs all of our management activities at Wao Kele o Puna.
**Interim Legacy Land Manager Walker:** Last year we intentionally reorganized our Wao Kele portfolio of work and assessed our available resources in order to prioritize and sequence the management activities required for this landholding.

The priorities we determined for this fiscal year focuses on these areas:

- Research and Restoration specifically for our rare and endangered species and gathering data to inform policies and procedures for a hunting program.
- Community Reengagement – we have initiated an aha kaiaulu or community advisory group consisting of various areas of expertise to support our implementation of the CMP and the return of the community to the forest. We also assess the long-term budget by looking at the capital improvement projects that were identified in the CMP to facilitate programming at Wao Kele o Puna
- We will also be continuing with regular operations and maintenance activities

Admittedly, I'm biased but we have a high-functioning LLP team. However, we are really quite small in number and also in size - if you've met us. It is a constraint as far as how much we can prioritize in any given fiscal year. That said, we are grateful to the partnerships we've built with external organizations that have aligning programming and values which help to support our CMP implementation. I'll have Kalena introduce the partnerships to us.

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**Legacy Land Specialist Blakemore:** Aloha, Trustees. When OHA first acquired WKOP in 2006, a Memorandum of Agreement with DLNR was put in place for 10 years to assist us in forest management. In 2016 this MOA expired, and we now assume sole management through our Paia ‘Āina and contractor, Forest Solutions, who maintain small scale operations at WKOP according to our Comprehensive Management Plan. The kuleana of this legacy land parcel requires specialized subject matter experts in ecology, and conservation of the natural and cultural resources found at WKOP. In addition to knowledgeable expertise, economic resource values have been extended through our collaborative partnerships.
This slide depicts are partners:

- Three Mountain Alliance; is a network of agencies that come together and share ideas and resources on forest management. Through these networks we have forged partners whose efforts help us move projects forward at WKOP.
- DLNR/Land Division; provides OHA an annual Right of Entry through Kalapana- allowing us pedestrian access to Pu‘u Heiheiahulu to conduct flora and fauna surveys.
- The Division of Forestry and Wildlife –DOFAW; holds a Right of Entry from OHA to exercise helicopter operations from WKOP to manage their forest.
- The Plant Extinction Prevention Program, known as PEPP; has discovered the rare & endangered plant, cyrtandra nanawalensis at WKOP, which is known to be virtually extinct-they have future plans for a more comprehensive survey of this area.
- Hawaiian Volcanoes Observatory; holds an MOU for access to monitor and study Kilauea Volcano for public information and safety.
- An MOU with USFS-IPIF, Institute of Pacific Island Forestry; will allow and support various research projects ranging from cultural bioacoustics survey for the Hawaiian Bat and native birds.

We are grateful and fortunate to have these exceptional partnerships which serve to enhance our forest management operations.

After our CMP was completed in 2017, we began hosting community engagement days once a month with public and private school groups. Kamehameha Summer School programs, Hawaiian Immersion and public charter schools, name just a few of the groups who have participated in ʻāina stewardship at WKOP.

During their huaka‘i, the children:

- conduct cultural and bio-sanitation protocols,
- engage in Hawaiian place-based learning through kilo observations,
- collect and distribute native seeds, propagate seedlings; and
- weed and out-plant native species.

Our forest management contractor oversees these community stewardship events. Unfortunately, since March 2020, we have been on a temporary hiatus due to COVID-19 but we hope to resume in the upcoming months as the pandemic concerns decrease.
Legacy Land Specialist Blakemore: Other CMP projects we have completed in the last two years are installation of regulatory and interpretive signage. We have also constructed three small, fenced units along our access road for community engagement forest stewardship areas and a larger three-acre ungulate enclosure dedicated for rare and endangered plant restoration.

