

MINUTES  
HAWAII STATE BAR ASSOCIATION  
BOARD MEETING  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

President Rhonda Griswold called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. with a quorum present.

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

Officers Present

Rhonda Griswold  
Jesse Souki (via Zoom)  
Mark M. Murakami  
Lanson Kupau (via Zoom)  
Alika Piper

Others Present

Moya Gray

Directors Present

Steven Chow  
Jessica Domingo  
Geraldine Hasegawa  
Ronette Kawakami  
Jacob Lowenthal (via Zoom)  
Emiko Meyers (via Zoom)  
Mark K. Murakami  
Mark Valencia (via Zoom)  
Lisa Yang (via Zoom)

HSBA Staff Present

Lyn Flanigan  
Iris Ito  
Sean Perez  
Brian Simon

Officers & Directors Absent

Jocelyn Chong  
Vladimir Devens  
Kristin Izumi-Nitao  
Carol Kitaoka  
Erin Kobayashi  
Paul Naso  
Zale Okazaki

- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – A motion was made (S. Chow), seconded, and carried without opposition to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2023 board meeting.
- C. TREASURER’S REPORT** – Treasurer Alika Piper reported on dues revenue, non-dues revenue, expenses, and total liabilities for the months of October and November. As of November 30<sup>th</sup>, total revenue had exceeded budgeted revenue by \$27k, and total expenses were at 96% of budget.

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

- Executive Director Search – moving forward; deadline for applicants is 12/29/23.
- Maui HOPES project – being coordinated by legal service providers and others to assist victims of the Maui wildfires.
- Two lawsuits filed against HSBA – one regarding the Republican Party; the other regarding a judge's ruling against a layperson. Although seemingly meritless, both have been reported to liability insurance companies.

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

- November 17<sup>th</sup> Social – well-attended by newly admitted attorneys and YLD members.
- High School Mock Trial – Twenty teams are registered to date; YLD and staff are coordinating with Judiciary on use of facilities.

**F. NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Strategic Planning Consultant** – Strategic Planning Committee Co-Chair Director Mark K. Murakami explained the process that the Committee underwent since July in finding a consultant to assist HSBA with its strategic plan. He stated that proposals were submitted by: Peter Adler, Vision Foresight, Chris Newbold of ALPS, and RR Consulting Group. Due to its experience with mandatory bars and its moderate pricing, RR Consulting Group was recommended by the Strategic Planning Committee. It was noted that funding for this purpose was included in the 2024 budget.

**Action taken:** A motion was made (S. Chow), seconded, and carried without opposition to adopt the recommendation of the Strategic Planning Committee to hire RR Consulting Group to help develop the HSBA strategic plan and to conduct a governance review.

2. **Establishment of Standing Litigation Committee**

**Action taken:** A motion was made (G. Hasegawa), seconded, and carried without opposition to adopt the recommendation of the HSBA President to establish a standing Litigation Committee comprised of the Executive Director and at least three Board or other HSBA members with litigation experience to monitor and manage HSBA litigation.

3. **2024 HSBA Nominating Committee Members**

**Action taken:** A motion was made (M.K. Murakami), seconded, and carried without opposition to ratify President-elect Jesse Souki's appointment of the following individuals to the Nominating Committee for 2024: Calvin Young (chair), Trejur Bordenave, Mark M. Murakami, Judge Darien Nagata, Judge Michael Soong, Elmira Tsang, and Mark Valencia.

4. **HSBA Representatives on 2024 Supreme Court Nominating Committee**

**Action taken:** A motion was made (R. Kawakami), seconded, and carried without opposition to ratify President-elect Souki's appointment of the following individuals as HSBA representatives to the Supreme Court Nominating Committee for 2024: P. Gregory Frey, Leighton Hara, Levi Hookano, and Jodi Yi.

5. **Report to the Hawaii State Bar Association** – Board members were referred to the written report completed by Moya Gray, who was present to answer any questions. Ms. Gray remarked that the report contained two recommendations: to adopt a plan of action for addressing disasters and to create a structure for implementation of the plan of action.

President Griswold stated that the report will be provided to HSBF, the Judiciary, and other stakeholders that are important in making this plan come to fruition. The Board thanked Ms. Gray for her comprehensive report and agreed that it was an excellent starting point to providing needed legal services in future disasters.

G. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:57 p.m.

Submitted by:



Lyn Flanigan  
Interim Executive Director

Approved by:



Lanson K. Kupau  
HSBA Secretary