

MINUTES  
HAWAII STATE BAR ASSOCIATION  
BOARD MEETING

Via Zoom  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Thursday, March 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 (via Zoom)  
Alika Piper

HSBA Staff

Patricia Mau-Shimizu  
Iris Ito  
Sean Perez  
Brian Simon

Directors Present

Jocelyn Chong (via Zoom)  
Jessica Domingo (via Zoom)  
Geraldine Hasegawa (via Zoom)  
Ronette Kawakami (via Zoom)  
Carol Kitaoka  
Erin Kobayashi (via Zoom)  
Emiko Meyers (via Zoom)  
Mark K. Murakami  
Zale Okazaki (via Zoom)  
Mark Valencia (via Zoom)  
Lisa Yang (via Zoom)

Directors Absent

Steven Chow  
Vladimir Devens  
Kristin Izumi-Nitao  
Jacob Lowenthal  
Paul Naso

- B. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - A motion was made, seconded, and carried without opposition to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2023 board meeting.

- C. **TREASURER'S REPORT** - Treasurer Alika Piper delivered the financial reports for months ending January and February 2023, including YTD revenues and expenses. She noted total revenue of \$111K and total expenses of \$186K as of February 28, 2023. She also reported on the current mortgage balance at \$416K.
- D. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** - Executive Director Patricia Mau-Shimizu reported on the upcoming judicial nominations and legislative bills that are still alive. President Griswold reported that the ABA President has agreed to give a keynote speech virtually at the Annual Meeting in conjunction with the Bar Convention in October.
- E. **YLD PRESIDENT'S REPORT** - YLD President Lisa Yang reported that the High School Mock Trial program is heading into Round 5 before playoffs and finals with over 30 matches scheduled statewide.
- F. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
- G. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Diversification of Cash Assets** - Treasurer Piper presented the proposed diversification plan that would include moving HSBA's cash assets to other local banks up to \$250,000 each.

**Action taken:** After discussion, a motion was made (Mark M. Murakami), seconded, and carried without opposition to approve a proposed diversification plan of cash assets among 4 other local banks, and authorize the President, Treasurer, and HSBA staff to review after 6 months and take necessary action for the continued diversification of cash assets, and report its actions to the Board

2. **Board Vacancies on Commission on Professionalism**

**Action taken:** A motion was made (Mark M. Murakami), seconded, and carried without opposition to approve the recommendation of the HSBA Nominating Committee to recommend to the Court the reappointment of Susan Arnett and Jane Kwan for 3-year terms (terms expired on 03/13/2023) and to reappoint Mei-Fei Kuo and Judith Pavey for 3-year terms (current terms will expire 04/26/2023) to the Commission on Professionalism. Director Ronette Kawakami recused herself from voting.

3. **Board Vacancies on Rule 19 Committee**

**Action taken:** A motion was made (Mark K. Murakami), seconded, and carried without opposition to approve the recommendation of the HSBA Nominating Committee to recommend to the Court that Jeen Kwak be reappointed, and that Darcia Forester, Lars Isaacson, and Eric Yau be newly appointed to the Special Committee on Judicial Performance for 3-year terms (current terms will expire on 03/29/2023). Director Ronette Kawakami recused herself from voting.

4. **Board Vacancies on HSBF Board**

**Action taken:** A motion was made (R. Kawakami), seconded, and carried without opposition to approve the recommendation of the HSBA Nominating Committee to appoint Michelle Go to fill a vacancy for the remainder of a term (term will expire on 12/31/2023) and to reappoint Carol Kitaoka (whose term expired on 12/31/2022) for a 3-year term on the Hawaii State Bar Foundation Board. Director Carol Kitaoka recused herself from voting.

5. **Annual HSBA Independent Audit**

**Action taken:** A motion was made (G. Hasegawa), seconded, and carried without opposition to approve of EOS Accountants LLP to conduct the 2022 HSBA independent audit.

J. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 1:39 p.m.

Submitted by:



Patricia Mau-Shimizu  
HSBA Executive Director

Approved by:



Lanson K. Kupau  
HSBA Secretary