

MINUTES

**WATER BOARD PUBLIC HEARING ON THE
PROPOSED NEW COST OF POWER ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE**

April 26, 2022

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: (Via ICT)	Mr. David De Luz, Jr., Chairperson Mr. Steven Hirakami, Vice-Chairperson (9:34 a.m.) Mr. Michael Bell Ms. Kea Keolanui Mr. Stephen “Kawena” Lopez (9:32 a.m.) 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: (Via ICT)	Ms. Diana Mellon-Lacey, Deputy Corporation Counsel Mr. Kawika Uyehara, Deputy Ms. Candace Gray, Waterworks Controller Mr. Gregory Goodale, Chief of Operations Mr. Warren Ching, Energy Management Specialist
PRESENT AT PUNA CONFERENCE ROOM:	Ms. Janet Snyder, Information & Education Specialist II Mr. Dean Takamine, Information Systems Support Technician I

(Chairperson De Luz called the Public Hearing to order at 9:30 a.m.)

CHAIRPERSON DE LUZ: Good morning. Will the public hearing of the Water Board on the proposed new cost of Power Adjustment Clause please come to order. I am David De Luz, Jr., Chairperson of the Water Board; and I'd like to have the Secretary take a roll call for who is in attendance from the Board. Secretary?

SECRETARY: Okay, Mr. Bell?

M. BELL: Present.

SECRETARY: Mr. Hirakami? (Not online at this time) Ms. Hugo? (Absent) Ms. Keolanui?

K. KEOLANUI: Present.

SECRETARY: Mr. Lopez? (Absent). Mr. Ney?

B. NEY: Present.

SECRETARY: Mr. Sugai? (Not online at this time). And Chairperson De Luz?

CHAIRPERSON DE LUZ: Present.

SECRETARY: Alright, we have four Board Members in attendance and four are absent.

CHAIRPERSON DE LUZ: Thank you. Notice of this public hearing was published in the Hawai'i Tribune-Herald and in the West Hawai'i Today on March 29, 2022. The Department of Water Supply is operated and controlled by this Water Board as provided by the Hawai'i County Charter. Section 63 of Part III, Chapter 54, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, reads as follows:

“The Board of Water Supply may fix and adjust rates and charges for the furnishing of water and for water services so that the revenues derived therefrom shall be sufficient to make the waterworks and water systems self-supporting and to meet all expenditures authorized by this part; the Board may establish variable rates among the several districts of the County, or among the areas served by the individual water systems within the County, for the purpose of establishing charges as closely as possible to the necessary amount required for the maintenance and operation of the particular individual water systems; provided no rates and charges shall be fixed or adjusted prior to the holding by the Board of a public hearing, public notice of which shall have been given not less than twenty days before the date set for the hearing. The notice shall state the time and place for the hearing and the proposed rates and charges to be considered thereat. The time within which the notice shall be given shall be computed by including the first day (the day of notice) and excluding the last day.”

We are here to receive comments or testimony on the proposed amendment to the Power Cost Charge. The Department recommends increasing the Power Cost Charge from \$2.02 to **\$2.34** per thousand gallons to reflect the increase in power costs. 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. We would 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 because of the time limit. The hearing now is open for comments from the floor. Doreen, is there anyone registered to provide oral testimony or is there any written testimony from the Puna Conference Room?

(Note: Mr. Hiramami and Mr. Lopez have joined the meeting.)

SECRETARY: We'll check with Janet Snyder. Go ahead, Janet.

J. SNYDER: Mr. Chair, there are no testifiers registered at this time at the Puna Conference Room.

CHAIRPERSON DE LUZ: Thank you Janet. So there's no...thank you for presenting...no, excuse me. If there's no further testimony at this time, I would like to entertain a motion that this public hearing be closed.

B. NEY: So move, Ben.

K. KEOLANUI: Second.

CHAIRPERSON DE LUZ: Seconded by Kea. Thank you, it has been moved and seconded that the public hearing is closed. All in favor say aye.

SECRETARY: Roll call?

CHAIRPERSON DE LUZ: Roll call. Thank you.

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: Okay, motion is carried with six ayes and two absent. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON DE LUZ: Thank you. Okay, with that being said, the motion has been passed and this portion of this public hearing is ended. And so our next public hearing will be at 9:45, so we'll see you at 9:45. Thank you.

(Public Hearing adjourned at 9:36 a.m.)

Recording Secretary

APPROVED BY WATER BOARD
MAY 24, 2022