Because WKOP is listed as a Conservation District, Protective Subzone - we had to seek permit exemptions from the Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands and the State of Hawai‘i Historic Preservation Division. This can be a very long and arduous process, but we strive to maintain good open communications with various state agencies to facilitate our forest management.

We have some current exciting prospects on the horizon since we were granted a Right of Entry from DLNR to access our property from the southern boundary. This entrance provides pedestrian access to Pu‘u Heiheiahulu pit crater as opposed to expensive helicopter access.

This spring we had PEPP staff from DOFAW rappel into the crater to conduct a quick recon survey and discovered a large population of crytandra nanawalensis. Only a few of this plant exist today, therefore, finding this collection will serve to continue the species through propagation and reintroduction in safe restoration units. We will be conducting a comprehensive survey in the coming months to identify other species and collect accurate counts of this population.

A study in the early 1990s recorded the Newell’s Shearwater sea bird, otherwise known as A‘o, to be nesting in the cliff walls of Pu‘u Heiheiahulu. This bird is also endangered.

In addition, early biological inventories at WKOP recorded the endangered Hawaiian Hoary Bat, ‘Ope‘ape‘a. Due to the possible numbers of rare and endangered species here we have been approached by USFWS for a grant proposal to protect the Pu‘u with a fencing project to include invasive species removal of plants and pua‘a. In addition, we have been approached by USFS-IPIF to conduct bioacoustic survey for native birds and bats at WKOP and at this pu‘u. These collaborative partnerships serve to enhance our legacy land program with resources we would otherwise not have.
Legacy Land Specialist Blakemore: Our 3-Acre ungulate enclosure is now complete, and we are scheduling removal of invasive species to prep the unit for rare plant restoration. We will most likely be utilizing DOFAW and their PEPP department to execute the special permit for handling rare plants. We will seek to gather and propagate rare plants from WKOP which include the \textit{gardenia remylii}, nanu, crytandra nanawalensis, Ha‘i wale and the loulu palm, \textit{Pritchardia} found at WKOP.

In order to forecast the resources we need - we are prioritizing the planning of the proposed facilities intended to better serve the community and beneficiaries within the 5-acre clearing. This is a draft conceptual site plan which we will be using as a communication tool to request support from our local legislators.

The facilities identified in the CMP include:

- an environmental toilet for our keiki and kupuna when they are working and visiting the forest; and
- an open pavilion to gather and stage cultural workshops and learning activities.

This would be an area to store materials for the community, to construct a traditional hale. Our request includes a small greenhouse for our keiki to propagate native plants and a gravel parking area.

Legacy Land Specialist Blakemore: These are a few of our partners gathering to share ideas and restoration models for our 3-acre Rare Plant Enclosure.

Represented are: Three Mountain Alliance Director, UH Hawai‘i professor, and one of the world’s leading authorities in restoration ecology, USFS-IPIF Director, HVNP Natural Resources Chiefess, and Forest Solutions, Inc. President.

The ‘Io (Hawaiian Hawk) also makes his presence throughout WKOP during our workdays. Our Legacy Land Program has been recently tasked to work with DOFAW and the Hawai‘i Wildlife Center to assist with public outreach messaging on the cultural importance of the ‘Io and to educate the community of its need for protection. Mahalo nui for your time and letting us share our updates on Wao Kele o Puna.
Chair Waihe‘e: Thank you for much, Kalani, Lori, and Team.

Chair Waihe‘e asks if there are any questions.

Trustee Keola Lindsey: Just one question. When folks want to access the land for gathering or hunting, what is the process for that? Is there something they have to apply for?

Legacy Land Specialist Blakemore: Technically, we have a gate that you can walk through, a pedestrian gate. You can park your vehicle off property, which is on Ed Wilson’s property; he provides our easement.

If a hunter wanted to go in, or people wanted to gather, they could contact me, and I would have them sign a waiver and get some information and would give them a key in exchange for some collateral. We’re still fine tuning some of that, however most people know that if they want to enter WKOP they can reach out to me to assist them with that process.

