

MINUTES
HAWAII STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING

Via Zoom
Honolulu, HI 96813

Thursday, February 23, 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
Lanson Kupau
Alika Piper

HSBA Staff

Patricia Mau-Shimizu
Iris Ito
Brian Simon

Directors Present

Jocelyn Chong
Steven Chow
Vladimir Devens
Jessica Domingo
Geraldine Hasegawa
Ronette Kawakami
Erin Kobayashi
Emiko Meyers
Mark K. Murakami
Paul Naso
Mark Valencia
Lisa Yang

Directors Absent

Kristin Izumi-Nitao
Carol Kitaoka
Jacob Lowenthal
Zale Okazaki

B. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - A motion was made (S. Chow), seconded, and carried without opposition to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2023 board meeting.

C. **TREASURER'S REPORT** - Deferred.

D. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** - Deferred.

E. **YLD PRESIDENT'S REPORT** - Deferred.

F. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Executive Director Pat Mau-Shimizu gave a status report on legislation that the HSBA Board had voted to support at last month's board meeting (after a *Keller* analysis) and submit testimony.

- SB482/ HB382 Judiciary Biennium Budget
- SB486/ HB386 Relating to the Safety of Judiciary Personnel
- SB485/ HB385 Establishes 1 additional District Court Judgeship in First Circuit

G. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **SB1074 Judicial Appointments and Retention of Supreme Court Justices**

Ms. Mau-Shimizu also reported on the status of SB1074, legislation that would authorize the Senate to approve or reject a subsequent term of office for Justices. In early February, the Board conducted a *Keller* analysis via email and voted to oppose this legislation.

2. **Mandatory Retirement Age of Justices and Judges Senate Bill 992**

Action taken: A motion was made (J. Souki), seconded, and carried without opposition to determine that legislation relating to the mandatory retirement age of justices and judges is germane to the purposes of unified bar.

The Board expressed concern over the divergent views of bar members on this issue (the Appellate Section declined to submit testimony for this reason; a prior year's HSBA Board had a split vote on similar legislation) and noted that further study should be done.

Action taken: After discussion, a motion was made (L. Kupau), seconded, and carried by a vote of 14 to 1 for HSBA to remain neutral on legislation which proposes a constitutional amendment to increase the retirement age of justices and judges from 70 to 75 due to the varying views among bar members and board members on this issue.

Director Paul Naso agreed to chair a subcommittee to study retirement age issues and report back to the HSBA Board. Directors Mark K. Murakami and Jocelyn Chong will also serve on the subcommittee.

President Griswold stated that perhaps the Strategic Planning Committee survey bar members on this issue as well as others.

J. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:48 p.m.

Submitted by:



Patricia Mau-Shimizu
HSBA Executive Director

Approved by:



Lanson K. Kupau
HSBA Secretary