

MINUTES
HAWAII STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING

In person & via Zoom
Honolulu, HI 96813

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

A. CALL TO ORDER

President Jesse Souki called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. with a quorum present.

The following persons were present for all or part of the meeting:

Officers Present

Jesse Souki
Mark M. Murakami
Mark K. Murakami
Kristin Izumi-Nitao

HSBA Staff

Lyn Flanigan (Via Zoom)
Iris Ito
Sean Perez
Brian Simon
Sara Taira (Via Zoom)

Directors Present

Jocelyn Chong (Via Zoom)
Steven Chow
Jessica Domingo (Via Zoom)
Geraldine Hasegawa
Amanda Jones
Ronette Kawakami
Carol Kitaoka (Via Zoom)
Erin Kobayashi
Simeona Mariano (Via Zoom)
Emiko Meyers
Robert Miyashita
Kelcie Nagata (Via Zoom)

Others Present (Via Zoom)

Arsima Muller
Scott Spallina
Mark Valencia

Directors Absent

Jacob Lowenthal
Zale Okazaki
Paul Naso
Lanson Kupau

- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - The minutes of the January 24, 2024 board meeting were approved by consensus.

- C. **TREASURER'S REPORT** – Director of Operations, Sean Perez, reported that as of January 31, 2024, total revenue to date was \$183k and total expenses to date was \$220k. A prepayment was made on the loan leaving a mortgage balance of \$336k.
- D. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT** – President Jesse Souki reported on the following items:
1. Testimony has been submitted on legislative bills that HSBA supported including [SB3009](#) relating to the Department of Law Enforcement, as well as [SB2686](#) relating to the disclosure of personal information associated with certain public servants. Notably, only portions of the bills that related to the judiciary were supported.
 2. The Judicial Selection Commission election will be conducted soon to fill the position held by Jeff Portnoy.
 3. Western States Bar Conference will take place on Kauai on April 3-6, 2024. The HSBA Board meeting and a CLE ethics program will be held on April 3rd on Kauai.
- E. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** - Interim Executive Director Lyn Flanigan reported on the following items:
1. Strategic Planning – One hundred and ninety-five replies were received to the survey that was sent to the entire membership. Eleven responses were received from the survey that was sent to the Board; aiming for 90% completion, so the deadline has been extended. April 17th is the Strategic Planning Retreat.
 2. Pau Hana – August 28th at the Pacific Club; same day as the monthly Board meeting.
 3. Litigation – Mark M. Murakami reported on 3 active cases: Republican party case has been dismissed; member challenging DEI statement case is pending; and Miami lawsuit regarding MCLE provider is pending.
- F. **YLD PRESIDENT'S REPORT** - YLD President Kelcie Nagata reported that the High School Mock Trial competition is almost finished. The finals will be at the Supreme Court on March 16th. Law week will be on May 19th-25th. They are still finalizing speakers and the forms for volunteers.
- G. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - None.
- H. **NEW BUSINESS**
1. **Candidates for Oahu Director** – In separate sessions via Zoom, two nominees addressed the Board and briefly described their background.

Action taken: After the Zoom sessions with the two candidates ended, the Board voted by secret ballot that Arsima Muller would serve as Oahu Director on the HSBA Board for the remainder of a term that will expire on December 31, 2024.
 2. **Proposed New Rules 1.9 and 1.9A of the Rules of the Supreme Court of the State of Hawaii**

Action taken: After discussion, a motion was made (Mark M. Murakami), seconded, and carried without opposition that the HSBA will not hold any public hearing on the proposed new rules and instead will instruct members to comment directly to the Hawaii Supreme Court. It will be included in the HSBA e-newsletter.

3. **Appointment to PACE Commission**

Action taken: A motion was made (Mark K. Murakami), seconded, and carried without opposition to adopt the Nominating Committee's recommendations to reappoint Ruth Oh to the PACE Commission.

4. **2024 DEAL Committee Chair Appointment**

Action taken: A motion was made (Kristin Izumi-Nitao), seconded, and carried without opposition to ratify President Souki's appointment of Teri (Wright) Keliipuleole as the Chairperson of the DEAL Committee for 2024.

5. **Personnel Matter**

Action taken: A motion was made (Mark M. Murakami), seconded, and carried without opposition to convene in executive session to discuss the Search Committee's recommendation for the Executive Director position.

J. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 1:18 p.m.

Submitted by:



Lyn Flanigan
Interim HSBA Executive Director

Approved by:



Kristin Izumi-Nitao
HSBA Secretary