

MINUTES  
HAWAII STATE BAR ASSOCIATION  
BOARD MEETING

Via Zoom  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Thursday, September 28, 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

Others Present

Kosei Murase  
Stanley Sawai  
Mark Usui  
Mitchell Yamauchi  
Mika Yoshimura

Directors Present

Steven Chow  
Vladimir Devens  
Jessica Domingo  
Geraldine Hasegawa  
Kristin Izumi-Nitao  
Ronette Kawakami  
Carol Kitaoka  
Jacob Lowenthal  
Mark Valencia  
Lisa Yang

HSBA Staff Present

Iris Ito  
Sean Perez

Officers & Directors Absent

Jocelyn Chong  
Erin Kobayashi  
Emiko Meyers  
Mark K. Murakami  
Paul Naso  
Zale Okazaki

- B. REPORT ON 2022 TAX RETURN AND AUDIT** – From EOS Accountants, LLP, Stanley Sawai, Mika Yoshimura, and Mitchell Yamauchi were present to give a report on the HSBA’s Draft Audit Report. Mr. Sawai highlighted key areas of the audit letter including that the audit was performed to obtain “reasonable, rather than absolute, assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement;” it was found to be free of such misstatement. He also covered the following areas of

the letter: Compliance with All Ethics Requirements Regarding Independence; Significant Accounting Policies; Significant Accounting Estimates and Financial Statement Disclosures; Significant Difficulties Encountered during the Audit; Disagreements with Management; and Other Matters. Mr. Sawai further stated that the auditor's opinion was an unmodified or unqualified opinion and that the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting.

Additionally, Mark Usui and Kosei Murase were present to give a report on the Draft Form 990 Report. Mr. Murase reported on key elements of the 990 noting that HSBA's three major program services: professional activities; attorney registration; and member services.

- C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – A motion was made (S. Chow), seconded, and carried without opposition to approve the minutes of the August 24, 2023 board meeting and the vote taken via email on September 13, 2023.
- D. TREASURER'S REPORT** – Treasurer Alika Piper reported that total revenue collected in August was \$28k which brings YTD revenue up to 93% of budget. YTD expenses were \$1.2M and the mortgage balance was \$389K.
- E. PRESIDENT'S REPORT** – President Griswold reported on the following items:
- Lyn Flanigan will join the HSBA as Interim Executive Director (E.D.) beginning October 2, 2023.
  - The Search Committee will interview 3 companies, one of which will be hired to assist the HSBA in its search for the new E.D.
  - Testimonies were submitted to the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee Chair and Ranking Member regarding USDC judicial nominees Judge Shanlyn Park and Micah Smith.
  - HSBA Annual Meeting is on October 17, 2023 (virtual) where ABA President Mary Smith will speak. The President's Award will also be presented to Howard Luke, and to Pat Mau-Shimizu (posthumously).
  - Maui Legal Hotlines are done. In-person clinics are being held to help the victims of the wildfires; HSBA is trying to secure a grant from HSBF to hire a pro bono coordinator.
- F. YLD PRESIDENT'S REPORT** – YLD President Lisa Yang reported on the following items:
- Maui Hotlines were successful, in large part to Jarrett Dempsey who spent much time in coordinating the attorney volunteers.
  - The YLD will present its Liberty Bell Award to the Hawaii Innocence Project and its Justice Award to David Kopper and Angela Lovitt, as part of the YLD Annual Meeting.
  - The YLD Board election is ongoing. However, they still need to find a Maui Director and a West Hawaii Director.

- A social is being planned for after the swearing-in in November to attract/engage the newly admitted attorneys and introduce them to the YLD.

G. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - None.

H. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Proposed 2024 Disciplinary Board (DB) Budget** – No increase in DB dues assessment is being requested for 2024. It was noted how the Office of Disciplinary Counsel has cost costs over the last few years by reducing office space and going electronic.

**Action taken:** A motion was made (J. Souki), seconded, and carried without opposition to adopt the recommendation of the joint Executive-Finance Committee to support the proposed 2024 budget of the Disciplinary Board. [A. Piper and V. Devens recused themselves from voting]

2. **Proposed 2024 Lawyers Fund for Client Protection (LFCP) Budget** – No increase in LFCP dues assessment is being requested for 2024.

**Action taken:** A motion was made (V. Devens), seconded, and carried without opposition to adopt the recommendation of the joint Executive-Finance Committee to support the proposed 2024 budget of the Lawyers Fund. [A. Piper recused herself from voting]

3. **Proposed 2024 Attorneys and Judges Assistance Program (AAP) Budget** – While an increase in AAP fee assessment is being requested for 2024, the increase is modest and justified.

**Action taken:** After brief discussion, a motion was made (G. Hasegawa), seconded, and carried without opposition to adopt the recommendation of the joint Executive-Finance Committee to support the proposed 2024 budget of the Attorneys and Judges Assistance Program, including its modest increase in the fee assessment.

4. **2024 HSBA Section Budgets**

**Action taken:** A motion was made (G. Hasegawa), seconded, and carried without opposition to adopt the recommendation of the joint Executive-Finance Committee to approve the proposed 2024 budgets of the HSBA Sections that have submitted their requests for dues assessments and proposed budget form.

5. **Additional Signers on HSBA Financial Accounts**

**Action taken:** A motion was made (A. Piper), seconded, and carried without opposition to adopt the recommendation of the joint Executive-Finance Committee to authorize Rhonda Griswold and Lyn Flanigan as signatories: for the remainder of 2023 and until a new Executive Director is hired, respectively.

**H. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:56 p.m.

Submitted by:



Iris M. Ito  
Acting Executive Director

Approved by:



Lanson K. Kupau  
HSBA Secretary