

MINUTES
HAWAII STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING

Via Zoom
Honolulu, HI 96813

Thursday, July 28, 2022

A. **CALL TO ORDER**

President Shannon Sheldon called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. with a quorum present.

The following persons were present for all or part of the meeting:

Officers Present

Shannon Sheldon
Rhonda Griswold
Jesse Souki
Alika Piper

Directors Present

Jocelyn Chong
Vladimir Devens
Jessica Domingo
William Harrison
Geraldine Hasegawa
Kristin Izumi-Nitao
Erin Kobayashi
Jacob Lowenthal
Emiko Meyers
Mark K. Murakami
Paul Naso
Mark Valencia
Jasmine Wong

Officers/Directors Absent

Steven Chow
Carol Kitaoka
Lanson Kupau
Zale Okazaki

Others Present

Maricris Serrano
Mitchell Yamauchi
Mika Yoshimura

HSBA Staff

Patricia Mau-Shimizu
Iris Ito
Sean Perez

- B. **REPORT ON 2021 TAX RETURN AND AUDIT** - Senior Tax Manager Maricris Serrano at Gilford Sato & Associates, CPAs, reported on HSBA's Form 990 for 2021. She called attention to Part VI, Section A on Governance and Management, and Section B on Policies, specifically the conflict-of-interest policy. She stated that the policy defines what constitutes a conflict, and that all board members must sign the conflict-of-interest policy annually. Audit Partner Mika Yoshimuri presented an overview of the audit and noted that it was completed in compliance with IRS standards under a modified cash basis. She further reported on management responsibilities for preparation of the financial statements and ensuring its fair presentation. She made note to the government grant of \$175k received through the Paycheck Protection Program and the subsequent forgiveness of this loan by the Small Business Administration. On-Site Auditor Mitchell Yamauchi was also present.
- C. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - A motion was made (W. Harrison), seconded, and carried without opposition to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2022 board meeting.
- D. **TREASURER'S REPORT** - Treasurer Alika Piper reported on the financial statements for month ending June 30, 2022, noting total revenue collected of \$1.6M and total expenses of \$951K. She also reported on the total assets of \$4.1M and total liabilities of \$593K, including the current mortgage balance of \$499K.
- F. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** - Executive Director Patricia Mau-Shimizu reported on the status of the August 24th Pau Hana Fundraiser, the August 8th memorial for Chief Justice Ronald Moon, and the August 16th special board meeting to interview the judicial nominee for the Second Circuit.
- G. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
1. **Proposed Score Reduction on Hawaii Bar Exam** - President Sheldon reported on the Subcommittee's work on this issue and presented its recommendation to the Board. See written report.
- Action taken:** After discussion motion was made (R. Griswold), seconded, and carried without opposition to adopt the recommendation of the Subcommittee to inform the Hawaii Supreme Court that the HSBA Board recommends keeping the bar passage rate of 133 the same (not lowering it to 130).
- H. **NEW BUSINESS**
2. **Proposed Amendment to the HSBA Constitution & Bylaws: Addition of YLD Delegate to the House of Delegates**
- Action taken:** A motion was made (W. Harrison), seconded, and carried without opposition to recommend to HSBA members approval of the proposed amendment to the HSBA Constitution & Bylaws to add a YLD Delegate to the House of

Delegates of the American Bar Association. YLD President Jasmine Wong stated that the YLD Board also voted to approve the bylaw amendment.

It was also noted that funding for travel of the YLD Delegate to the House of Delegates will come out of the operating budget given that the YLD Delegate does not vote on social issues.

3. **Proposed Amendment to Rules 1.9 and 1.9A of the Rules of the Supreme Court**

Action taken: A motion was made (R. Griswold), seconded, and carried without opposition to determine that proposed amendments to Rule 1.9 and 1.9A of the Rules of the Supreme Court of the State of Hawaii, which seeks to improve and extend the process for registering *pro hac vice* counsel, be the subject of a notice for members to comment to the Court. Director Vladimir Devens recused himself from voting due to his current service as a Disciplinary Board member.

4. **Review of Board Policy Manual on Judicial Appointment** - President Sheldon appointed a subcommittee to address the policy and procedural questions raised about HSBA's current judicial appointments process, specifically, the judicial nominees' ability to defend themselves against confidential commenters. Subcommittee will include Mark Valencia (chair), and members Jesse Souki, Geraldine Hasegawa, Rhonda Griswold, and Steven Chow.

I. **YLD PRESIDENT'S REPORT** - YLD President Jasmine Wong reported on the upcoming Junior Judges project; YLD Board candidates, particularly for Kauai and East Hawaii; and the well-received legal clinics during Law Week.

J. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

Submitted by:



Patricia Mau-Shimizu
HSBA Executive Director

Approved by:



Rhonda L. Griswold
HSBA President-elect