

**STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
KAKAAKO MEETING**

Wednesday, June 2, 2021

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The Hawaii Community Development Authority (“Authority” or “Board”), a body corporate and a public instrumentality of the State of Hawaii met virtually (utilizing the state-supported Zoom Meeting platform) for a meeting on June 2, 2021.

Board Chairperson, John Whalen, called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m.
Those present were as follows:

Members Present:

John Whalen, Chairperson
Kevin Sakoda
Phillip Hasha
Jason Okuhama
Wei Fang
Chason Ishii

Members Excused:

Daniel Ikaika Ito
David Rodriguez, DOT (Ex-Officio)
Craig Hirai, B&F (Ex-Officio)
Dean Uchida, DPP (non-voting)

Legal Counsel:

Kelly Suzuka, Deputy Attorney General

Staff Present:

Deepak Neupane, Executive Director
Garet Sasaki, Administrative Services Officer
Lindsey Doi Leaverton, Asset Manager
Carson Schultz, Director of Planning & Development - Kakaako
Craig Nakamoto, Compliance Assurance & Community Outreach Officer
Francine Murray, HCDA Program Specialist
Tommilyn Soares, HCDA Secretary

A quorum was present.

Acknowledgement that the Meeting is Being Convened Virtually

Chair Whalen reiterated the wording contained in the Meeting Agenda regarding the state’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the state’s efforts to slow the community spread of the virus and Governor David Y. Ige’s issuance of Supplementary Emergency Proclamations which suspended Chapter 92 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes to the extent necessary to enable

public boards and commissions to conduct business without holding meetings open to the public.

With regard to the foregoing, Chair Whalen reiterated wording contained in the Meeting Agenda noting that HCDA welcomes public attendance via the Zoom link and HCDA's YouTube Channel contained in the meeting agenda, HCDA also welcomes public comment and public participation via submission of written and or verbal testimony (consistent with the social distancing guidelines and Emergency Proclamation directives in effect).

Chair Whalen stated that individuals, if any, from the public who have requested to provide testimony are on standby and will be permitted to speak during the public testimony session of the specific agenda item.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes of May 5, 2021

Minutes were approved as presented.

III. ACTION ITEM

Consider Authorizing the Executive Director to Waive Lease Rent Due from Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii for the Months of July Through December of 2021 in the Amount of \$1,825.00 Per Month.

HCDA Asset Manager, Ms. Lindsey Leaverton Doi, provided a summary of the staff report.

Ms. Leaverton Doi introduced the Executive Director of Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii ("VLSH"), Ms. Angela Min, who was present to answer questions from board members. Ms. Min informed the board that no funding was going to be provided to VLSH from the State, which is the case for all non-profits in the next fiscal year, adding that the next potential time for funding from the State would be in July 2022. She noted that as Executive Director, she has tried her best to cut the costs of VLSH in as many ways as possible, while still allowing VLSH to remain open and provide services.

Chair Whalen asked for clarification regarding the next potential time for State funding being in July 2022 and proposed to fellow board members whether the item should be amended to consider a longer term for the waiver of lease rent for VLSH. Ms. Min answered saying the potential funds would be in the fiscal year ("FY") 2022-2023, as the budget for the FY 2021-2022 does not include funding for VLSH.

Member Sakoda asked Ms. Min if VLSH has seen any changes in terms of the issues they are servicing in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Min acknowledged that the eviction moratorium is scheduled to expire soon, therefore VLSH is expecting an influx of calls regarding that topic. She added that the majority of inquiries have been in relation to family law, mostly as a result of quarantine and other restrictions due to the pandemic.

Member Okuhama asked if State funding was the only source of income for VLSH. He shared concerns that the State may not provide funding in the near future, in which case the

board may want to consider the long-term effects of that on VLSH. Ms. Min provided a summary of the budget for VLSH stating that funding from the State accounts for about one-third of their annual budget. Member Okuhama expressed that he, in agreement with Chair Whalen, felt that the board should consider a longer term for the waiver, considering the financial situation of VLSH is not likely to change until July of 2022. If a longer term were given, he suggested having VLSH submit their financial records halfway through the term to provide an update on their situation. Member Fang agreed with Member Okuhama and Chair Whalen on a possible extension of the waiver and asked if the extension (based on VLSH submitting its financial records) would be handled administratively by HCDA staff or if it would need to come back to the board for the extension.

Executive Director of HCDA, Mr. Deepak Neupane, commented that review of the financial update provided by VLSH is doable for HCDA staff.

Member Sakoda commented that the impact that VLSH has on the community is greater than the money being lost by the HCDA. He added that it is a great story to let the public know that HCDA is supporting a non-profit that does helpful work for the community. Mr. Neupane agreed saying that the story could be featured in HCDA's next newsletter.

There were no further questions or comments from board members.

Public Testimony

Chair Whalen called for public testimony. There was no public testimony.

Motion

Member Okuhama motioned for the board to authorize the Executive Director to waive lease rent due from Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii for the months of July through December 2021 in the amount of \$1,825.00 per month, plus to extend the waiver through June 2022 if VLSH's financial statements show no change in funding.

Member Fang seconded the motion.

Ms. Leaverton Doi conducted the roll call vote. Motion passed with 6 votes and 3 excused.

IV. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Monthly Report and Other Status Reports

a. Approved permit applications that did not require HRS 206E-5.6 public hearings

HCDA Executive Director, Deepak Neupane, chose to stand on the written report as presented.

Chair Whalen asked for questions or comments from board members.

There were no questions or comments from board members.

Public Testimony

Chair Whalen called for public testimony. There was no public testimony.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further comment or questions on the Report of the Executive Director, Chair Whalen thanked those who joined the meeting on Zoom and adjourned the meeting at 10:56 a.m.

John Whalen, Chairperson

Date

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