

MINUTES
HAWAII STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING

Via Zoom
Honolulu, HI 96813

Thursday, October 26, 2023

A. CALL TO ORDER

President Rhonda Griswold called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. with a quorum present.

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

Officers Present

Rhonda Griswold
Jesse Souki
Mark M. Murakami
Alika Piper

Others Present

Simeona Mariano
Robert Miyashita

Directors Present

Jocelyn Chong
Steven Chow
Vladimir Devens
Jessica Domingo
Geraldine Hasegawa
Kristin Izumi-Nitao
Ronette Kawakami
Carol Kitaoka
Erin Kobayashi
Jacob Lowenthal
Emiko Meyers
Mark K. Murakami
Zale Okazaki
Mark Valencia
Lisa Yang

HSBA Staff Present

Lyn Flanigan
Iris Ito
Sean Perez

Officers & Directors Absent

Lanson Kupau
Paul Naso

- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – A motion was made (M.M. Murakami), seconded, and carried without opposition to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2023 board meeting.

C. TREASURER'S REPORT – Treasurer Alika Piper reported that total dues revenue collected in September was \$13k and non-dues revenue collected was \$65k which brings YTD total revenue to \$1.8M; about 96% of budget. YTD expenses were \$1.3M; about 72% of budget. The mortgage balance was \$384K.

D. PRESIDENT'S REPORT – President Griswold reported on the following items:

- The Search Committee has selected Inkinen to assist in the search for the new Executive Director.
- To assist HSBA in determining the legal needs of those impacted by the Maui wildfires, Moya Gray has been engaged to do this work.
- The 3-member panels have been assigned to review the documents sent by the 2 judicial nominees for Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court.

E. YLD PRESIDENT'S REPORT – YLD President Lisa Yang reported on the following items:

- Work on the High School Mock Trial project is in full swing. It will be a civil issue.
- A social is being planned for November 17th with high hopes of getting the newly admitted attorneys to attend and introduce them to the YLD.

F. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. **Specialty Bar Association** – President-elect Jesse Souki explained the revisions to the proposed policy for specialty bar associations initially discussed at the August board meeting. All specialty bars currently listed (and future ones who wish to be listed) on the HSBA webpage will be asked to certify on an annual basis that it will allow any HSBA member to join their organization and that the organization will not discriminate against any of the protected classes identified by the EEOC.

Action taken: After discussion, a motion was made (J. Souki), seconded, and carried without opposition to approve the recommendation of the Executive Committee to adopt the proposed policy for specialty bar associations who wish to be recognized on the HSBA website, through the HSBA attorney renewal process, and other HSBA communications.

G. NEW BUSINESS

2. **Proposed 2024 HSBA Operating Budget** – Director of Operations Sean Perez presented the proposed HSBA operating budget for 2024 and explained each line item.

Action taken: A motion was made (A. Piper), seconded, and carried without opposition to approved the recommendation of the joint Executive-Finance Committee to adopt the proposed 2024 HSBA operating budget.

3. **Future of the Hawaii Bar Journal:** The Board discussed the future of the *Journal* considering the possible retirement of Carol Muranaka who has been Editor-in-Chief for a number of years. It appears that no one on the current editorial board is willing to take this on, so it was suggested that members be polled regarding the publication and its future format.

H. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

Submitted by:



Lyn Flanigan
Interim Executive Director

Approved by:



Lanson K. Kupau
HSBA Secretary