

**MINUTES**

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

August 23, 2022

West Hawai'i Civic Center, Room B2, 74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Highway, Kailua-Kona, HI

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. David De Luz, Jr., Chairperson  
Mr. Michael Bell  
Ms. Julie Hugo  
Ms. Kea Keolanui (9:46 a.m.)  
Mr. Stephen "Kawena" Lopez  
Mr. Benjamin Ney  
Mr. Keith K. Okamoto, Manager-Chief Engineer,  
Department of Water Supply (ex-officio member)

ABSENT: Mr. Steven Hirakami, Vice-Chairperson  
Mr. Pono Kekela, Water Board Member  
Mr. Kenneth Sugai, Water Board Member  
Director, Planning Department (ex-officio member)  
Director, Department of Public Works (ex-officio member)

OTHERS PRESENT: Ms. Diana Mellon-Lacey, Deputy Corporation Counsel  
Mr. Sinclair Salas-Ferguson, Deputy Corporation Counsel

DEPARTMENT OF

WATER SUPPLY STAFF: Mr. Kawika Uyehara, Deputy  
Mr. Kurt Inaba, Engineering Division Head  
Ms. Candace Gray, Waterworks Controller  
Mr. Gregory Goodale, Chief of Operations  
Mr. Eric Takamoto, Operations Division  
Mr. Warren Ching, Energy Management Specialist  
Mr. William O'Neil, Jr., Water Service District Supervisor II, DWS Waimea  
Ms. Kathleen Isherwood, Water Service Program Supervisor  
Mr. Alvin Inouye, Water Plant Electrical/Electronic Equipment Repairer II

*(Chairperson De Luz called the Public Hearing to order at 9:45 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'll have the members of the Board and staff introduce themselves. Well start with the Board please, off to my right.

S. LOPEZ: Steve Lopez, District 8.

J. HUGO: Julie Hugo. I think I'm District 1 or 2, Hilo.

B. NEY: Benjamin Ney, District 9.

M. BELL: Michael Bell, District 7.

CHAIRPERSON DE LUZ: And if we could do staff, please?

MANAGER-CHIEF ENG.: Keith Okamoto, Manager-Chief Engineer, and I'll turn it over to Kawika.

K. UYEHARA: Kawika Uyehara, Deputy.

K. INABA: Kurt Inaba, Engineering Division Head.

W. O'NEIL: William O'Neil, District Supervisor, Waimea.

ALVIN INOUE: Alvin Inouye, Electrician/Mechanic, Kona.

W. CHING: Warren Ching, Energy Management Analyst.

E. TAKAMOTO: Eric Takamoto, Mechanical Engineer III.

G. GOODALE: Greg Goodale, Operations Chief.

C. GRAY: Candace Gray, Waterworks Controller.

K. ISHERWOOD: Kathleen Isherwood, Water Service Supervisor, Customer Service in Hilo.

D. JOLLIMORE: Doreen Jollimore, Secretary.

D. MELLON-LACEY: Diana Mellon-Lacey, Deputy Corporation Counsel assigned to the Water Department.

S. SALAS-FERGUSON: Sinclair Salas-Ferguson. I'm the Deputy Corporation Counsel. I'll be here representing the Department in a contested case hearing.

CHAIRPERSON DE LUZ: And we just had our Board Member enter. Kea, would you introduce yourself please?

K. KEOLANUI: Kea Keolanui, Board Member, District 1.

CHAIRPERSON DE LUZ: Okay, thank you. So, Julie, you're District 2. Thank you. Notice of this public hearing was published in the Hawai'i Tribune-Herald and in the West Hawai'i Today on August 3, 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 \$2.48 to \$2.75** 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 are to be presented in person at the time of the hearing. 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 five minutes. The hearing is now open for comments from the floor. Is there anyone here to provide oral testimony?

SECRETARY: No, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON DE LUZ: Any written testimony, Doreen?

SECRETARY: No.

CHAIRPERSON DE LUZ: Okay. So, for the record, there were no individuals or statements. Therefore, no further testimony at this time, I'd like to entertain a Motion that this Public Hearing be closed.

S. LOPEZ: So move.

B. NEY: Second.

CHAIRPERSON DE LUZ: Moved by Kawena and seconded by Ben. Any further discussion? Hearing none, all in favor? (Board Members: Unanimous Ayes) Any opposed? None. Motion is carried. Thank you.

*(Public Hearing adjourned at 9:50 a.m.)*

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Recording Secretary

APPROVED BY WATER BOARD  
SEPTEMBER 27, 2022