

MINUTES  
HAWAII STATE BAR ASSOCIATION  
BOARD MEETING

Via Zoom  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Thursday, May 25, 2023

A. **CALL TO ORDER**

President Rhonda Griswold called the meeting to order at 12:05 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  
Sean Perez  
Brian Simon

Directors Present

Jocelyn Chong  
Steven Chow  
Vladimir Devens  
Jessica Domingo  
Ronette Kawakami  
Carol Kitaoka  
Erin Kobayashi  
Emiko Meyers  
Paul Naso  
Mark Valencia  
Lisa Yang

Directors Absent

Geraldine Hasegawa  
Kristin Izumi-Nitao  
Jacob Lowenthal  
Mark K. Murakami  
Zale Okazaki

- B. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - A motion was made (S. Chow), seconded, and carried without opposition to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2023 board meeting.

C. **TREASURER'S REPORT** - Treasurer Alika Piper reported that ending April 2023, Year-To-Date revenue was \$1.6M. Expenses in April were \$127k and 34% expended of the budget. The current mortgage balance is at \$406K.

D. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** - Executive Director Patricia Mau-Shimizu reported on the following items:

- HSBA Board Election - Slate of candidates announced.
- JSC Election - Ongoing. Election closes on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Pau Hana Update - To date, about 200 guest passes have been sold.

E. **YLD PRESIDENT'S REPORT** - Young Lawyers Division President Lisa Yang reported that Law Week is now going on with Legal Line every weekday evening, legal clinics on the weekend, and Q & A's on legal topics on the morning news.

F. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - None.

G. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Pre-Unified Funds Policy Discussion** - At the request of the Executive Committee, the Executive Director spoke to several of HSBA's delegates that have attended the ABA House of Delegates meetings and asked for an estimated percentage of the issues voted upon that are affected by *Keller* and those that are not; the answers varied. Ms. Mau-Shimizu also learned during her discussions that the ABA will start allowing delegates to note their abstention prior to the House of Delegates meeting for the record. This will permit delegates to refrain from voting on issues that are affected by *Keller*. The information will then be used to determine what percentages will be reimbursed through the pre-unified funds and through the general funds.

After more details on the ABA abstention processes are received, HSBA will review funding for the Hawaii elected delegate and the YLD delegate to the ABA House of Delegates.

2. **Federal District Court Judicial Appointment Process** - The Board agreed that it should continue with existing policy to use the same procedures for federal judicial nominees as it does for state judicial nominees and the Hawaii State Attorney General. A suggestion was made (R. Kawakami) to inform Senators Brian Shatz and Mazie Hirono of HSBA's process with respect to judicial appointments.
3. **DEI Information Request** - The Board discussed at length a member's request for information related to the diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) statement adopted by the Board in December 2022.

After the May 18<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee meeting, the member was informed that the annual financial audits were available for inspection at the HSBA office and

that all other requested information is available through the HSBA website or the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs website.

It was recommended (V. Devens) that the member be asked the purpose of his request to determine if it is made in good faith and for proper purpose. See HRS §414D-302 (c)(1).

4. **Legal Aid Society of Hawaii - Upcoming Board Vacancies**

**Action taken:** A motion was made (A. Piper), seconded, and carried without opposition to adopt the recommendation of the Nominating Committee to appoint/reappoint the following individuals to the Board of the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii for a term of 3 years beginning July 1, 2023:

- ◆ Jonn Duchemin (reappointment)
- ◆ Nathaniel Higa (reappointment)
- ◆ Ted Hong (reappointment)
- ◆ Scott Morita (new appointment)
- ◆ Kurt Murao (reappointment)

5. **Process for 2024 HSBA Budget** - The timeline for the upcoming budget process was reviewed. FYI only.

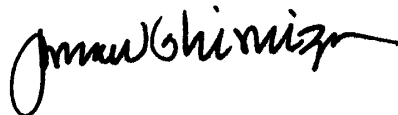
\* 6. **Renewal of the Seoul Bar Association Friendship Agreement**

**Action taken:** A motion was made (A. Piper), seconded, and carried without opposition for HSBA to renew its friendship agreement with the Seoul Bar Association and authorize the President to sign the agreement.

H. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:46 p.m.

Submitted by:



Patricia Mau-Shimizu  
HSBA Executive Director

Approved by:



Jesse Souki  
HSBA President-elect