

MINUTES

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

August 22, 2023

West Hawai'i Civic Center, Building G, 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Highway, Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Steven Hirakami, Chairperson
Mr. Stephen Kawena Lopez, Vice-Chairperson
Mr. Michael Bell, Water Board Member
Mr. Thomas Brown, Water Board Member
Ms. Julie Hugo, Water Board Member
Mr. Michael Pono Kekela, Water Board Member
Mr. Keith K. Okamoto, Manager-Chief Engineer,
Department of Water Supply (ex-officio member)

ABSENT: Ms. Kea Keolanui, Water Board Member
Mr. Benjamin Ney, Water Board Member
Mr. Keith Unger, 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

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 Analyst
Mr. Alvin Inouye, Water Operations Superintendent
Ms. Sunshine Carter, Private Secretary
Ms. Nora Avenue, Recording Secretary

(Chairperson Hirakami called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.)

CHR. HIRAKAMI: I'm Steve Hirakami, Chairman of the Board. At this time, I'd like the secretary to call roll.

MS. AVENUE: Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: Present.

MS. AVENUE: Mr. Brown.

MR. BROWN: Here.

MS. AVENUE: Ms. Hugo.

MS. HUGO: Here.

MS. AVENUE: Mr. Kekela.

MR. KEKELA: Eō

MS. AVENUE: Ms. Keolanui

MS. KEOLANUI: (No response.)

MS. AVENUE: Mr. Lopez.

MR. LOPEZ: Yup.

MS. AVENUE: Mr. Ney.

MR. NEY: (No response.)

MS. AVENUE: Mr. Unger.

MR. UNGER: (No response.)

MS. AVENUE: Chair Hirakami.

CHR. HIRAKAMI: Here.

MS. AVENUE: Chair, you have six members present with three being absent, Ms. Keolanui, Mr. Ney, and Mr. Unger.

CHR. HIRAKAMI: Thank you. Notice of this Public Hearing was published in both Hawai'i newspapers on August 1, 2023.

The Department of Water Supply is operated and controlled by this Water Board as provided by the Hawai'i County Charter, and as part of Hawai'i Revised Statutes, this Board is allowed to adjust rates up or down so that we be self-sufficient and be able to carry on consistent water distribution on the Island of Hawai'i. With that being said, I didn't see any protestors outside to testify, but do we have any public testifiers?

MS. AVENUE: We have none, Chair.

CHR. HIRAKAMI: We have none. Okay, so we'll be discussing the Power Cost Charge adjustment, but actually it's very favorable because it's going from \$2.70 to \$2.64 per thousand gallons. At this time, because we don't have any testimony, I would like to entertain a motion that this public hearing be closed.

MS. HUGO: So move.

MR. KEKELA: Pono, second.

CHR. HIRAKAMI: Any discussion? Seeing none, all in favor of adjourning say “aye.” (Board unanimous “ayes.) Any opposed? (None). We are adjourned.

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