## **MINUTES**

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

## September 23, 2025

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Michael Pono Kekela, Vice-Chairperson (via videoconference)

Mr. Philip Aiona, Water Board Member (via videoconference, signed

in at 9:46 a.m.)

Mr. Michael Bell, Water Board Member

Mr. Keith K. Okamoto, Manager-Chief Engineer, Department of Water Supply (ex-officio member)

ABSENT: Mr. Stephen Kawena Lopez, Chairperson

Mr. James Lee, Water Board Member Ms. Emily Taaroa, Water Board Member Mr. Keith Unger, Water Board Member

Director, Planning Department (ex-officio member)

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

## DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY STAFF:

Mr. Kawika Uyehara, Deputy

Ms. Candace Gray, Waterworks Controller Ms. Kaʻiulani Matsumoto, Private Secretary Ms. Maraea Keamo, Senior Clerk Stenographer

(Mr. Keith K. Okamoto called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.)

**Mr. Keith K. Okamoto:** Good morning. We will call the public hearing of the Water Board on the proposed new cost of Power Adjustment to order. I am Keith Okamoto, Manager-Chief Engineer for the Department of Water Supply. For the record, I would like to acknowledge Mr. Michael Bell, present in West Hawai'i Civic Center, Building G. Online we also have board member Mr. Pono Kekela. Mahalo to both Michael and Pono for attending this public hearing.

Notice of the public hearing was published in the Hawaii Tribune-Herald and in West Hawaii Today on September 2, 2025.

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. I will not be reading the statutes, but if people are interested, they may publicly look them up.

We are here today to receive comments or testimony on the proposed amendment to the power cost charge. The Department recommends increasing the power cost charge from \$2.08 to \$2.98 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 is now open for comments from the floor. Secretary, is there anyone registered to provide testimony?

Ms. Ka'iulani Matsumoto: No.

Public Hearing closed at 9:49am

Mr. Keith K. Okamoto: Alright, great.

There is no testimony, so, at this time we shall close this public hearing. Thank you for coming, Mr. Bell, and mahalo Vice-Chair Kekela and Mr. Aiona (signed in via videoconference at 9:46 a.m.) for also attending via zoom. I appreciate your time.

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	APPROVED BY WATER BOARD
Secretary	(October 28, 2025)