

MINUTES
HAWAII STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING

In person & via Zoom
Honolulu, HI 96813

Thursday, January 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

Johnathan Bolton
Lisa Lum
Chief Judge Craig Nakamura (ret.)
Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald

Directors Present

Jocelyn Chong (Via Zoom)
Steven Chow
Vladimir Devens (Via Zoom)
Jessica Domingo
Geraldine Hasegawa
Kristin Izumi-Nitao
Ronette Kawakami
Carol Kitaoka (Via Zoom)
Erin Kobayashi
Jacob Lowenthal (Via Zoom)
Emiko Meyers (Via Zoom)
Mark K. Murakami
Paul Naso
Mark Valencia
Lisa Yang

HSBA Staff

Patricia Mau-Shimizu
Iris Ito
Sean Perez
Brian Simon

Directors Absent

Lanson Kupau
Zale Okazaki

- B. HAWAII STATE JUDICIARY UPDATE** - Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald thanked the HSBA for its support of the Judiciary. He also discussed the Judiciary's legislative priorities for fiscal years 2024 and 2025 with respect to its operating budget and CIP budget. The Judiciary will request that funding be restored to pre-pandemic levels and

fund positions that were previously approved. CJ Recktenwald also briefly discussed and requested the HSBA's support of legislative bills related to the Uniform Probate Code, Uniform Parentage Act, funding for a District Court Judge in the First Circuit, and for the safety of Judiciary personnel.

- C. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - A motion was made (K. Izumi-Nitao), seconded, and carried without opposition to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2022 board meeting.
- E. **TREASURER'S REPORT** - Treasurer Alika Piper delivered the financial report as of December 31, 2022, including YTD revenues and expenses. She noted total revenue for the year was \$2M and total expenses of \$1.9M. An additional payment of \$50k was made on the mortgage loan; the remaining mortgage balance is \$424K.
- F. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** - Executive Director Patricia Mau-Shimizu reported that to date, 482 members had not yet registered.
- G. **YLD PRESIDENT'S REPORT** - YLD President Lisa Yang reported that the Mock Trial program is underway with 18 high schools teams competing statewide. In-person and Zoom volunteers are needed.
- H. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - None.
- I. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Hawaii State Judiciary's 2023 Legislative Priorities**

a. **HB382/SB482: Judiciary Package; Appropriations; Budget**

Action taken: A motion was made (J. Souki), seconded, and carried without opposition to determine that legislation regarding the FY 2024-2025 Judiciary budget is germane to the purposes of unified bar and would be generally supported by HSBA members, therefore, passes the *Keller* test.

- ◆ General Funds Requests: Essential staffing for court/administrative operations
- ◆ CIP Requests: Building repair and maintenance

Action taken: After discussion, a motion was made (P. Naso), seconded, and carried without opposition to submit testimony in support of General Funds requests and CIP requests proposed by the Judiciary when the measures are scheduled for hearing.

b. **HB383/SB483: Uniform Probate Code**

Action taken: After discussion, a motion was made (M.K. Murakami) and seconded to determine that legislation relating to the Uniform Probate Code is

germane to the purposes of unified bar and would be generally supported by HSBA members. The motion failed to carry. Board members commented that legislation be referred to HSBA Sections that would be affected by the legislation.

c. **HB384/SB484: Uniform Parentage Act**

Action taken: A motion was made (M.M. Murakami), seconded, and carried without opposition to take no action on this legislation.

d. **HB385/SB485: Judiciary Package; District Court Judges; First Circuit**

Action taken: A motion was made (S. Chow), seconded, and carried without opposition to determine that legislation relating to Judges for the District Court of the First Circuit is germane to the purposes of unified bar and would be generally supported by HSBA members, therefore, passes the *Keller* test.