Trustee Keola Lindsey: Thank you Kalena. Sorry, Mr. Chair, I meant to start off with a comment, thanking our ‘Āina Division for their hard work at Wao Kele o Puna. Mahalo, Mr. Chair.

Chair Waihe‘e: Thank you, Trustee Lindsey.

Trustee Akaka: Mahalo for the presentation. I was wondering - about how many people annually apply to visit, based off of Trustee Keola Lindsey’s question?

Legacy Land Specialist Blakemore: Actually, we have more school groups who are visiting, and less individuals or hunters. We’ve only had one hunter with three of his friends request to come, that was during the TMT Mauna Kea, DHHL had shut the mountain down. I know people have come through because we have surveillance cameras up, so there are people that come in. I think last month we had four hunting groups come in. Mostly we have students, school groups with 20+ kids from different schools, that’s our primary target.

Trustee Akaka: Wonderful. Mahalo.

Chair Waihe‘e: Are there any other questions or comments?

There are no further questions nor comments.

Chair Waihe‘e: Thank you very much, Kalani, Lori, and Kalena. Good Job.
V. NEW BUSINESS

D. Presentation: Recommendations Implementation Report, CliftonLarsonAllen, OHA & LLCs Contract and Disbursement Review, November 2021

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

Pouhana Hussey: Thank you. Trustees, I have been in the position before that you’re before the end of the day or a meal and so I am very conscious of that. The message #147, that was sent out on Monday night has all the links. It has the context, and you should have received your hardcopy binders; Trustee Ahuna and Trustee Lindsey yours were sent via FedEx on Monday.

Administration always offers, if you want to meet and talk through it. Just have your staff reach out and we’ll have one-on-ones or in pairs, any of that to walk through the document. Administration will discuss with Chair Waihe‘e, what actions, if any the committee would like to consider.

Trustee Akina: Thank you, Chair and thank you, Sylvia. Sylvia, when you mentioned that the committee would consider actions that may follow up your presentation of this report, what types of actions are we thinking of? As I understand it; we have not voted on this report, nor is it an agenda item for us to do so.

Pouhana Hussey: Right, so when I refer to that, next steps, this is not a Board document, it’s an Administration document. Although, of the recommendations, the CLA Report calls out seven recommendations that are Board Governance-oriented. So, what the report contains is suggested to address that we’ve already put into place, for example, budgeting on the internal audit function as an example.

So, those particular items are Board items to dispose of. It’s those kinds of actions that I’d like to discuss with Chair Waihe‘e, as to how he would like to navigate that through the RM and then up through the BOT. Especially the ad-hoc committee recommendations, those recommendations are already being operationalized. We provided an update, so we’ll circle back with procurement as to the process and we have both Chief of Staff, Colin Kippen, as well as COO, Casey Brown who supported the ad-hoc committee to bring back information to the Trustees in terms of the progress of the RFP.

Trustee Akina: So, if I understand you, it sounds as though your focus is on the recommendations and the implementation of the recommendations. Is that right?

Pouhana Hussey: To the seventh recommendation by CLA that the Board has Administration come back with an implementation report and we’re pleased to report that there are just eight of the recommendations outstanding to be addressed.

Trustee Akina: Thank you, Sylvia.

Chair Waihe‘e asks if there is any other questions or comments.

There are no further questions nor comments.
VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Akaka moves to adjourn the RM meeting.

Trustee Keola Lindsey seconds the motion.

Chair Waiheʻe asks if there is any discussion.

There is no discussion.

Chair Waiheʻe calls for a ROLL CALL VOTE.

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Chair Waiheʻe adjourns the RM meeting at 12:30 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Wennihan
Trustee Aide
Committee on Resource Management

As approved by the Committee on Resource Management (RM) on January 25, 2022.

Trustee John Waihe‘e, IV
Chair
Committee on Resource Management