

MINUTES

WATER BOARD OF THE COUNTY OF HAWAII

PUBLIC HEARING ON FISCAL YEAR 2024 OPERATING BUDGET AND 5-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEARS 2024-2028

March 28, 2023

West Hawaii Civic Center, Bldg. G, 74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy, Kailua-Kona, HI

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Steven Hiramami, Chairperson  
Mr. Stephen Kawena Lopez, Vice-Chairperson  
Mr. David De Luz, Jr., Water Board Member  
Mr. Michael Bell, Water Board Member  
Ms. Julie Hugo, Water Board Member  
Mr. Michael Pono Kekela, Water Board Member  
Ms. Kea Keolanui, Water Board Member  
Mr. Benjamin Ney, Water Board Member  
Mr. Kenneth Sugai, Water Board Member  
Mr. Keith K. Okamoto, Manager-Chief Engineer,  
Department of Water Supply (ex-officio member)

ABSENT: Director, Planning Department (ex-officio member)  
Director, Department of Public Works (ex-officio member)

OTHERS PRESENT: Ms. Diana Mellon-Lacey, 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. Warren Ching, Energy Management Analyst  
Mr. Alvin Inouye, Operations Superintendent  
Ms. Sunshine Carter, Private Secretary  
Ms. Paulette Wilson, Temp Water Board Secretary

(Chairperson Hiramami called the meeting to order at 9:30am)

**Chair Steven Hiramami:** Will the public hearing of the water board on the proposed 2024 operating budget and 5-year Capital Improvements Budget for the Department of Water Supply please come to order. My name is Steven Hiramami, Chairperson of the Water Board and I will have the secretary do a roll call of the Board Members present.

**PW:** Mr. Bell  
**Michael Bell:** Here

**PW:** Mr. DeLuz  
**David DeLuzJr:** Present

**PW:** Ms. Hugo  
**Julie Hugo:** Here

**PW:** Mr. Kekela  
**Michael Pono Kekela:** Here

**PW:** Ms. Keolanui  
(Absent)

**PW:** Mr. Lopez  
**Stephen Kawena Lopez:** Here

**PW:** Mr. Ney  
**Benjamin Ney:** Here

**PW:** Mr. Sugai  
**Kenneth Sugai:** Here

**PW:** Chair Steven Hirakami  
**Chair Steven Hirakami:** Here

**PW:** We have eight board members present.

**Chair Steven Hirakami:** Thank you. The Water Board under Section 8-2(c) of the Hawaii 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, Hawaii County Charter, did publish public hearing notices in the Hawaii Tribune Herald and in the West Hawaii Today on March 12, 2023.

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 is now open for comments from the floor. Secretary, is there anyone registered to provide oral or written testimony?

**PW:** We have two written testimonies.

**Chair Steven Hiramami:** We don't have any oral testimony today, but I'd like to enter into the record, two written testimonies from Emily Taaroa, and one from Deborah Ward and we recognize these written testimonies. At this time, I would like to entertain a motion that this Public Hearing be closed.

**David DeLuz:** So moved.

**Ken Sugai:** Second.

**Steven Hiramami:** David DeLuz moved and Ken Sugai seconded. It's been moved and seconded that this Public Hearing be closed. Are there any comments? If not, all in favor say Aye.

**Board Members:** Unanimous Ayes.

**Chair Steven Hiramami:** Opposed? (None)

**Motion is carried.** Thank you very much.

**(Public Hearing closed at: 9:33am)**

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Secretary

APPROVED BY WATER BOARD  
(April 25, 2023)