Action taken: A motion was made (P. Naso), seconded, and carried without opposition to testify in support of this legislation which establishes 1 additional district court judgeship when the measures are scheduled for hearing.

e. **HB386/SB486: Safety; Judiciary Personnel; Personal Information**

Action taken: A motion was made (M.K. Murakami), seconded, and carried without opposition to determine that legislation relating to safety of Judiciary personnel is germane to the purposes of unified bar and would be generally supported by HSBA members, therefore, passes the *Keller* test.

Action taken: A motion was made (P. Naso), seconded, and carried without opposition to testify in support of this legislation relating to safety of Judiciary personnel when the measures are scheduled for hearing.

2. **2023 Per Diem Amount**

Action taken: A motion was made (M.M. Murakami), seconded, and carried without opposition to approve the Executive Committee's recommendation to set the 2023 per diem amount for meals during conference travel at \$74 based on the State of Hawaii's High-Cost Locality and taking into consideration the Federal Allowable Rate by Locality, for conferences budgeted for 2023.

3. **The Christian Legal Society**

Action taken: After discussion, a motion was made (P. Naso), seconded, and carried without opposition to approve the Executive Committee's recommendation that: 1) a response be sent to the member who voiced concerns over HSBA's affiliation with the Christian Legal Society of Hawaii to explain that members' dues are not being used to support CLSH activities; 2) a disclaimer be included on the

annual attorney renewal form stating that HSBA does not endorse any specialty bar and member dues are not used to support them; and 3) a subcommittee be tasked with studying how other bars manage/treat specialty bars and make a recommendation to the Board for developing a process to address future requests and to also apply that process to the specialty bars currently listed. A question was raised as to whether HSBA should remove all specialty bars from its website and applications forms until procedures/criteria are developed. It was decided to keep the status quo since offering members the opportunity to join the various specialty bar associations is a service, not only to the members, but also to the specialty bars that would not have the means to reach all HSBA members otherwise. The following people agreed to serve on this subcommittee: Jesse Souki, Mark M. Murakami, Vlad Devens, Jake Lowenthal, and Jessica Domingo).

4. **2023 HSBA Committee Chair Appointments**

Action taken: A motion was made (M.K. Murakami), seconded, and carried without opposition to ratify President Griswold's appointment of 2023 HSBA Committee Chairs:

- Attorney/Client Relations - Charles Crumpton and Peter Lenhart
- Awards - Ronette Kawakami and Emiko Meyers
- Civic Education - Troy Andrade, Ryan Hamaguchi, and Ruth Oh
- Consumer Protection - Paul Alston
- Continuing Legal Education - Brian Black
- Delivery of Legal Services to the Public - Micah Smith and Jenny Silbiger
- Diversity, Equality, and the Law - Kaliko Fernandes and Trisha Nakamura
- Judicial Administration - Justice Simeon Acoba (ret.) and Vladimir Devens
- Legislation - Noah Gibson
- Nominating - Calvin Young
- Professional Responsibility & Risk Management - Hayley Cheng, Judge Kevin Morikone, and Judge Jill Otake
- Publications - Cynthia Johiro and Carol Muranaka
- Staff & Facilities - Paul Naso
- Transitioning Lawyers - Geraldine Hasegawa
- Well-Being - Jasmine Wong

5. **2023 HSBA Nominating Committee Members**

Action taken: A motion was made (R. Kawakami), seconded, and carried without opposition to ratify President Griswold's appointment of the following individuals as 2023 HSBA Nominating Committee members: Calvin Young (chair), Trejur Bordenave, Judge Darien Nagata, Judge Michael Soong, Jesse Souki, Elmira Tsang, and Mark Valencia.

6. **HSBA Representatives on 2023 Supreme Court Nominating Committee**

Action taken: A motion was made (M.K. Murakami), seconded, and carried without opposition to ratify President Griswold's appointment of the following individuals as 2023 HSBA representatives to the Supreme Court Nominating Committee: P. Gregory Frey, Leighton Hara, Levi Hookano, and Jodi Yi.

J. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 1:46 p.m.

Submitted by:



Patricia Mau-Shimizu
HSBA Executive Director

Approved by:



Jesse K. Souki
HSBA President-elect