

MINUTES

**WATER BOARD PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FISCAL YEAR 2023
OPERATING BUDGET AND 5-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET
FOR THE FISCAL YEARS 2023-2027**

April 26, 2022

Puna Conference Room, 25 Aupuni Street, Suite 1501, Hilo, HI, and ICT (Interactive Conference Technology)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. David De Luz, Jr., Chairperson
(Via ICT) Mr. Steven Hirakami, Vice-Chairperson
Mr. Michael Bell
Ms. Kea Keolanui
Mr. Stephen “Kawena” Lopez
Mr. Benjamin Ney
Mr. Keith K. Okamoto, Manager-Chief Engineer,
Department of Water Supply (ex-officio member)

Absent: Ms. Julie Hugo, Water Board Member
Mr. Kenneth Sugai, Water Board Member

OTHERS PRESENT: Ms. Diana Mellon-Lacey, Deputy Corporation Counsel
(Via ICT) Mr. Kawika Uyehara, Deputy
Ms. Candace Gray, Waterworks Controller
Mr. Gregory Goodale, Chief of Operations
Mr. Warren Ching, Energy Management Specialist

PRESENT AT PUNA Ms. Janet Snyder, Information & Education Specialist II
CONFERENCE ROOM: Mr. Dean Takamine, Information Systems Support Technician I

(Chairperson De Luz called the public hearing to order at 9:45 a.m.)

CHAIRPERSON DE LUZ: Will the public hearing of the Water Board on the Proposed 2023 Operating Budget and 5-Year Capital Improvements Budget for the Department of Water Supply please come to order. My name is David De Luz, Jr., Chairperson of the Water Board; and I will have the Secretary do a roll call of the Board Members present. Doreen, please?

SECRETARY: Yes, Mr. Bell?

M. BELL: Present.

SECRETARY: Mr. Hirakami?

S. HIRAKAMI: Present

SECRETARY: Ms. Hugo? Absent. Ms. Keolanui?

K. KEOLANUI: Present.

SECRETARY: Mr. Lopez?

S. LOPEZ: Here. Present.

SECRETARY: Mr. Ney?

B. NEY: Present.

SECRETARY: Mr. Sugai? (Absent) And Chairperson De Luz?

CHAIRPERSON DE LUZ: Present.

SECRETARY: Okay, we have six Board Members in attendance and two absent.

CHAIRPERSON DE LUZ: Thank you. The Water Board, under Section 8-2(c) of the Hawai'i County Charter shall adopt the Operating and Capital Improvements Budget for the Department of Water Supply; and under the hearing and advertising provision of Section 10-4, Hawai'i County Charter, did publish public hearing notices in the Hawai'i Tribune-Herald and in the West Hawai'i Today on March 6, 2022. As stated in the hearing notice, all comments or testimony were to be filed in writing before the time of the hearing or register to have testimony included via web conference application or provide oral testimony at the Puna Conference Room. We'd like to follow this format as closely as possible; however, because there may be some of you who do not have any written statements but would like to testify or comment, we would like to afford you this opportunity to do so but would like to limit such presentations to three minutes. The hearing is now open for comments from the floor. Doreen, is there anyone registered to provide oral testimony or anyone wishing to testify from the Puna Conference Room?

SECRETARY: Uh, we'll check in with Janet Snyder.

J. SNYDER: Thank you, Doreen. Mr. Chair, there is no one registered to testify at the Puna Conference Room.

CHAIRPERSON DE LUZ: Thank you, Janet. If there is no further testimony at this time, I would like to entertain a Motion that this public hearing be closed. Could I entertain a Motion from the floor, please?

M. BELL: Michael, I motion.

B. NEY: Second, Ben.

CHAIRPERSON DE LUZ: Thank you. It has been moved and seconded that the public hearing is closed. Doreen, roll call please?

SECRETARY: Mr. Bell?

M. BELL: Aye.

SECRETARY: Mr. Hirakami?

S. HIRAKAMI: Aye.

SECRETARY: Ms. Hugo? (Absent) Ms. Keolanui?

K. KEOLANUI: Aye.

SECRETARY: Mr. Lopez?

S. LOPEZ: Aye.

SECRETARY: Mr. Ney?

B. NEY: Aye.

SECRETARY: Mr. Sugai? Absent, and Chairperson De Luz?

CHAIRPERSON DE LUZ: Aye.

SECRETARY: Motion is carried with six ayes and two absent. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON DE LUZ: Thank you. This concludes the public hearing, and we'll have our regular Board Meeting at 10:00. See you then. Thank you.

(The Public Hearing was adjourned at 9:48 a.m.)

Recording Secretary

APPROVED BY WATER BOARD
MAY 24, 2022